

L528: Collections Development and Management  
Fall, 2001  
Dr. Thomas Nisonger

**Selection Project/Term Paper:**

**Collecting Materials on**

**Pacific Northwest Native Culture**

**for a Public Library in the Puget Sound Area of**

**Western Washington**

## **1. Description of library**

I am collecting for a branch library of one of the six large public library systems in the Puget Sound area (the Seattle Public Library; King County Library System; Tacoma Public Library; Timberland Regional Library; Kitsap Regional Library; and the Sno-Isle Regional Library). My clientele are a diverse group of working class and professional people, ranging from immigrants and the working poor to the region's cyber-elite. They normally come to the library with specific goals in mind, whether to find needed health, legal, or career-related information, recreational materials, or general enrichment.

My library has asked me to build a collection of materials on native cultures of the Pacific Northwest, with special emphasis on peoples of Puget Sound. We already own general materials regarding Native Americans and American Indian Studies; the library also already owns the catalog or "coffee table" volumes from major museum exhibits of Northwest native art. The goal now is to collect more specifically for our own geographical region, and to collect more broadly in local native art, culture, and contemporary issues.

The library's secondary objective is to build interest in and understanding of the history and heritage of our area. Since many of our clients are newcomers to the region, whether from within the United States or without, developing their ties to the local landscape (and thus to the public library) is considered a valuable goal for the library as well

as for the larger community. It is also considered important to stress that this heritage is not a dead one, since native populations while small still remain and maintain a significant presence here.

By developing interest in native cultures, it is hoped as a tertiary goal to present the library as a place to learn about identity. The library wants to be seen as a place that respects diverse identities and encourages exploration and understanding both of what is different and of what is traditional, particularly in these times of commercialized, “post-modern” culture. The community is based on more than current transactions, and the library is more than a grocery store of information and entertainment.

## **2. Subject Statement**

My subject area is the cultures and traditions of the native peoples of the Pacific Northwest coast, with special focus on the Puget Sound area. The Pacific Northwest coast is defined as the land west of the Cascade Mountains and ranging from northwestern Oregon to southeastern Alaska. Cultures and traditions include the arts, crafts, mythology and tales as well as the customs, practices, beliefs and social structures of the peoples who were here before modern America was established. While “traditions” normally denotes the past, my collecting will include attention to contemporary issues surrounding native cultures today.

My collecting will be done in English, and will endeavor to address a spectrum of educational levels to reflect the diversity of the library's clientele. I will seek general ethnographic and historical titles as well as folktale and mythology collections, art books, books on religion, audio recordings and films on video.

**3. Item List: Books** (Total for Books: \$696.90)

(all items paperback unless otherwise noted)

- Ames, Kenneth M., and Herbert D.G. Maschner. 1999. *Peoples of the Northwest Coast: Their Archaeology and Prehistory*. London: Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 0500281106. List price: \$24.95.
- Beck, Mary G. 1991. *Shamans and Kushtakas: North Coast Tales of the Supernatural*. Illustrations by Marvin Oliver. Portland, Oregon: Alaska Northwest Books. ISBN: 0882404067. List price: \$12.95.
- Beck, Mary L., and Mary G. Beck. 1989. *Heroes and Heroines in Tlingit-Haida Legend*. Portland, Oregon: Alaska Northwest Books. ISBN: 0882403346. List price: \$12.95.
- Bringhurst, Robert. 2000. *A Story Sharp As a Knife: The Classical Haida Mythtellers and Their World*. Omaha: University of Nebraska Press. ISBN: 0803261799. List price: \$24.95.
- Bringhurst, Robert, Ed. 2001. *Solitary Raven: Selected Writings of Bill Reid*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 029598080X. List price: \$35.00 (cloth).
- Carlson, Keith Thor, et al., Eds. 2001. *A Stlo Coast Salish Historical Atlas*. Illustrations by Jan Perrier. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295980443. List price: \$50.00 (cloth).
- Castile, Geore Pierre, Ed. 1985. *The Indians of Puget Sound: The Notebooks of Myron Eells*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0-295-96262-3. List price: OP: \$40.95 through Alibris.

- Clark, Ella E. 1989 (1953). *Indian Legends of the Pacific Northwest*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 0520002431. List price: \$16.95.
- Cole, Douglas. 1995. *Captured Heritage: The Scramble for Northwest Coast Artifacts*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. ISBN: 0806127775. List price: \$24.95.
- Duncan, Kate C. 2000. *1001 Curious Things: Ye Olde Curiosity Shop and Native American Art*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295980109. List price: \$35.00.
- Gilbert, Jim, and Karin Clark. 1993. *Learning by Doing: Northwest Coast Native Indian Art*. Victoria, B.C.: Raven Publishing. ISBN: 0-969-29791-2. List price: \$25.00.
- Hilbert, Vi, Ed. 1985. *Haboo: Native American Stories from Puget Sound*. Illustrations by Ron Hilbert. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295962704. List price: \$19.95.
- Holm, Bill. 1965. *Northwest Coast Indian Art: An Analysis of Form*. Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum Monograph No. 1. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295951028. List price: \$15.25.
- Jilek, Wolfgang G. 1981. *Indian Healing: Shamanic Ceremonialism in the Pacific Northwest Today*. Seattle: Hancock House Publishers. ISBN: 088839120X. List price: \$17.95.
- Kirk, Ruth. 1996 (reprint 1988). *Tradition and Change on the Northwest Coast: The Makah, Nuw-Chah-Nulth, Southwestern Kwakiutl, and Nuxalk*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295966289. List price: \$32.50.
- MacNair, Peter, et al. 1998. *Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295977094. List price: \$30.00.
- McLennan, Bill, and Karen Duffek. 2000. *The Transforming Image: Painted Arts of Northwest Coast First Nations*. University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology Research Publication. Vancouver, B.C.: University of British Columbia Press. ISBN: 0295980249. List price: \$60.00 (cloth).

- Neel, David. 1995. *The Great Canoes: Reviving a Northwest Coast Tradition*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295974826. List price: \$27.95.
- Ruby, Robert H. 1988. *Indians of the Pacific Northwest: A History*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. ISBN: 0806121130. List price: \$24.95.
- Ruby, Robert H., and John A. Brown. 1992. *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. ISBN: 0806124792. List price: \$24.95.
- Seaburg, William R., and Pamela T. Amoss, Eds. 2000. *Badger and Coyote Were Neighbors: Melville Jacobs on Northwest Indian Myths and Tales*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press. ISBN: 0870714732. List price: \$24.95.
- Shearar, Cheryl. 2000. *Understanding Northwest Coast Art: A Guide to Crests, Beings and Symbols*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295979739. List price: \$17.95.
- Snyder, Gary. 1979. *He Who Hunted Birds in His Father's Village: The Dimensions of a Haida Myth*. Bolinas, California: Grey Fox Press. ISBN: 0912516380. List price: OP: \$12.95 through Alibris for trade paperback in "as new" condition.
- Stein, Julie K. 2000. *Exploring Coast Salish Prehistory: The Archaeology of San Juan Island*. Burke Museum Monograph No. 8. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295979577. List price: \$17.95.
- Sullivan, Robert. 1999. *A Whale Hunt: Two Years on the Olympic Peninsula with the Makah and Their Canoe*. New York: Scribner. ISBN: 0684864339. List price: \$25.00 (cloth).
- Thomas, David Hurst. 2000. *Skull Wars: Kennewick Man, Archaeology, and the Battle for Native American Identity*. New York: Basic Books. ISBN: 046509225X. List price: \$18.00.
- Wyatt, Gary. 1999. *Mythic Beings: Spirit Art of the Northwest Coast*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN: 0295977981. List price: \$22.95.

#### **4. Source List** (Selection Tools)

1. Acqweb. <http://acqweb.library.vanderbilt.edu>. Consulted primarily for publisher and organization references.
2. Arozena, Steven, Ed. 1992. *Best Books for Public Libraries: The 10,000 Top Fiction and Nonfiction Titles*. New Providence, New Jersey: R. R. Bowker.
3. Bartlett, Rebecca Anne. 1998. *Choices' Outstanding Academic Books 1992-1997: Reviews of Scholarly Titles that Every Library Should Own*. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries.
4. Blazek, Ron, and Elizabeth Aversa. 1994. *The Humanities: A Selective Guide to Information Sources*. 4th ed. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc.
5. *Book Review Digest*. Bronx: H. W. Wilson. General reference; especially Vol. 97 No. 7.
6. *Book Review Index*. 1999 Cumulation. Detroit: Gale Research Co.
7. *Booklist*. Accessed online: [www.ala.org/booklist](http://www.ala.org/booklist)
8. Chernow, Barbara A., and George A. Vallasi, Series Eds. 1988. *The Reader's Adviser: A Layman's Guide to Literature*. 13th ed. New York: R. R. Bowker.
9. *Choice*. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries. Several volumes consulted, primarily 1999 through 2001.
10. Dewey, Patrick. 1996. *303 CD-ROMs to use in Your Library: Descriptions, Evaluations, and Practical Advice*. Chicago: American Library Association.
11. IUCAT. Indiana University online libraries catalog.
12. Katz, William, and Linda Sternberg Katz. 2000. *Magazines for Libraries*. 10th ed. New Providence: Bowker.
13. Kennedy, Scott E., Ed. 1999. *Reference Sources for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries*. 6th ed. Chicago: American Library Association.
14. King County Library System. <http://www.kcls.org>
15. Kitsap Regional Library. <http://www.krl.org>

16. *Journal of American History*. Vol. 87 No. 4. Bloomington, Indiana: Organization of American Historians.
17. *Library Journal*. New York: Bowker. Several volumes consulted, primarily from 1999 through 2001.
18. O'Brien, Geoffrey. 1989. *The Reader's Catalog: An Annotated Selection of More Than 40,000 of the Best Books in Print in 208 Categories*. New York: Reader's Catalog.
19. *Periodicals Contents Index Web*. Proquest. <http://pci.chadwyck.com>  
Accessed via Indiana University Libraries.
20. *Raven's Roost*. Annotated bibliography of recommended readings in Northwest folklore and culture.  
<http://www.seanet.com/~eldrbarry/rabb/rvn/roost.htm>
21. Seattle Public Library. <http://www.spl.lib.wa.us>
22. Sno-Isle Regional Library System. <http://www.sno-isle.org>
23. Stevens, Gregory L., Ed. 1993. *Videos for Understanding Diversity: A Core Selection and Evaluative Guide*. Chicago: American Library Association.
24. Tacoma Public Library. <http://www.tpl.lib.wa.us/index.htm>
25. Timberland Regional Library.  
<http://www.timberland.lib.wa.us/trlhome.htm>
26. Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory. Consulted online via IU Library website. <http://www.ulrichsweb.com/ulrichsweb>
27. Waldhorn, Arthur, Olga S. Weber and Arthur Zeiger, Eds. 1990. *Good Reading: a Guide for Serious Readers*. 23rd ed. New York: R. R. Bowker.
28. Whitaker, Cathy Seitz, Ed. 1990. *Alternative Publications: A Guide to Directories, Bibliographies and Other Sources*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Co., Inc.
29. Wynar, Bohdan S, Ed. in Chief. 2001. *Recommended Reference Books for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries and Media Centers*. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc.



30. Yaakov, Juliet. 1999. *The Public Library Catalog*. 11th ed. plus 1999 and 2000 supplements. New York: H. W. Wilson.

### **5. Statement: Three Most Useful Selection Tools**

1. *Choice* magazine; 2. *The Reader's Catalog*; 3. Online bookstore websites: Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble (www.bn.com)

*Choice* magazine is an obvious choice as a useful reference on many levels. The short reviews are succinct and expert, and cover the gamut of academe; the journal itself is preeminent in the field; and for the purposes of this project its indexing is especially useful. *Library Journal* features reviews of similar quality and authority; but as a selection tool you cannot use it to locate material by subject matter. You must know an author or title to look for first. For this project *Choice* won hands down, since its topical index includes a section on Native Americans. If I were a collections librarian I would be a regular reader of *Library Journal*, which would increase its usefulness for a task of this kind.

*The Reader's Catalog*, though out of date, still won a place here in the context of this project by virtue of the materials it provided. This source provided the largest number of useful titles of any non-journal print resource consulted (although of course some had to be culled). The reviews were cogent and well-put, and the selection of featured items obviously done to high standards. Especially appreciated was the attention to broad points of view reflected in the *Reader's Catalog* titles.

Perhaps it isn't surprising that commercial sources are so eminently useful. They're trying to sell books, so of course they provide a high level of detail in item information, and also cater to one's book quests with sophisticated searching and browsing. Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble complement each other well not only in the identification of items to consider for selection, but in the verification of facts about

them. Are they still in print? What is the ISBN, the publisher, the price? For many items reviews from *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly* and other trusted sources are also displayed. Bookfinder.com and alibris.com also deserve special mention for the location and verification of out-of-print and hard-to-find material.

## **6. Statement: Most Useful Internet Tool (search engine, directory)**

Always the winner for me: my best friend, Google ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)). While not sure-fire, Google is always sure to get you started in the right direction. A search on Google for “pacific northwest native culture” led me to a page-ful of dead-on hits, each with its own set of links to pursue. Google’s caching of sites (in case they disappear or move) is especially helpful. I also used Google to locate pages when another site’s link was no longer valid: typing the name given for the page usually found it, or confirmed its mortality. Stepping up to ilor ([ww.ilor.com](http://ww.ilor.com)), which is based on Google, adds extra-handy features like saving found links and pursuing separate lines of attack. In my experience, Google/Ilor provide the highest-quality web-searching: the most extensive awareness of the web, and the greatest accuracy of results.

## **7. Statement: Major Publishers**

A cursory examination of my book list will show that the University of Washington Press is a prominent publisher of materials concerning native peoples of the Pacific Northwest. Other academic presses such as those of the University of British Columbia, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Nebraska, and Oregon State University also produce important volumes in this area. Although not listed here for reasons of budget, Timber Press and the (apparently now defunct) Raven Books are also significant publishers for this topic.

## **8. Meeting Client Needs and Library Objectives**

My selected items meet both my clients' needs and my library's objectives. I have chosen titles that address a wide range of interests and academic levels, and which broadly cover the cultures and histories of northwest native peoples. My diverse clients will all find something of interest here, whether an advanced geographical orientation to the area (Carlson's atlas), an introduction to patterns and themes in native art (Holm, Shearar, Wyatt), or a collection of stories (Beck, Clark, Hilbert). My library will be pleased that readers will now be able to explore not only history and heritage, but contemporary issues and the resonance of the past in the present (Cole, Duncan, Sullivan, Thomas). While many fine and worthy items had to be cut in order to meet budgetary requirements, I believe I have acquitted my task well.

## **9. Periodical Subscription** (Total: \$19.95)

*Native Peoples: Arts and Lifeways*. Phoenix, Arizona: Media Concepts Group. Illus., index, adv. Refereed. ISSN 08957606. Bi-monthly. Subscription: \$19.95/year (no difference for libraries).

Sadly, there appear to be no extant periodicals outside of small local newsletters that directly address the area of native northwest cultures. Several academic and general-audience titles address American Indian Studies or promote native culture more generally. Other more specialized titles that sometimes include relevant material are 1) expensive academic journals, and somewhat inappropriate for my clientele; and/or 2) focused on areas that render them not entirely useful (e.g., *Arctic Anthropology*, which sometimes includes material on Alaskan natives but focuses primarily on trans-Arctic interactions; or the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, which addresses Native American issues but is primarily concerned with immigration and inculturation).

After much deliberation I have chosen *Native Peoples*. Katz describes this periodical as the *National Geographic* magazine for Indian affairs for the general public. It is beautifully produced, and well-respected. It would be an excellent choice for any library. It also features an outstanding website, mirroring the magazine and providing additional services.

**10. Item List: Audio-Visual** (Total: \$81.95)

*Baskets of the Northwest People: Gifts from the Grandmothers*. Video. Basketry expert Natalie Linn hosts, while Klickitat basketmaker Nettie Jackson makes a basket and discusses her traditions. Singer-storyteller Johnny Moses also featured. 76 minutes. \$35.00. Los Angeles: Mimbres Fever Productions. Order online: [www.mimbresfever.com](http://www.mimbresfever.com).

*Keeping the Spirit Alive*. Originally broadcast on PBS in the Fall of 1999. Narrated by Russell Means. Five Northwest coast artists discuss their work. 48 minutes. \$35.00. Los Angeles: Mimbres Fever Productions. Order online: [www.mimbresfever.com](http://www.mimbresfever.com).

*Coyote and Rock: And Other Lushootseed Stories*. 1996. Audio cassette. Narrated by Vi Hilbert. Parabola Storytime Stories. New York: Harper Audio. ISBN: 1559945397. List price: \$11.95.

**11. Item List: Website Links**

*American Indians of the Pacific Northwest*. An amazing archive hosted by the University of Washington, and featured in the Library of Congress Digital Library Program. Includes informative essays and a wealth of photographic material. A perfect academic introduction to the subject. I prefer the University-based interface to the LC gateway, which is cumbersome and unattractive.

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/index.html>

*Change of Worlds: Photographs and Artifacts of Puget Sound Native Americans*. Seattle: Museum of History and Industry. Companion

site for exhibit of same name. A wealth of material, focusing on cultural interaction and cultural change. Includes lesson material for teachers and students which is valuable for the general public as well. <http://www.changeofworlds.org/index.cfm>

*Gifts and Feasting in the Northwest Coast Potlatch.* An on-line Exhibition of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Very well-organized, with a wealth of images and information. <http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/potlatch/default.html>

*The Grand Hall.* Stunningly well-produced site featuring Northwest coast art and culture, from the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Features online "tours" of the Pacific Northwest Collections, with extensive explanatory material and excellent graphics. <http://www.civilization.ca/aborig/grand/grandeng.html>

*Haida, Spirits of the Sea.* Part of the Virtual Museum of Canada, well worth exploring in its entirety. However, linking to the home page of the Virtual Museum would not direct my clients specifically to native northwest cultural materials. A very snazzily designed site; my link is to the non-Java version, to prevent loading problems. <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Haida/nojava/english/home/index.html>

*Native Peoples.* The companion website for the journal (see Item List: Periodical Subscription). Not exclusively dedicated to northwest coast peoples, but frequently features them. <http://www.nativepeoples.com>

*Raven Pacific Northwest Tales*. An excellent “home-brewed” site from Barry Williams. Gives information about raven tales (primarily native to the Northwest) as well as many texts, and a host of interesting links—not to mention an annotated bibliography of recommended readings (which I found extremely useful for this project). <http://www.seanet.com/~eldrbarry/rabb/rvn/roost.html>

*“Yet Sun Heywa” Journey*. Designed for older children and teens, but a great deal of fun for adults as well. Created by the University of Victoria Maltwood Museum and Art Gallery as an interactive means of exploring Northwest coastal art and culture. The user solves puzzles while touring different cultural areas (and learning a great deal), receiving a printable “diploma” upon completing each section. Well-conceived and well-executed. A treat.  
<http://www.maltwood.uvic.ca/nwcp/central/about.html>

## 12. Summary of Expenditures

Books:	\$696.90 (total items: 27)
Art:	243.15 (8 items)
Tales:	148.60 (8 items)
Culture/History:	305.15 (11 items)
Periodical:	\$19.95
Audiovisual:	\$81.95
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$798.80</b>

## 13. Statement: Conclusions

The selection process is an involved one. What seem to be clear goals can be thwarted by realities both of what is available and of the

tools to hand. In my case, I found that my subject matter was not always addressed in the particular—for instance, in the realms of periodicals, CD-ROMs, and general reference materials like encyclopedias. In those categories, I found no items that exclusively addressed native northwest cultures. I also found the large variety of selection tools to be both a rich blessing, and a stultifying curse within the limits of a semester.

As you can see from my Source List, I only barely scratched the tip of the Selection Tools iceberg. Given more time dedicated exclusively to this activity (which I assume I would have as a full-time collections librarian, or as a librarian given this professional assignment), I would have been more thorough. In particular, I would have sought out more alternative press items and more obscure (or less mainstream) periodicals I may have missed. I also would have spent more time reading reviews and digging in the review sources.

I found the process of item discovery a richly rewarding one. Such a wealth of wonderful things to read can be inspirational, and lends significant zest to the endeavor (albeit with the slight tang of too little time to read all of them). It kind of makes a person want to be a librarian—or at least confirms her decision to pursue the degree!