

## Final Report 2021 United Academics Faculty Initiative Fund

### Project Title

Increasing Access to Lingit, Haida, Tsimshian Language Revitalization Materials through Digitization (Tier II)

### Requested Funding Level

Tier 2, \$10,000

### PI

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### Project website

<https://uas.alaska.libguides.com/lingit-haida-tsimshian-materials>

This site provides access to the digitized materials and documents a 2021-22 project to digitize rare curricular resources in support of the Alaska Native Arts, Languages & Studies Program.

### Summary Report

The scope and timeline for this project were ambitious and delays in procurement of equipment (book scanner) further restricted the project window. Despite these setbacks, two of three major goals and underlying objectives were completed and the third is in progress. While this project is considered completed, and all grant funds have been allocated, Egan Library digitization efforts, procedural workflows including related technical documentation, rights research components and associated system-wide collaborations will be institutionalized and sustained beyond the project. When finalized, project documentation will be shared with system-wide collaborators, the Sustainable Heritage Network and others as appropriate. [Draft project documentation](#) is available for review at this time.

The PI significantly underestimated the scope of rights research required for the project outputs to be made available online without restriction. However, all permissions, attributions or documentation of fair-use exemptions (U.S. Codes, Title 17, Ch. 1, Section 107: Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use) for the posted materials have been completed to ensure compliance with U.S. Copyright law. In many cases, copyright of published materials describing the history and culture of Indigenous people are held by non-Indigenous authors who operated extractively rather than collaboratively with the Indigenous communities documented in their works. These authors, often anthropologists, represent external viewpoints of the Indigenous people and cultures they sought to document and the resulting works often contain inaccuracies or racist portrayals. While problematic, these materials often contain valuable traditional knowledge and remain important to Indigenous cultural revitalization. In the context of this historical legacy of cultural appropriation, Egan Library is likely to make materials accessible for educational use despite copyright held by non-Indigenous authors or rights holders.

## Goal & Objectives

Project funding enabled acquisition of an archival quality book scanner for the UAS Egan Library to support the digitization of rare curricular resources in support of the Alaska Native Arts, Languages & Studies Program and to increase access to learning resources vital to language revitalization efforts more broadly for the benefit of other University of Alaska programs and language learners around the world.

### Objectives:

1. Acquire an archival quality book scanner and training **COMPLETE**
2. Increase access to rare curricular resources in support of the UAS Alaska Native Arts, Languages & Studies Program
  - a. PI and two Alaska Native Arts, Languages & Studies complete the Sustainable Heritage Network's Digital Stewardship Curriculum, Local Contexts Reciprocal Curation Workflow or equivalent. **PI ONLY COMPLETE**
  - b. Formalize and document workflows for scanning, materials handling, protocols for attribution, access and use of cultural heritage materials, digital file management and storage. **COMPLETE**
  - c. Complete a draft management plan for digital asset storage and roadmap to online access via ScholarWorks@UA, the Alaska Native Language Archive or other culturally appropriate, web indexed, UA repository. **COMPLETE**
  - d. Digitize 30 complete analog curricular resources. **INCOMPLETE 6 ITEMS DIGITIZED.**
3. Build institutional capacity through inter-university collaboration (UAS, UAF) to increase access to learning resources and scholarship vital to language revitalization efforts more broadly including other University of Alaska programs and language learners around the world.
  - a. Meet with reps from ANLC and ANLA. **IN PROGRESS. INITIAL DISCUSSION VIA EMAIL, SOME RESOURCE SHARING, FURTHER COLLABORATION PENDING.**

## Project Evaluation Metrics & Outputs

[Draft Documentation and Egan Library Digitization Statement](#) (Google Drive)  
[Project website](#) visits (Aug-Nov 21, 2022): 50 visits, 15 item downloads/views  
Unique items digitized: 6  
Unique Items of value available from ANLA identified for optimization: 1  
Rights Holders Contacted: 7  
Rights Holders Responded: 3  
Rights Granted through Contacts: 2

Sample of page scan from *Northwest Coast Indian Painting* by Edward Malin:



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Figure 28.  
Interior screen in  
the Eagle House  
from Howkan,  
Alaska. Haida.