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Organization: WiLS (Wisconsin Library Services)

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<Logos to include ... NEH, WiLS, HLD, Museum, Menominee, iSchool>

**National Endowment for the Humanities funds  
“Curating Indigenous Digital Collections”**

**Madison, Wisconsin:** WiLS (Wisconsin Library Services) has been awarded a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to advance the creation and preservation of digital collections in Wisconsin’s tribal archives, libraries, and museums. The Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk) Waaziija Hacı Language Division will work with WiLS to improve access to audio and video recordings of Ho-Chunk language lessons. The Ho-Chunk Nation Museum and Cultural Center will gather knowledge from community members to describe historic photographs of tribal elders. The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Tribal Archives will digitize historic documents including constitutions and treaty materials. WiLS will also partner with the iSchool at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to offer hands-on learning opportunities for graduate students in the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums course.

The NEH-funded initiative, *Curating Indigenous Digital Collections*, supports knowledge preservation and language revitalization in Wisconsin Native Nations, providing tribal community members a deeper understanding of culture and identity. According to Adrienne Thunder, Ho-Chunk Language Division Program Manager, “*with an even more fragile and dwindling population of Hoocąk first-language speakers remaining today, the Ho-Chunk Nation is at a critical point in our language and cultural restoration work...we are fortunate to have the use of technology to help us share this information with those who seek it, particularly our children.*”

The project recognizes the power of archives and seeks to support Wisconsin Native Nations that are compiling historic governing documents. In a recent discussion, Tribal Archivist Monique Tyndall commented that “*the need for tribal access to historic documents is rooted in the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin’s goal to strengthen the infrastructure necessary to support and expand the tribe’s inherent jurisdiction and sovereignty.*”

**ABOUT WILS**

WiLS (formally Wisconsin Library Services) is a non-profit membership organization that facilitates collaborative projects and services to save members time and money and to advance library service, primarily in the state of Wisconsin. WiLS members include public libraries,

university and college libraries, and K-12 libraries as well as cultural institutions, state government agencies, and other non-profits. For more information, visit <https://wils.org>.

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).