# Digitization Activities at the National Anthropological Archives



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# **The NAA Collections**

8,800 linear feet of manuscripts (15 million manuscript pages)

393,000 ethnological and archaeological photographs

21,000 works of art

3,500 sound recordings







Bureau of American Ethnology Historic Glass Plate Negative Collection

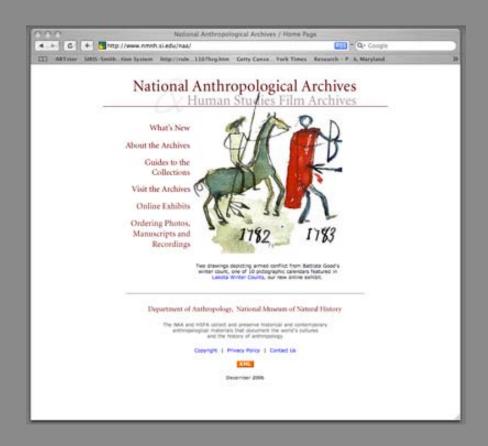


Pictographic Histories of the Plains Indians

# **The NAA Collection Highlights**

- Bureau of American Ethnology Historic Glass Plate Negative Collection
- Diaries of John Wesley Powell
- Pictographic Histories of the Plains Indians
- John Peabody Harrington Sound Recordings
- River Basin Surveys
- Manuscript collections and linguistic research of Franz Boas

- Cultural Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Linguistics
- Physical Anthropology
- Anthropologists, Archeologists
- Linguists, Historians
- Artists, Publishers
- People researching their own cultural heritage



# **NAA Goals**

- Promote knowledge of anthropological research
- Expose collections to new audiences
- Repatriate knowledge to source communities
- Cultivate relationships with communities of interest

## **Digital Collections**

- Digital Imaging Program Established in 1999
- 77,500 High Resolution Digital Images Created
- 42,900 Digital Images displayed in the SIRIS catalog (Smithsonian Institution Research Information System)
- 55 % of the digitized collections are available through SIRIS

## **Selection Criteria**

- Preserve the originals, reduce their handling
- Increase availability to the collections (i.e. glass plate negatives)
- Increase access to items with high cultural value
- Reduce access to items of high monetary value





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### SIRIS SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION SYSTEM





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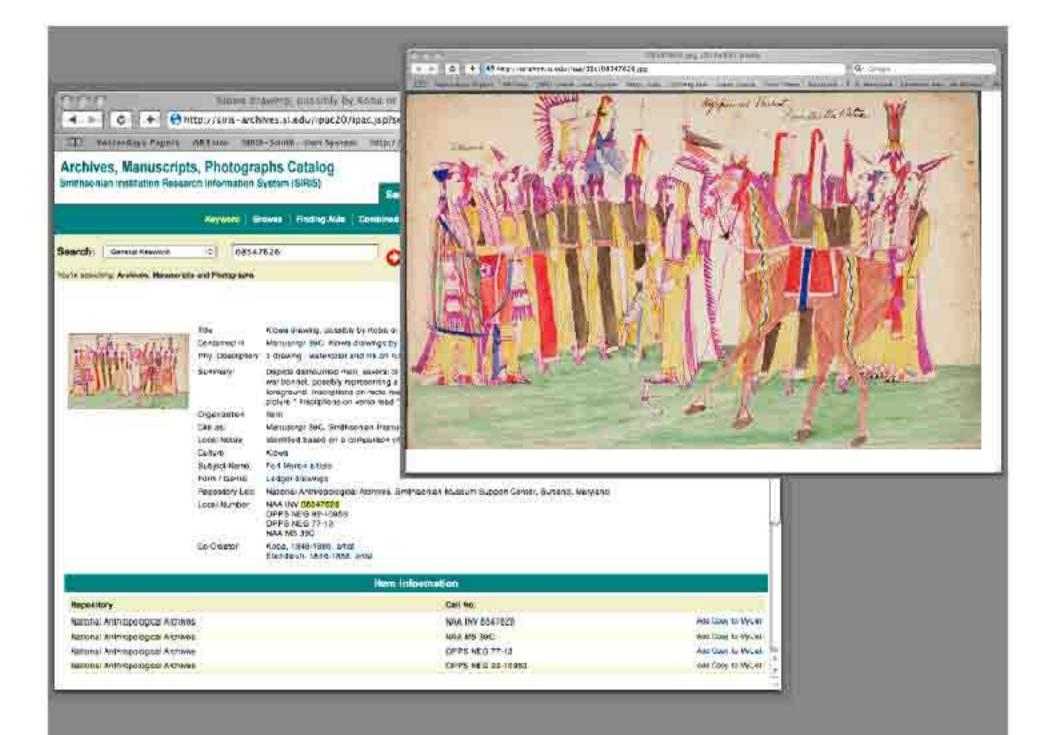
#### Smithsonian Institution

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# **SIRIS Catalog Records**

- 99,000 item level and collection level records
- 42,900 Digital images are displayed in the SIRIS catalog
- 43 % of SIRIS records with digital image attached
- 4.8 million Public Access thumbnail image hits in 2006
- 941,000 Public Access full image hits in 2006 (double the amount from 2005)



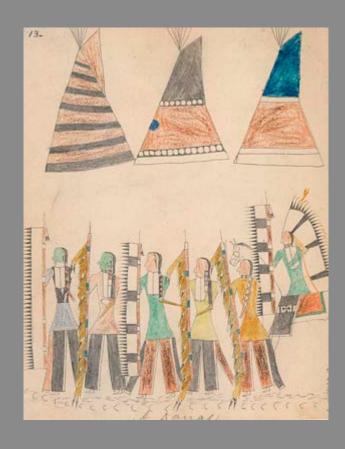
# **Digital Collaborations**

- ARTstor
- Chaco Digital Initiative
- Museum of the Cherokee Indian
- Lakota Winter Counts

# **ARTstor**



# BAE Glass Plate Collection Plains Indian Ledger Art



#### IMAGE CREDITS

 Native American Art and Culture from the Smithsonian Institution



Gill, De Lancey W. Painting by David I. Bushnell of Interments On Sioux Mound, n.d.

Glass Negatives of Indians (Collected by the Burnau of American Ethnology) 1850s-1930s National Anthropological Archysos Colleges (Indiana)



Gill, De Lancey W. Portrait of Antoine Muis Partial Native Dress wit

Glass Negatives of Indians (o Ethnology) 1850s-1930s National Anthropological Arch



Rinehart, Frank Albert Portrait (Front) of Wom

Ornaments, 1898
Glass Negatives of Indians (distributions) 1850s-1930s
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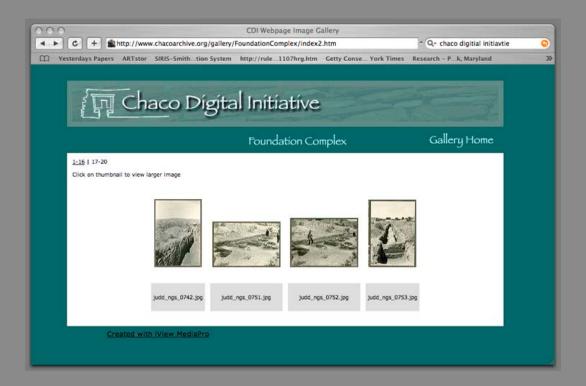
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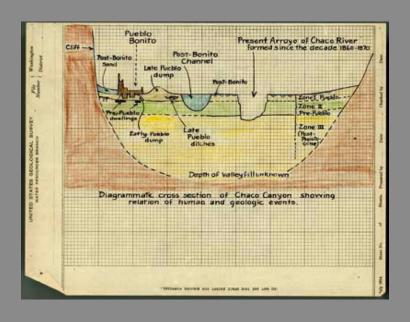
Shindler, Antonio(n) Zend Portrait (Front) of Kiyo-Kaga (One Who Moves About Alert), Called Keokuk, in Partial Native Dress with Peace Medal, Bear Claw Necklace, Headdress and Ornaments, 1868

Giass Negatives of Indians (Collected by the Bureau of American Ethnology) 1850s-1930s National Anthropological Archives, 5mithsonian Institution

# **Chaco Digital Initiative**



# Chaco Digital Initiative: 6,800 digital surrogates created



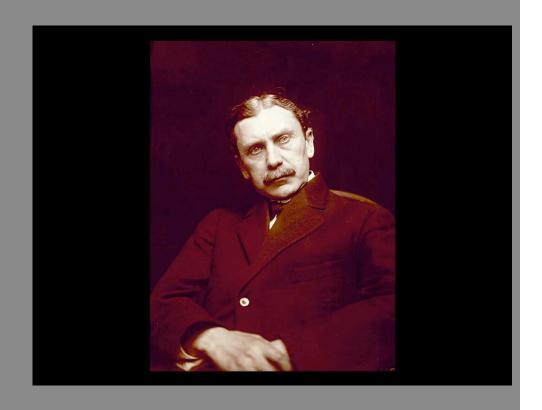


## **Museum of the Cherokee Indian**

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- 8,000 pages of Cherokee language manuscripts
- Cherokee syllabary and ethnographic accounts
- Songs and musical transcriptions
- Maps and censuses
- Copies of Cherokee treaties
- Ethnobotanical and medical information



# **Lakota Winter Counts**



# http://wintercounts.si.edu





# **Digital Imaging Program Goals**

- Promotion of knowledge of anthropological research through digital surrogates
- Expose collections to new audiences
- Repatriate knowledge to source communities
- Cultivate relationships with communities of interest
- Work towards creating quality digital surrogates that faithfully represent the original, allow greater access to our collections, and are able to be preserved for generations to come

Thanks to all current and previous staff, volunteers, and interns of the National Anthropological Archives and Human Studies Film Archive who have assisted in the realization and continuation of the digital imaging program at the archive.