

Accessing materials from the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research

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Center for Native American and Indigenous Research

The Center for Native American and Indigenous Research promotes innovative uses of the Library's collections that benefit indigenous communities and academic scholarship.

The Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR) at the American Philosophical Society (APS) Library, based in Philadelphia, works with indigenous communities throughout North America and with scholars in many disciplines. The APS Library is the oldest and one of the largest repositories of Indigenous archival materials, with unique material relating to more than 650 Indigenous cultures, that includes texts, manuscripts, images and audio files, in physical and digital formats. The materials date from 1553 to 2018.

Materials can be discovered by using the **Indigenous Subject Guide**, which allows users to browse the collections by culture and by language as well as use an interactive map to identify communities. (Note: the map does not reflect everything in the collections.) Cultures and languages from throughout North America, from the Arctic to the Central America, Pacific to Atlantic, are represented in the collections.

Although the guide contains extensive coverage of most aspects of the collections, some kinds of materials are not completely represented in the guide, such as photographs, correspondence, books, recently-arrived archival materials that have not been cataloged, and older collections for which existing cataloging is insufficient.

To access materials, begin by consulting the [Indigenous Subject Guide](#). If placing a request through the online guides:

1. Register on [Aeon](#), the APS Library's online request system.

2. Send an email to Brian Carpenter, the curator of Native American Materials at the Center: bcarpenter@amphilsoc.org.

Brian will work with researchers to facilitate access, including providing digital copies of materials. Digital copies can be provided at no charge for requests placed by Indigenous community-based initiatives, organizations, community members, etc. For other researchers, scans are available at 40 cents per page. Audio materials is accessible via a login and password, which is issued for free upon request.

Researchers are not required to have particular credentials or academic affiliations to request materials. All researchers are welcome and can contact the APS directly.