

The more inclusive the search, the likelier the success in identifying associated peoples and other stakeholders. Establishing productive working relationships with them is imperative, I would argue, if we expect to enhance our knowledge of diverse heritages, incorporate traditional knowledge into management, and raise the visibility of the resources, people, and processes that have contributed to nation-building. Hopefully, this *CRM* issue will illustrate the contribution Ethnography makes to the American people.

Notes

- 1 R.F. Ellen, ed. *Ethnographic Research: A Guide to General Conduct* (London, Orlando, San Diego: Academic Press, 1984).
- 2 Jean J. Schensul and Margaret D. LeCompte, eds. *Ethnographer's Toolkit* (Walnut Creek, London, New Delhi: Altamira Press 1999).
- 3 Shirley J. Fiske. "The Value of Ground Truth: Sustaining America's Fishing Communities," *Common Ground* (Winter 1998/Spring 1999) 29.
- 4 Muriel (Miki) Crespi, "Draft Brief Ethnography of Magnolia Plantation: Planning for Cane River Creole National Historical Park," January 1999.

- 5 cf. Muriel Crespi, "Inventorying Ethnographic Resources Servicewide," *CRM Bulletin* 10:4 (1987) 3-5.
- 6 See National Park Service *Management Policies 2001*, Chapter 5:48 for complete definition of "traditionally-associated" entities.

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Photos by the author.

The title of this article comes from the symposium I organized in December 2000 for the National Park Service Conference in Santa Fe, Cultural Resources 2000: Managing for The Future. The full title of the symposium was Seeking a More Inclusive System: Raising Muted Voices and Identifying Invisible Resources. The problem of formal preservation programs that, however inadvertently, made certain people and resources invisible players has concerned me for decades.

Oral History and Technology Workshop

Oral history is a mainstay of ethnographic research. A strategy for understanding the dynamics of communities, events, and resource uses, it helps satisfy compliance, planning, and interpretive needs. History and other programs find it essential, too. Inexpensive and widely available electronic recording technology is increasingly encouraging federal, community, state, and tribal program managers to collect, store, and make public vast amounts of cultural data. Yet, they have had no formal ethnographic, administrative history, or archival experience, or training in confidentiality and copy-right issues.

Effective oral history work requires certain basic training. This includes knowing when and how to conduct culturally-appropriate ethnographic and administrative history interviews in different situations and with different peoples. In an era of advanced electronic recording, it is important to know current techniques to capture, transcribe, index, store, and preserve new types of media, and salvage old recordings for use with current digital technology. Knowing the best practices for alerting scholars to available oral and video histories and sound recordings; for identifying and transferring materials to repositories; and for managing outdated formats and deteriorating media is essential. Finally, given the often culturally-sensitive information in oral histories, and its potentially wide public distribution through electronic media, it is imperative to address legal protections for sensitive data, and issues of confidentiality, informed consent, intellectual property rights, copyright, and privacy.

These pressing needs have led the National Park Service and Canyonlands Natural History Association to sponsor a three-day oral history workshop, September 18-20, 2001, in Moab, Utah, for community organizations, tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies with cultural and natural resource responsibilities.

For more information, a workshop schedule, list of speakers, or to register for the course, contact Eric Brunnemann at Canyonlands National Park, 435-719-2134, <eric_brunnemann@nps.gov>. Tuition for the course is funded by NPS and Canyonlands Natural History Association. Park Service participants will use the benefiting account to pay their travel and per diem.