

ESTABLISHING THE VIRTUAL LIBRARY OF CHEROKEE KNOWLEDGE

ABSTRACT

Applicant: Cherokee Nation

Project Title: Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge

Project Period: October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011

Funding Application: \$149,999.73

The Cherokee Nation proposes to establish the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge, providing the Cherokee citizens and the interested public access to a comprehensive digital repository of authentic Cherokee Knowledge related to the Nation's epic history, language, traditions, culture, events and leaders. It is a historically important project that will provide electronic viewing of many of the tribe's most significant documents and materials from the 1830's forward, many of the items never before available for public study, and research. The tribe's archives contain thousands of important papers, writings and manuscripts from the their most recent Chiefs as well as hundreds of other manuscripts, books, photographs, oral histories and artifacts that document the epic history of the Cherokee people. This project enables the tribe, through the consultation with professionals in the fields of digitization and historical documentation, to establish the foremost virtual library and database available in the world on modern Cherokee history and culture, to once and for all gather their records in one centralized location for cultural preservation in perpetuity. Once online, the database will offer a critically important educational program to encourage cultural literacy and develop technological capabilities of the citizens of the Nation.

The tribe has engaged the services of a group of outstanding professionals to serve on an advisory council for the project selected from the fields of law, literature, history, language and technology to ensure that the content and materials being made available to the public will serve to advance the knowledge and information about the Cherokee people today and help to preserve and promote the memories and traditions for the tribal citizens in the process.

The Cherokee citizens were surveyed over the past three years through a series of community meetings, university survey and most recently a survey of interests and attitudes and needs related to the use of the libraries located throughout the Nation. Overwhelmingly, the responders reported their major interest in learning more about their history, language, culture and genealogy and highlighted the need to 'preserve the culture.' The project answers their needs and those of the Nation to promote cultural literacy, language and life time learning opportunities.

The Virtual Library will enable the establishment of learning 'portals' and the introduction of extensive body of authentic tribal information and learning opportunities throughout the Cherokee nation in their various libraries, to bring the communities together for reading and cultural exchanges within their 32 Community Centers, to partner with the 91 public schools, 60 Johnson O'Malley programs, and the 41 libraries plus 5 universities in their jurisdictional area and elsewhere across the globe where individuals can link to and access interdisciplinary writings, historical documents, studies and research related to the Cherokees never before available for their pursuits.

The Virtual Library will fulfill the vision to link library resources across the world, uniting the shared disparate resources while providing the Cherokee people, students, scholars, lawyers, researchers, historians and others the ability to search and access combined electronic journals, documents, data bases, electronic books, repositories, digital archives and catalogs of holding libraries.

The Cherokee Nation looks forward to the satisfactory completion of this project and to providing other tribes in the nation the model and format so they too may collect, present and preserve their invaluable tribal records for generations to come, unlocking and interpreting the past for the education of their future generations

The Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge
Asquahigody anitsalagi unigvdohsvi: Storehouse of Cherokee Knowledge

1. Introduction and Assessment of Need

Introduction/Synopsis: The Cherokee Nation is seeking \$150,000 for a one year project to develop the “Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge,” a project that will provide access to their historically significant materials that are resting in the Archives of the Nation and it’s official repository for their historical records and documents, the Cherokee Heritage Center [the tribe’s cultural interpretive center] as well as those that have been dispersed across the state and nation that are currently un-digitized and difficult to access. The digitized materials, presented through a web portal designed and maintained by the Cherokee Nation, will significantly advance the knowledge and information available for tribal citizens and others of their history leading up to and following their removal from their homelands to Oklahoma in 1838-39 through modern day. This database and will provide a significantly expanded reservoir of authentic, primary-documented information on the origins and formation of the Cherokee Nation as it stand today, greatly enhancing services to library patrons, students, teachers, scholars and the interested public across the globe. The Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge provides the tribe the major opportunity and foundation to preserve, honor, teach and enhance Cherokee heritage and unlock the true experiences of their people for the world to know.

Cherokee Nation Population and Demographics: Today, with 289,000 enrolled citizens, the Cherokee Nation is the largest native group in Oklahoma and the second largest in the United States. According to the latest Cherokee Nation Registration Department, the major concentration of Cherokees (over 110,600) still live within the 14 northeastern Oklahoma counties (approximately 8,400 square miles) in the original 1835 tribal treaty boundaries. The remainder reside outside the tribal boundaries or outside Oklahoma.

Specific Cherokee population and demographic information for the 14-county area indicates a per capita income of \$16,000, 5.4% unemployment, 17.88% of the population living below poverty level, that 79% have graduated from high school or hold equivalent degrees with 41% of that number having achieved advance studies or degrees. Ten percent of the population speak the Cherokee language with this number consistently advancing as the Nation implements effective language and cultural immersion programs. Most citizens have access to or own a computer according to the recent population survey of needs. Population age groupings are relatively evenly spread within the counties. This helps to explain the statistics revealing that younger people are not moving away from their rural communities. The communities are generally the centers of their family, social and tribal lives. [Tables for each county and this aforementioned data are in [Appendix I]

Cherokee Communities: Cherokees are informally organized into 80 small rural communities. To preserve culture and strengthen connections, 32 of these organizations have established Cherokee Community Centers with internet access and 10 communities connect citizens with computer access either in homes, work settings or local libraries. The Community Centers are typically and traditionally the centers of activities for most tribal members, the place for social gatherings, recreation, nutrition and food service programs, small libraries and language and cultural education programs. To provide assistance, the Nation has a dedicated department, *Community Organization Training and Technical Assistance (COTTA)*, which works with the Cherokee community organizations to assess needs and develop culturally appropriate programs.

Cherokee Nation Libraries: The Cherokee Nation established its first library in the early 1980’s to meet the cultural and educational needs of their citizens and to support public inquires for tribal information. Today, the Nation supports libraries at the Cherokee Nation Headquarters: Cherokee First for Cherokee for tribal citizens, at Sequoyah Schools and Immersion School for students and teachers, and at the Cherokee Heritage Center for citizens and the general public. The Nation also provides staff support through its Community Service Department for literacy programs and library activities at the 32 Cherokee Community Centers. The Nation currently supplements its library services through interlibrary loans, computers with Internet access, online subscription service for reference materials, and connections to the collections at the Tahlequah Public Library and the Northeastern State University Library, as well as to the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System of 15 libraries in their region. Library services specific to the Cherokee Nation are described below:

Cherokee First Library is open to the citizens of the Cherokee Nation at the Nation’s administrative complex in Tahlequah from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday and during Cherokee Nation Holiday on Labor Day weekend each year. It has approximately 935 reference books specific to Cherokee studies. It has five public computers to assist readers with Internet Access. The library leverages it offerings by working with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to provide access to subscription databases, interlibrary loan and other services. The library staff consists of one full time librarian and four assistants who also manage the tribal information and referral services offered through Cherokee First. The Nation also employs a full time Archivist.

The 32 Cherokee Community Centers offer varying levels of library services, although almost all have lending libraries and public computers. The Cherokee Community Service Department consistently works with each of the

community centers to develop library and literacy services and to set up computer classes and establish internet utilization throughout the communities.

Sequoyah School Library is open to students [405 students, 7th through 12th grade] and teachers during regular school hours for curriculum and project research, book check out services, recreational reading and general information. In addition to over 4,000 books and periodicals, it has ten computers for student and teacher research, reading and classroom use in the library. Sequoyah School employs a full time librarian and one assistant and uses student assistants when needed. Immersion School [82 students, pre-school through 4th grade] has a collection of history, language and story books in Cherokee only for students and teachers.

The Cherokee Heritage Center Library is open five days a week from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. It houses a non-circulating collection of approximately 2,000 books on Native American history, mostly related to Cherokees. Additionally, its collection includes many rare and out of print books, booklets and documents related to early Cherokee history and the history of the Heritage Center and the Trail of Tears drama. Genealogists respond to over 17,000 requests a year for information and research in historical, legal and genealogical areas.

Need for Virtual Library

After its relocation to Oklahoma in the 1880's, the Cherokee Nation developed an extensive, sophisticated educational system, establishing over one hundred public and private elementary schools, as well as two seminaries for higher education. After Oklahoma statehood in 1907, the state took over their Female Seminary and began to systematically close many other Cherokee schools, with those remaining reflecting new English language studies and history, rather than an emphasis on Cherokee language, history and culture. The loss of its educational institutions did not deter the Cherokee's passion for education and cultural preservation, as evidenced by its current extensive school and library programs and the proposed development of the "Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge," for which funds are sought through this grant program.

The Virtual Library is essential to helping the Cherokee Nation fulfill its commitment to advancing the knowledge and understanding of Cherokee history, culture and language among its citizenry and the general public. By making Cherokee materials, many of which are rare and not easily accessible, available through various electronic resources, the Nation will not only build the institutional capacities of its libraries, it also will enable people everywhere to access authentic information about Cherokee culture. The Virtual Library will enable the Nation to strengthen its educational programs, from Early Head Start through elder care, by providing the information and tools necessary to integrate culture, history, language across curriculums. The Virtual Library is dedicated to retrieving, preserving, processing and providing easy access to the most comprehensive and authentic digitized collection of records and history of the tribe. Informed by the work of respected Cherokee scholars, the Nation knows the location of most authentic written accounts of Cherokee early history, including information on tribal leaders and historic documents if they do not rest within their own archives. Much of the very early Cherokee history is recorded either in Spanish, English or French and located in repositories, libraries, museums and private collections all over the world, as well as in numerous federal repositories in Washington, D.C. and Fort Worth. Since most of the tribal records before removal do not rest within the Nation's archives, they will be the focus for later years of this project. Similarly many of the records of the Cherokee Nation were kept by the State of Oklahoma at the time of statehood or were generated and kept at the federal level following removal. Those will be sought out through the activities of this project and incorporated into the Virtual Library data base where possible or links to the information will be secured. This lack of access has been a serious impediment to the Nation's ability to systematically record and review tribal history. Of equal importance, since many of these historically significant records are not under the control of the Nation, there are no assurances of the permanence of the materials.

Fortunately and fortuitously, the Cherokee Nation holds many of the contemporary records or rights of access to papers from the 20th century Principal Chief's of the Cherokee Nation, as well as many papers from the 1830's of John Ross, Foreman Papers, the original Cherokee Land Patent from 1838, the constitutions from 1839, 1975, and 1999 and related writings and organizational documents, research manuscripts, various treaties, maps, photographs, documentation of ceremonies and historical sites, Cherokee Female Seminary materials and letters of their students, oral and video histories, inaugural ceremonies and speeches, land allotment and payment records, early census information, Cherokee story books and medicinal writings, language dictionaries and early teaching curriculums and text books, and more. Through the Virtual Library, the nation would like to ensure culturally appropriate access to these materials, most of which have never been accessible. [See Appendix II for content prospectus.]

The Virtual Library will provide the means to help advance and improve personal achievement rates of Cherokee citizens by helping to restore cultural pride as citizens learn more about their rich and epic history and traditions. In a study by the University of California at Davis titled "Building Partnerships: Conversations with Native Americans about Community Strengths," researchers concluded that the disconnection with native culture and heritage contributes to high

rates of social problems and drop outs and is at the root of many mental health difficulties preventing personal achievement. The same study found that the role of culture is very instrumental in healing and maintaining the well-being of individuals and the community as a whole—the sense of belonging to the community is particularly rooted in the culture. The Virtual Library is a cost-effective path that enables tribal leadership to balance and foster tribal history, culture, and traditional teachings while maintaining focus on educational, mental health, economic and community development opportunities for their people.

Needs Assessment Methodologies: The Cherokee Nation and Northeastern State University have conducted three different analyses of community education and cultural needs of the Cherokee people over the past three years, all revealing the highest priority of the citizenry is to preserve and promote Cherokee culture, language, traditions and knowledge of historical tribal roots.

Surveys and Task Force Findings:

1. In 2007, the Department of Sociology at Northeastern State University conducted interviews with 315 Cherokee families in Tahlequah, Oklahoma with the goal of obtaining their visions and needs related to building a healthy, happy community. Researchers found the most prevalent issue was ‘hanging on to the culture, ensuring that future generations will have the opportunity to continue to learn about their rich Cherokee heritage.’
2. During 2008 and 2009, the Cherokee Nation engaged 453 stakeholders (tribal citizens, teachers, elders from the Cherokee communities, the university community, business leaders, students and social service administrators) in an eight month endeavor to identify key issues, needs and recommendations related to ‘Building Leaders to Build the Cherokee Nation.’ The majority of the various Task Force members endorsed the need to develop initiatives throughout the Cherokee Nation and its communities to help revitalize the tribal culture while providing expanded educational and literacy programs for Cherokee citizens related to their heritage, history, culture and language. The development of authentic information resources on tribal history, culture and life ways as opposed to the Hollywood versions was one of the top priorities of the group.
3. The Cherokee Nation developed and conducted a Library Survey of Needs sampling attitudes and opinions and needs of various groups within the tribe. The survey was published online for a month and sent out to all Nation employees through their employee emails, it was distributed and collected with approximately 600 members from the various Cherokee Communities through their monthly meetings and was distributed through 250 students at Sequoyah High School. From the total of 584 computer and paper survey responses, the strongest need expressed was the desire for more information on Cherokee history, culture, language and genealogy and a strengthening of library services to the communities. [Survey is in Appendix III]

Survey results helped guide project development and ensure that the project embraces the goals of the Library Services and Technology Act. The Virtual Library will expand information services to the 91 elementary and secondary public schools in the 14 county service area (21,000 students, 18% Cherokee) and beyond and to the 60 Johnson O’Malley programs in existence in the area, to Immersion [preschool to 4th grade] and Sequoyah Schools [7th to 12th], at the Cherokee First Library, on the employee’s Internet server at Cherokee Nation complex and Cherokee Nation owned businesses with approximately 6,000 employees, at W.W. Hastings Hospital, 7 community-based health care clinics and 32 Cherokee Community Centers, 41 community public libraries, 5 universities, and to researchers, scholars and others.[See appendix xxx for list of number of each in area] The virtual library will offer a new dedicated web site for all citizens of the Cherokee Nation and the interested public from preschool through end of life

2. Expected Outcomes and Project Goals

The overall goal of this project is to advance the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Cherokee Nation’s history, culture and language from 1830’s to present day. [See Appendix IV for historic timelines]

GOAL I: To provide Cherokee citizens and the interested public access to comprehensive digital repository of authentic Cherokee Knowledge related to the Nation’s history, language, traditions, culture, leaders and life ways.

Objective A: To develop and launch the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge

Expected Outcomes:

- The Cherokee Nation secures adequate funding through the Enhancement Grant from IMLS to develop the resources necessary to establish the digital Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge
- Technical consultants provide their expertise in advising the Nation in the proper and professional design, creation and establishment of the Virtual Library
- Advisory Council will be established to provide advice, council and ongoing recommendations on content, formats, procedures and marketing of project.
- Cherokee Nation will receive identification and catalog of all historic materials located in their archives recommended for inclusion in the Virtual Library database.

- Student Interns from Northeastern State University will be engaged and trained to review, scan and digitize historic records and documents
- Library and Archival staff members at the Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Heritage Center will be trained to utilize and manage the technology involved in indexing, scanning, and digitization processes
- Mechanics of the digitization process with various types of mediums [documents, photographs, videos, maps, artifacts] will be perfected so the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge will be ready to launch for Internet access
- A historic body of knowledge about the Cherokee citizens, their leaders and epic history and culture will be introduced to the world through the launching of the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge. [See Appendix IV for Historical Timeframes]

Expected Outputs:

- Complete inventory analysis of collections at the Nation and their official repository at the Cherokee Heritage Center and identification of digitization needs.
- Templates and Metadata system will be established for identifying materials in the Virtual Library
- New CONTENTdm software and hardware will be purchased for the development, introduction, maintenance and preservation of the data and materials in the Virtual Library
- Cherokee Nation libraries will be integrated into compatible search systems.
- Extensive marketing plan will be developed for promoting Virtual Library
- New web site design and location for the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge (Cherokee Nation Communications will brand the site and develop the graphics for the site and work with consultants for simplifying access and linkages with other sites.)
- Policies and procedures, accessioning agreements, deeds of gifts, contributor form and permission to publish, access policy and copyright rules will be developed by Cherokee Nation Legal Department.
- A minimum of 30% of the collection of Chief's Papers, historical documents, manuscripts, maps, photographs, media, and basket collection will be catalogued and digitized the first year of this project.

Objective B. To build and enhance the collection of authentic tribal historic documents, books, cultural items, and artifacts with significant importance to understanding and preserving the heritage and culture of the Cherokee people since the 1930's.

Expected Outcomes:

- Cherokee citizens and others will donate historic documents, books, maps, artifacts and cultural items for the permanent collection of the Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Heritage Center or will permit the digitization of such image for placement in the Library.
- Collection and photographing of historic documents, artifacts and photographs for inclusion in the Virtual Library will be established on a regular monthly basis at Community Centers encouraging intergenerational sharing of cultural knowledge, traditions and practices.

Expected Outputs:

- There will be a 10% addition of items to the collection at the Nation's Archives at the Cherokee Heritage Center.
- A minimum of 100 families will add their family photographs to the digital collection by the end of the first year.
- Cherokee genealogy inquiries will increase by 15% at the Nation and the Cherokee Heritage Center by the end of the first year of the project.
- Many more items may be stored in the annals of the Nation via digitization saving storage space in the Archives
- Relationship and partnership agreements will be established with various repositories for linking to their records, papers, artifacts, treaties, constitutions and more.
- Identification of documents, artifacts, papers, etc. related to the mission of the project that are located outside the Cherokee Nation holdings.
- At least ten partnership agreements will be written between libraries and repositories to secure permission for linking to their holdings of important documents for this project.
- Preservation needs of donated items will be addressed

GOAL II : Expand Opportunities for Accessing and Utilizing Information in the Virtual Library

Objective A. Provide access to current electronic information technology for Cherokee citizens and general public through Cherokee Nation libraries

Expected Outcomes:

- There will be simplified and easy access for researching and information retrieval in the comprehensive database of Cherokee Knowledge.

- All Cherokee libraries will be crosswalked establishing access to all books and documents.
- Library staff will be trained to assist users with internet technology and systems access.
- Cherokee citizens and community members will have improved knowledge on how to access the electronic data base and how to find information on Cherokee history, culture and language.
- Internet connected researchers and interested public around the world will be able to view the historical items in the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge without leaving their homes.
- The Storehouse of Cherokee Knowledge will be available round the clock.
- Multiple access will be available at all times, the same resource can be accessed at the same time through multiple inquiries.
- The 80 Cherokee Community Centers [32 with designated internet service] will be assisted in the promotions and establishment where needed, of electronic libraries for accessing the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge and connecting to Cherokee First Library for other online sources for reading, research and enjoyment.
- Teachers and students throughout the 14 county jurisdictional area and the 60 Johnson O'Malley will have new and significantly expanded base of authentic information on the Cherokee Nation from which to make lesson plans and curriculum studies.
- The 41 public libraries and 5 universities throughout the jurisdictional area will connect new data base .
- Native American tribal citizens visiting their doctor at one of the seven health clinics or the major hospital will be able to view Cherokee history and lectures on simulcasts through the new digital system.
- Cherokee citizens will have a substantial increase in their knowledge and appreciation of their cultural heritage.
- The general public will have an increase in knowledge and appreciation for Cherokee history and culture.
- Cultural literacy will be enhanced throughout the rural Cherokee communities
- Cherokee elders throughout the rural Cherokee communities will use the information for promoting intergeneration exchanges and passing of their stories, for reminiscing and renewing their pride in their cultural heritage.

Expected Outputs:

- Instructional program for easy access and maneuvering in Virtual Library will be developed
- A minimum of eight computer systems will be made internet accessible at eight Cherokee Community Centers
- Public school and Sequoyah Schools, universities, scholars and others students will have a new data base for researching authentic Cherokee history and culture.
- There will be a 10% increase in interest in Cherokee research throughout the 41 area libraries in the first year of the project
- There will be a 20% increase in website hits over the first year of the project at the Nation and Cherokee Heritage Center.
- Johnson O'Malley staff members in the 60 school districts will provide ongoing feedback about the effectiveness of the new data base to their coordinative body, the Cherokee Nation Education Services Department where the project is housed.

Action Items: The aforementioned project outcomes identify the benefits to the targeted audience in this project and describe the far reaching impacts of the establishment of the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge not only within the communities of the Cherokee Nation and its citizenry but throughout the state and the world. The outputs provide the benchmarks for guiding the efforts of the project activities and provide a baseline for measuring success. Because the thrust of this project rests behind the scene of the library, community center, university or school, the major activities that will ensure the success of the end product, an easily accessible digitized database of the most historic documents in existence related to modern Cherokee history, language and culture, **THE ACTIVITIES ARE MOSTLY TECHNICAL IN NATURE AS THOROUGHLY DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED DIGITIZATION PLAN AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR DIGITIZATION DOCUMENTS.** To outline them in this narrative would be repetitious. Please refer to Appendix V of this document and to the corresponding Long Range Plan of the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge in Appendix VI. These documents will serve as the means to direct the reviewers to the extensive methodologies, professional considerations and time frames for achievement of the goal of establishing this repository of Cherokee Knowledge, promote, preserve and increase cultural knowledge and understanding of the Cherokee people.

3. Project Design and Required Resources

The leadership of the Cherokee Nation is firmly in support of the goal of establishing the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge and has pledged its' breadth of professional talent and participation from the various departments to further ensure the ongoing success of this project. There is a deeply embedded value for working together in the Cherokee tribe

called ‘gadugi’ which is how the Nation chooses to effectively support, produce, promote and provide this invaluable service of the Virtual Library of authentic tribal knowledge to their people. The professional staff members from the Nation’s departments of Education Services, History, Archives and Library, Communications, Legal, Community Services in special services and tasks, Geo-Data and Information Technology will work together to support the Virtual Library project, and periodically be involved with the project depending upon their area of expertise. There will be no charge to the library project for their support services. Go to Cherokee.org to access information on services of these various departments.

Staffing: (Resumes for support staff are in the Appendix VII)

- ✓ A Digital Librarian will be hired full time to manage the Virtual Library project, calling on this team of experts for support when and where needed for project development. The librarian will be expected to have a bachelors and masters degree in library science or related fields with strong emphasis and working knowledge of computer technology and library software systems. It is preferred that they have a minimum of five years working experience in the library or archival field. [Job Description in Appendix VIII]
- ✓ Educational Services will house the project and the staff person hired as the Digital Librarian and provide support to that person to for advancing the utilization of the Virtual Library through linkages with the schools , libraries, universities health care programs and communities. They will provide opportunities for engagement with the Johnson O’Malley teachers in the 60 schools through the Nation with that project and establish their familiarity and utilization of the project as well as for soliciting feedback. Corey Bunch will serve as an advisor to the Digital Librarian in areas related to public and Sequoyah schools, universities, libraries and health centers of the Nation. He is Deputy Leader of Education Services and has formerly been the Principle at Sequoyah Schools, a teacher and most recently served as Contract Manager for the Nation at the Cherokee Heritage Center. He holds a Master’s Degree in Education.
- ✓ The Cherokee Nation employs a full time history and curriculum specialist, Dr.Cathy Monholland, who holds her doctorate in English, two Master’s Degrees and a strong background in Native American history with focus on the Cherokees. She teaches the Cherokee Nation History course, a 40-hour college-level course required by all Cherokee Nation employees. She will provide advisement to the project particularly in the historical review and content of materials for placement in the Virtual Library and will chair the authentication process with questionable materials. Cathy will work closely with the Librarian to ensure the content materials and presentations within the digital library are effective and professionally presented and will assist in any tribal cultural issues related to the project.
- ✓ The Librarian will be supported by the archival knowledge and expertise of Tom Mooney and Carey Tilley from the Cherokee Heritage Center, the tribe’s cultural interpretive center. They will work closely with the Librarian throughout the review and inspection and organization of the historical documents and materials selected for digitization, providing their knowledge and expertise in Cherokee culture and history. Carey has a Master’s Degree in History, a B.A. in Anthropology and serves as the Executive Director of the Center. He will contribute approximately ten percent of his time to the project. Tom Mooney has been the Nation’s Archivist and Librarian at the Center for over thirty years so is extremely knowledgeable of the collection and the historic documents, materials and artifacts that will comprise the bulk of the Virtual Library content. He has a Master’s Degree in History. They will be assisted by Mickel Yantz who is the Museum Curator at the Cherokee’s National Museum. He has a Masters in Museum Studies and will be a valuable advisor for the librarian in cataloguing and digitizing artifacts and art work of the Cherokee people. He has excellent photographic and technical skills and will also be responsible for generating a variety of online and inhouse exhibits with the materials produced for the digital library.
- ✓ The Cherokee Nation has an outstanding Communications Department that manages the information and media productions of the Nation. They have world wide experience in publications, publicity, public relations, media relations, newspaper and feature story development, photography and much more. They house hundreds of photographs and oral interviews that are already digitized and waiting to be catalogued and brought into this online system when it is ready to receive such. The staff has committed to assisting the Librarian with handling all news and press releases, feature stories, publications, brochures, flyers and more to advertise and promote the Virtual Library and encourage its utilization. They will provide their services just as all other departments at the Nation free of charge to the project. It’s called Gadugi.
- ✓ The Attorney General’s office at the Nation is already at work writing and researching copyright laws and legal considerations of the intellectual property laws and ownership issues of the various documents, photos, books, papers, and artifacts that are currently housed in the archives or to be gifted to the project in the future. They will

assist in writing the policies and procedures for the project. They locate in the tribal complex where the Librarian will locate and will be available on a regular basis to assist with these issues in the formation of the library.

- ✓ Community Service Department if headed by Charlie Soap, the husband of the Late Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller. It is a dynamic department of committed 'social servants' and community organizers who work daily throughout the fourteen counties to assist the families and people with problems of their daily lives. They have made a commitment to assist the Librarian and the project with taking the Virtual Library to the community people and encouraging its use for helping to develop cultural pride in one's heritage. They will assist in promoting the elders to bring their historic documents and artifacts and family photos to the community centers for photographing and inclusion in the Virtual Library so all Cherokees have their 'footprint' in this vast repository of Cherokee Knowledge.
- ✓ The Geo-Data Department at the Nation houses all the current and historical maps of the Cherokees and will work with the Librarian to generate images from all the various time periods in history as requested. They have sophisticated digitization equipment for their department and stand ready to provide assistance upon request.
- ✓ The Information Technology Department at the Nation will be a major player with the new Librarian providing their assistance in bringing the database online on the Nation's website. They have a staff of 60 highly trained professionals and have already began participating in this project assisting in the planning phase of this grant application. Their team consists of computer hardware technicians, system administrators, telecommunications, network technicians, web developers, application developers, business analysts and other staff which perform most any function of an information systems group of a large corporation. They provide network connectivity covering the 8,000 square miles of the Nation's service area. They will work with CONTENTdm and the OCLC system for integration with Nation's systems.

Professional Consultation: A strong team of professionals have been engaged to contract with the Nation for assisting in the establishment of the Virtual Library operational system, its software and hardware, and to train the project staff in the correct methodologies of the digitization process and virtual library techniques and practices for success. Dr. Mary Larson and Dr. Robin Leech from Oklahoma State University's Library have already made a site visit to the Nation to review the collection, meet the staff and ascertain the needs for their professional guidance and skills. They have been critically important in assisting in developing the Digitization Plan and the Specifications for Digitization for this project. They will be joined by Gayle Palmer who is a consultant with CONTENTdm and OCLC who will assist in the installation and staff training for the digitization and technical processes. They will be continuously available to the Librarian to assist in the development and production of this historic project. [Resumes in Appendix IX]

Advisory Council: In addition to staff and consultants, an Advisory Council has been recruited and agreed to serve to provide guidance and consultation throughout the duration of the first years of the project to ensure it meets the needs of the targeted population and complies with the standards set forth in the Digitization and Long Range Plans of the project. They will provide guidance on the selection of materials, the development of relevant programs, and the design of the website. Members include respected Cherokee scholars, Dr. Duane King Executive Director of the Gilcrease Museum/Tulsa University and renowned scholar and author of Cherokee history, Dr. Rennard Strickland, Senior Scholar in Residence, Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy at the University of Oklahoma, and noted historian and author, Dr. Julia Coates, Tribal Council Member and Cherokee historian/professor, Mary Moroney, Executive Director of the Eastern Oklahoma District of Libraries, Dr. Leslie Hannah, Chairman of Languages and Literature and Coordinator of Cherokee Language Education Program at Northeastern State University, Susan Feller, Development Director for the Oklahoma State Department of Libraries and well know specialist in tribal library and museum programs developments throughout the United States and Jack Baker, Tribal Council Member and President of the Trail of Tears Association. The council will meet on a regular basis and will be available throughout for consultation on an as needed basis. [Resumes in Appendix X]

Marketing: The Cherokee Nation's Communication Department will be responsible for developing, designing and branding the website for the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge. IT department will host the site on the Nation's server. They will undertake the following details:

- Develop and publicity and marketing plan including identification of IMLS as the funding source for the project
- Plan news conferences and press releases to introduce the receipt of the Enhancement Grant from IMLS and announce the historic development project of Asquahigodv anitsalagi unigvdohsvi: Storehouse of Cherokee Knowledge.
- Prepare newsletter stories on the project for the Cherokee Phoenix going to all tribal citizens on a monthly basis as well as send them to Native Times

- Prepare article for Native People and the casino magazines throughout Oklahoma and the Nation
- Notify media of all special collections and gifts to library
- Notify the public libraries , universities and schools about the new project and when it comes on line.
- Work with the member libraries in Northeastern Regional Library Consortium to create awareness of the program with their patrons.
- Produce specific bibliographies to promote library data sources

Locating, Accessing, and Digitizing Materials: One of the roles of the advisory council, which is made up of experienced scholars and researchers, is to help guide the selection of materials for the website. Through past work, these scholars have a thorough understanding of the location of most Cherokee materials in the United States and throughout the world. At the commencement of the project, the Advisory Council will convene to prioritize holdings and establish an action plan for accessing materials. In June 2010, a member of the project staff will participate in the IMLS-funded Tribal Heritage Research Fellowship program and will spend a week in Washington, DC accessing the records of collecting institutions there. A further week-long visit will be made to the NARA repository in Fort Worth, Texas. Concurrently, the web designers will start uploading over 400,000 pages of materials that were digitized with funding provided by the National Archives and Records Commission and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Programs/Virtual Exhibits: To achieve maximum effectiveness, it is important that the materials be put into context through the development of virtual exhibits that link and interpret materials. This will be accomplished by Mickel Yantz the Museum Curator for the National Cherokee Museum. Mickel will spend approximately ten percent of his professional time on this project.

Sustainability: At the conclusion of the grant period, the Nation has committed to continue to support the acquisition and digitization of authentic documents and materials for the Virtual Library, helping ensure that every Cherokee knows the role they play in the collective history and wisdom of the Nation and understands the personal stake they have in perpetuating its culture, history, language and traditions. It is a priority and commitment of the tribal administration to meet the needs of the people by advancing this new source of in depth information on the Cherokees representing the past 171 years, establishing the system, framework and opportunity to continue to build on the contributions of the tribe and its people through the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge in perpetuity once established.

4.Evaluation Methods

- An outcomes-based evaluation will be conducted for every outcome described in Section 2.
- Dissemination of project information and promotions will be handled through the marketing plan outlined above.
- A tabulation of web site hits will be generated from the point before the new Virtual Library is introduced to the public and at the end of the first year of the project to measure the increase in traffic both at the Cherokee Nation and the Cherokee Heritage Center.
- Follow up survey will be conducted with original group at Cherokee Nation and in community centers to measure the extent of change in attitudes and utilization of computer based research and education.
- Teachers will be selected through a random sampling in the 91 public schools and the 60 Johnson O'Malley programs at the end of the school year in 2011 and asked to identify effectiveness of the new data base in their classrooms and their estimates of percentage of increase in student usage and learning. They will be asked for recommendations for improving the project.
- Both Advisory Council members, Nation employees and project staff as well as Tribal Council members who have strong lines of communication with their respective communities that they represent, will conduct ongoing personal interviews and inquiries about the effectiveness of the Virtual Library with individuals and with library patrons and provide the information from their inquiries to project staff for considerations of improvements to the system going into its second year as well as throughout the first year of the project.

The Cherokee Nation looks forward to the satisfactory completion of this project and to providing other tribes in the nation the model and format so they too may collect, present and preserve their invaluable tribal records for generations to come, unlocking and interpreting the past for the education of their future generations