Abstract

The term "cultural geo-history" describes the specific connection of the culture in a given area to their environment and geographic space. For this project, the Peoples of Washington (POW) historical archive was cataloged based on GIS techniques, geocoding protocols, and the *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS) to create an intuitive and familiar tool for historical researchers and archivists to better understand the cultural geo-history of Washington State. The resulting tool, the Peoples of Washington Historical Geographic Information System (POWHGIS), combines a geodatabase and a web application to provide access to a small portion of the cultural history of Washington State as well as supplemental data from the Washington State Geospatial Portal and the U.S. Census. The application was beta-tested by users in order to evaluate the functionality of the tools, to provide adequate validation of the POWHGIS project and procedures. The POWHGIS project demonstrates that archival standards are useful in creating an accurate, informative, and usable HGIS tool that can increase the knowledge of and access to Washington State's cultural geo-history.