The Smithsonian Institution has unparalleled resources for the study and teaching of American Indian culture, art, and history. Its newest museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, offers a wide range of programs and services, including a guide for teachers. Some of the Smithsonian’s oldest AmericanIndian collections are held by the National Museum of Natural History Anthropology Department from whose homepage one can visit the Anthropology Outreach Office for teaching aids and information. In addition, on Anthropology Department’s website homepage there are links to online exhibits, online collections database, research programs, such as the Arctic Studies Center, and archives and collections. Other resources from the Smithsonian Institution include: the National Anthropological Archives for its wealth of primary source material; and the Handbook of North American Indians for the latest publication in its authoritative series, and the Office of Repatriation to learn about its collaborative process of determining disposition of human remains and cultural objects. Also, don’t miss the Smithsonian’s Center for Folklife Programs and Studies with many documentary recordings of music and verbal arts; the Smithsonian’s art museums’, e.g., Smithsonian American Art Museum paintings, watercolors, photographs, drawings, and other images of Natives and Native life; the rich Native American collections of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries and the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies’ has a vast array of teaching and professional development resources.
**GENERAL RESOURCES**

Subject directories on the web are important and useful tools for researching particular topics. For the best results, choose a site that uses knowledgeable evaluators or subject selectors in building it indexes. Below are a few examples:

**WWW Virtual Library: American Indians** The WWW Virtual Library is one of the oldest subject directories on the web with many of its guides maintained by specialist selectors. This one is a gateway to a very wide range of topics concerning Native Americans. From its starting page, click on “education” and review curriculum materials and other teacher resources. Directory listings of Native American K-12 schools, colleges and related programs, and resources for Indian students are also included. The media section includes links to Indian newspapers, journals, and magazine.

**Native American Print Media Resources**: An extensive listing of newspapers and magazines publishing by or about Native Americans.

**About.com** includes over 3,000 different hits for articles on Native Americans. The material ranges from Native American women, history, inventors, art, literature, foods, and culture. About.com Education is a resource for students to get homework help and teachers to find curriculum material.

**Native Web** was conceived to represent and foster communication among indigenous people worldwide. At present this site is predominately about the Americas with selections indexed by broad subject, such as art, education and history, geographic region or by nation. See “education” for K-12 resources.

**Nativeculture.com**, includes information on tribes and nations, arts and expression, and learning/teaching as well as a search engine. One may also review a calendar of powwow and Native events, read and post messages on a bulletin board, join a real-time chat, participate in video-conferencing, shop, send an electronic postcard, or simply relax and listen to music.

**Native American Facts for Kids: Resources on American Indians for Children and Teachers** is part of Native-Languages.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to Native American language survival. The Native American Facts for Kids webpage contain fact sheets ranging in material from American Indian clothing to specific information about North American tribes. In addition, the website lists other Native American links on general topics, such as, Native Celebrities and Native American Technology.

The **American Indian Studies** page of the Digital Librarian: A Librarian's Choice of the Best of the Web offers diverse content on American Indian culture, history, and language. For example, there is a link to a PDF on Lacrosse, a link to "Built in America" by The Library of Congress American Memory project about historic American buildings such as drawings and photographs of pueblos, and a link to the history of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School.

The **Center for Multilingual Multicultural Research** provides a host of links about American Indians. The links range from articles on specific topics (e.g., beads and clothing) to a contemporary native published newspaper.

The **University of California Santa Barbara** campus has a web resource for educators on Native Americans. This page provides links to American Indian material from pre-colonial to 19th century.
The American Anthropological Association has a list of anthropology resources for teaching social science, geography, history, and science. In the Socio-Cultural Anthropology: Selected Cultural Topics there are multiple online resources about Native American and Alaskan tribes.

The National Archives Library Information Center's website provides diverse material about Native Americans. The material included on the site ranges from digital collections, Microfilm publications, articles, and links to sites that explore Native American history.

First Peoples on SchoolNet is part of Canada's SchoolNet, the primary point of access to online resources for students and teachers across that country. It features original content from throughout Canada, plus hundreds of links to other North American sites. First Peoples on SchoolNet includes curriculum and educational resources, an educator’s circle, projects, teaching, and an Internet subject guide to resources on Native life and history in Canada. A “must” for educators and students alike.

RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL: BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND FULL TEXT
Although literature about American Indians is growing, it is not always easy to select sensitive, historically accurate sources for classroom use. The web now offers good evaluative bibliographies as well as a growing body of full-text material, ranging from stories to read aloud to young children to reference works for older students writing research papers.

A Critical Bibliography on North American Indians, For K-12 was compiled by the Smithsonian’s Anthropology Outreach Office in response to concerns about choosing appropriate literature for this age group. Critical annotations and evaluations of each title reviewed are included.

Oyate is a Native American organization focused on evaluating, recommending and producing quality, non-biased resources – primary books – about Native America for students and teachers. In addition to distributing children’s, young adults’ and teachers’ books and materials, Oyate issues reviews of “books to avoid,” conducts teacher workshops on how to evaluate this literature, and administers a small resource center and library.

American Indian Library Association website links to other good resources, such as “Children’s Books with Native North American History, Themes & Characters” and a “Selective Bibliography and Guide for ‘I’ is Not for Indian: The Portrayal of Native Americans in Books for Young People.”

WWW Virtual Library - American Indians: Index of Native American Electronic Text Resources on the Internet includes a long list of links to full-text historical and contemporary books, articles, document archives, speeches, and the like. Noted among them is the “Early Canadian Online” resource. Indexes to the site’s poetry and short stories and access to the University of Virginia Electronic Text Center are also available.

The School Collection: Children's Literature at the Education and Social Science Library includes a list of web resources that include children’s books on American Indian recommendations.

The Archaeology and Public Education Newsletter, published by the Society for American Archaeology, contains a short reading list about Native American rock art.

About.com has a website article called “Guide to Children’s and YA Books About Native Americans” that has reading recommendations and links to other bibliographies.
TEACHING STRATEGIES AND MATERIALS
The web has a wealth of teaching strategies and materials from a great variety of sources – such as educational institutions, American Indian organizations, governments, museums, and independent groups. Among them are

Cradleboard Teaching Project was born out of the experiences of American Indian singer, songwriter, and one-time teacher, Buffy Sainte-Marie. It provides curriculum and cross-cultural connectivity to children and teachers across the country. It offers a core curriculum from a Native perspective, a tribe-specific curriculum developed in Native American communities, and an interactive curriculum or online cultural exchange. The latter partners Indian and non-Indian classes (grades 5-12) to exchange information about themselves and their communities via written letters, email, Live Chat, and gifts of local goodies, etc.

CanTeach is a non-commercial, Canadian-focused site created to assist teachers in finding and using online resources. Divided into two categories “elementary resources and links” it offers lesson plans and other resources under both “First Nations” and “Nunavut” headings.

Teaching Young Children about Native Americans, ERIC Digest, suggests positive strategies focusing on this age group. Discusses stereotypes children see and teaching practices to avoid. References included.

Reservation Controversies: Then and Now is a classroom-tested lesson using problem-based learning and the primary sources of the Library of Congress (LC). Grades 7 through 12 are introduced to issues dealing with Americans in the late 1800s and today. This lesson is part of the larger Learning Page, a website designed to help teachers and students use the LC American Memory Project’s digital collections.

The Curriculum Materials webpage from the Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Visitor Center Educational Adventures offers teachers with lesson plans, resource packets and other material on the Powhatan tribe. Under the subheading, "Essays and Lesson Plans", is a section on "Living With the Indians." This resource explores the interactions between the English and Powhatan people and how they used their environment

New Mexico State University, College of Agriculture and Home Economics has a handful of teaching activities for elementary and middle school grade levels. The lesson plans contain step-by-step procedures and a grading rubric.

The American Indian Heritage Support Center provides a list of links for educators. The links contain information about recommended literature for children, lesson plans, teaching native languages, and an American Indian contemporary news website.

The American Indian Issues: An Introduction and Curricular Guide for Educators includes interdisciplinary units for 8th grade teachers about nation building and westward expansion. Currently, the material is updated and maintained by Dr. Olson-Raymer, a history professor at Humboldt State University.

The American Indian Tribal Histories Project is a program of the Western Heritage Center in Billings, Montana. The project was designed to tell the history and culture of Northern High Plains Indians, the Crow and Northern Cheyenne. The website provides lesson plans for K-12.

The American Indian Resource Center at the Department of Anthropology, College of William and Mary offers four web resources about Virginia American Indians.
The Nebraska Partnership for American History Education has a list of web resources for teachers about Native American history. The resources are organized by type of website and include primary documents, audio/visual, and interactive material.

**INDIAN LIFE TODAY**
A wealth of information about and for contemporary Indian groups and people is available on the web. The first two sites will lead you to many others:

- **Native American Sites** includes access to home pages of individual Native nations and links to Native media, languages, music and art, powwows and festivals, etc. Teachers and students alike may find nearby reservations or cultural centers to contact or powwows and festivals to attend. Created by a Mohawk librarian and editor, this site is regularly updated and among the most widely cited.

- Visit **Kids’ Stop**, a site by Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada, which features places, people, history, language, schools online, and a special section for teachers. Downloadable copies of information sheets (ages 8-11) and The Learning Circle with classroom activities (ages 4 to 14) are available.

- **Indian Country Today** bills itself as the U.S.’s leading Indian news source. Although the online version does not include the full content, it does provide information about current events and national issues.

- **Code Talk** is a federal inter-agency web site that provides information for Native American communities. It includes current discussion topics in Indian country; information on housing, health, the arts, the environment, and children; a calendar of important events; a list of resources and tools for Native communities; and links to other useful web sites.

- **Working to Improve Schools and Education** (WISE) is an ongoing project of Jeff Claus, an education professor at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. He and his students provide valuable web resources and information, including sources about Native American culture. The majority of the information provided is about contemporary Native American issues, such as stereotypes, racism, and the American Indian Movement.

- **Unbiased Teaching about American Indians and Alaska Natives in Elementary Schools** is an article from ERIC Digest. The article’s author, Floy Pepper, discusses how to teach accurate information and provides a list of myths and how to dispel them.

The Center for Teaching History with Technology (THWT) is an organization that provides history and social science web resources for teachers and aims to help educators to incorporate technology in their classrooms. One such THWT resource available to teachers is a collection of web material, i.e., teaching activities to a public radio show, about American Indian writer Sherman Alexie.

There are many websites on the Internet that have lists of federally-recognized Native American and Alaskan tribes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s website lists federally recognized tribes and provides some links to tribal web pages. The National Congress of American Indians has an alphabetical list of federally recognized tribes organized by geographical region.
INDIANS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
Resources describing a cultural region or particular past event offer teachers and students good supplemental material for teaching, research papers or projects, and field trip opportunities. Below are a few of the different types of sites available.

American Indians of the Pacific Northwest is a digital collection of over 2,300 photographs and 7,700 pages of text relating to American Indians on the Northwest Coast and the Plateau. Many aspects of life are illustrated, including housing, clothing, crafts, transportation, education and employment. The materials are drawn from university, historical society and museum collections in that area.

Research in the National Parks, part of the National Park Service’s Links to the Past, offers state-by-state access to archaeological and ethnographic sites—many of which relate to American Indians. From Colorado’s Mesa Verde National Park to Tennessee’s prehistoric mounds, a wide scope of American Indian history is represented.

Canadian Museum of Civilization has a wealth of material for real and virtual visitors of all ages. Explore the museum’s online exhibits, the “Inuit and Englishmen: The Nunavut Voyages of Martin Frobisher.” See the Canadian Children’s Museum for a host of intercultural activities.

The American Federation of Teachers’ website provides a short list of key events in Native American history with brief descriptions of the events and links to web resources.

eMints National Center, an organization out of the University of Missouri, provides professional development programs for educators. As part of their programming, eMints has eThemes, which are resources organized by particular topics. One such topic is Native Americans: Trail of Tears. The website lists links to lesson plans, videos, timelines and more about the Trail of Tears.

The National Park Service program Teaching History with Historic Places has a website dedicated to teaching the Trail of Tears to students. The lesson plan on the website provides reading material, images and activities for teachers to use in their classroom.

The Educational Resources Information Center, or ERIC, is an online library supported by the Institute of Education Sciences and U.S. Department of Education. In ERIC’s collection is Native American Sourcebook: A Teacher’s Resource on New England Native Peoples, a publication about an historical perspective of American Indian cultures in New England. Also within ERIC’s collections are other full texts available on American Indians.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS
Lectures, workshops, seminars and the like for educators can be found on the web. In addition to the types of places listed below, local museums with American Indian collections and some American Indian organizations themselves are often good sources as well.

Educators’ Programs listed on the Library of Congress’ (LC) Learning Page show teachers, librarians, media specialists and other educators how to use primary resources – specifically from the American Memory Project – to enrich pre-college curriculum. Offered are hands-on professional development workshops in Washington, D.C., facilitated and do-it-yourself workshops online, and year-long fellowships to work at LC.
D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, part of the Newberry Library, offers short-term fellowships and summer institutes for teachers of Native American history and literature; and conferences, seminars, and workshops for those seeking more effective classroom integration of Native American and American history. Librarians and teachers of advanced courses in secondary school are invited to join the Newberry Teachers’ Consortium, which unites academic scholars and secondary school personnel.

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center offers age appropriate tours and classroom programs for groups and a professional development workshop for teachers. The museum is a state-of-the-art, tribally owned and operated complex, a major resource for the tribe’s history as well as that of other tribes in the region.

The Smithsonian Institution offers a wide variety of opportunities. Explore them through the sites of the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.

A Northern Arizona University (NAU) website provides information about American Indian Education. The resources on NAU’s website include children’s reading lists, curriculum development, and articles on teacher training.

The Bureau of Indian Education has a list of resources for teachers about teaching Native American material in their classroom.

An earlier version of this bibliography, authored by Margaret R. Dittemore, Head of the John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, was published in the winter 2000 issue of AnthroNotes, Vol. 22, No. 2. Illustration © by Robert L. Humphrey estate. Intern Elise Kordis updated and expanded this bibliography in March 2009.

Anthropology Outreach Office
Department of Anthropology
Smithsonian Institution
2009