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In Cayuse Country, East of the Cascades:

Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

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Tamástslikt Cultural Institute is an interpretive center presenting the culture, history, and stories of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes. The Institute is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), which is located at the base of the Blue Mountains, six miles east of Pendleton in northeastern Oregon. Tamástslikt opened to the public in the summer of 1998 with 10,000 square feet of permanent exhibit space, an art gallery, museum store, café, and a substantial collection of artifacts. The Research Library and Archives is one of the functions of the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute.

The Research Library and Archives is devoted to preserving and reclaiming the cultural and historical knowledge and heritage of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The mission of the Research Library and Archives is to become a repository for historical records, manuscripts, reference books, photographs, sound recordings and other primary and secondary resources that document the history and culture of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla people.

The library is located for easy public access adjacent to the entrance lobby. The facility encompasses 2,250 square feet; 300 square feet is dedicated to offices, 750 square feet to library space, 750 square feet to archival storage space, and 450 square feet to the photo lab. All collection areas are HVAC controlled to regulate and monitor temperature levels as well as humidity.

The Research Library and Archives is a fledgling facility that has great potential to become a world-class research facility for the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes. The research collection has been acquired primarily through donations, with a small portion selected and purchased. One creative approach to building the library collection

has been through reduction in inventory from the museum store at the Institute.

The commitment to the acquisition, documentation, and preservation of the heritage of the Confederated Tribes is the purpose of the Research Library and Archives. In addition to this main purpose we have the complementary goal of education. As the amount of scholarly information increases exponentially, and as it becomes easier to directly access information, there will be increased importance attached to the traditional role of the Institute as educator. This role will be to create and communicate the concepts, organization, and structure by which mere information is turned into knowledge. Our measure of accomplishment reflects what students and patrons learn rather than how much they are taught. Technological innovations notwithstanding, providing for personal “hands on” experiences that meet the user’s needs will be an important advantage in the increasingly competitive environment.

The Reference Library and Archives provides the Tribal community, scholars, students, and the general public with resources and accurate information that meet their professional, educational, or personal needs.

We are open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. While appointments are not required they are appreciated. 🌿

For more information on Tamástslikt please contact:
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