November 2007: National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month

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November is National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. In 1990, President George Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month to celebrate the individual cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art and traditions of the American Indian and Alaskan Native Peoples.

The 2007 Proclamation by President George W. Bush states:

“American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to shape our Nation by preserving the heritage of their ancestors and by contributing to the rich diversity that is our country's strength. Their dedicated efforts to honor their proud heritage have helped others gain a deeper understanding of the vibrant and ancient customs of the Native American community. We also express our gratitude to the
American Indians and Alaska Natives who serve in our Nation's military and work to extend the blessings of liberty around the world.”

The Government Documents Department of Dacus Library contains a wealth of information about American Indians and Alaskan Native Peoples. Many of these resources can be found in our November exhibit.

Titles include:

**The Handbook of North American Indians** - SI 1.20/2:
A 20-volume encyclopedia summarizing knowledge about all Native peoples north of Mesoamerica, including cultures, languages, history, prehistory, and human biology. Area volumes include separate chapters on all tribes.

**The Indian Reading Series: Stories and Legends of the Northwest** - ED 1.319
In the 1970’s, the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory with funding from the National Institute of Education developed a reading and language arts program for Native American and non-Native American children. Twelve Northwest Indian reservations participated in the program and produced 140 cultural stories written and illustrated by Native American writers and artists. These materials were intended to be supplemental to the formal reading programs adopted by schools and not intended to teach Native American culture.

The Government Documents Department has many of the readers. They are also available full-text online at [http://www.nwrel.org/indianed/indianreading](http://www.nwrel.org/indianed/indianreading).

Titles on exhibit include *The Time the Whale Came to Jackson’s Bay*, *Grandma Rides in the Parade*, *Indian Festival*, *Old Man Napi*, and *Picture Writing*.

Other documents on exhibit include:
Western Views and Eastern Visions - SI 1.2:W52

Isleta Paintings - SI 2.3:181


Building Partnerships for Better Communities: Success Stories from Indian Country - HH 1.2:P 25/5

Alaska Subsistence: A National Park Service Management History - I 29.2:AL 1 S/6


You can find more information on Native Americans and National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month at:

Bureau of Indian Affairs: http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html

Indian Health Service: http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/Heritage/index.cfm

National Park Service: http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/indian/

National Museum of the American Indian: http://www.nmai.si.edu/

U.S. Census Bureau: http://factfinder.census.gov/home/aian/index.html

South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission: http://southcarolinaindianaffairs.com/

Come visit our exhibit in the Government Documents Department on the second floor of Dacus Library.

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