



Eastern Band of Cherokee

Kituwah Preservation & Education Program

Cultural Resource & Archive Department

11/27/23

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My name is Jakeli Swimmer, and I am the Cultural Resource and Archive Officer, CRAO for the Kituwah Preservation and Education Program, KPEP, within the Eastern Band of Cherokee, EBCI. Currently, the culture and archive department of KPEP, is developing a unified digital repository with the important goal of creating an inclusive archive. The inclusive archive will be accessible for all EBCI designated partners, programs, and most importantly all tribal members for the purpose of utilizing any resources pertaining to past, present, and future language and/or any culturally significant assets and materials.

While archives are often considered places for the permanence of items and/or significant objects; the purpose of the EBCI digital archive is to connect and utilize our cultural and linguistic materials in ways that are not focused on permanence but also a place of continued and valued use. The digital archive will serve to break down the notions of collecting for the purposes of collection and introduce collections as both a place of preservation and of maintenance with our cultural assets.

As the digital archive moves forward, it is important to acknowledge this progression is only done properly through a collaborative and respectful approach. By ensuring all pertinent contributors value, we collectively, have the best chance of capturing and retaining the true value and spirit of being Cherokee.

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Jakeli Swimmer, Cultural Resource & Archive Officer, CRAO

