

Worksheet for Developing Tribal IP Policy

Digital Stewardship Curriculum

In thinking about the development of tribal IP policy, there are a few questions to think about prior to the development of that policy. These largely relate to internal tribal governance processes – which will be different for each community. It is helpful to identify what the processes for the development of tribal policy are. This can help in the development of a tribal wide IP policy, as well as who the various tribal departments and parties are that could be involved in its development. The questions below are meant to help identify what kinds of work, and what kinds of inter-tribal departments and people could be invited to be part of this process.

1. **How does your tribe make tribal policy generally?** For example does it make policy through centralized governance processes linked to the Tribal Council? Or can policy be made through specific Tribal Departments? Are there other ways in which tribal policy gets made?

2. **Do you think there are other tribal departments that are engaging with intellectual property and that would be interested in developing tribal IP policy?** These could include cultural and historic preservation departments, IT departments, youth initiatives, natural resource departments, food sovereignty departments for example. Can you identify these?

3. **What kind of infrastructure can you identify that could help develop a tribal IP policy?** For instance developing a specific committee, or a specific working group? Initiating informal conversations with other departments to help identify other IP needs within the community? What would work well for your community?

4. **How might be the best way to initiate these conversations?** Do you think that external support and advice from other tribes who have been through this process would be useful?