

Webinar 5: Mukurtu & Tribesourcing Southwest Films

Southwest Region IMLS + NEH Cohorts

Mukurtu & Tribesourcing

June 23, 2021

Presenters: Jennifer Jenkins, Melissa Dollman and Rhiannon Sorrell

Jennifer Jenkins, Melissa Dollman (Yankton Sioux descent), and Rhiannon Sorrell (Diné) will present on the content management system Mukurtu. Mukurtu, the free, mobile, and open source platform, was built with Indigenous communities (the Warumungu people of Australia's Northern Territory) to manage and share digital cultural heritage. The presenters will give a general overview of the platform and its affordances. They will then demonstrate how they integrated audiovisual materials into Mukurtu for the Tribesourcing Southwest Film Project, and will discuss what they have learned in the process of digitally repatriating these midcentury films. They show examples of "before" and "after," and discuss the collaborative process with tribal partners.

#cawesome

Jennifer Jenkins

ADVANCE -- JUST A PLACEHOLDER



Tribesourcing Midcentury Educational Films with Native Narrations Collaborative, consultative, respectful engagement with Native narrators for historic films. Guided by the Protocols for American Indian Archival Materials

Tribesourcing Southwest Film

JENNIFER JENKINS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

J. Fred MacDonald, Collector



"The American Indian Film Gallery [AIFG] is an online collection of films related to Native Americans. The films come from a variety of sources that include commercial travel films (e.g. Santa Fe Railway), serious cultural studies (by various universities), corporate advertising (e.g. the Primitive Peoples series from Old Gold cigarettes), educational documentaries made by long-forgotten adventurers with movie cameras, and personal testimonies produced by young Native American film makers, themselves." --J. Fred MacDonald, 2009



2011: "American Indian Film Gallery" donated to University of Arizona by a small gauge film collector



In Public Domain (no copyright restrictions) Scanned for streaming (Flash video, 2012)

What to do with these "vintage" films...? Visuals: Golden Age of 16mm Kodachrome Audio: (often) Dark Age of Narration





Tribesourcing

- Like "crowdsourcing," it seeks broad community input
- \bullet Locates the source of information in the community
- Provides an insider's counter-narrative
- Determines what information is public and private
- Active decolonization of the archive

NEH grant: 2017
remaster 60 Southwestern films and return to

Protocols for Native American Archival Material (2007)

Human rights themes, such as understanding Native American values and perspectives and providing contexts for Native American archival materials, repeatedly emerged in the discussions. Related policy and legal topics included:

- the importance of consultation with and concurrence of tribal communities in decisions and policies
 the need to recognize and provide special treatment for <u>culturally sensitive</u> materials
 rethinking public accessibility and use of some materials
 the role of intellectual and cultural property rights
 the need to consider copying, sharing, and/or <u>repatriation</u> of certain materials
 the recognition of community-based research protocols and contracts
 reciprocal education and training
 religion granges of these issues within the profession.

- raising awareness of these issues within the profession

The Protocols build upon numerous professional ethical codes (Society of American Archivists, American Association for State and Local History, American Anthropological Association, and the Oral History Association); a number of significant international declarations recognizing Indigenous rights, including several now issued by the United Nations; and the ground-breaking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives, and Information Services.



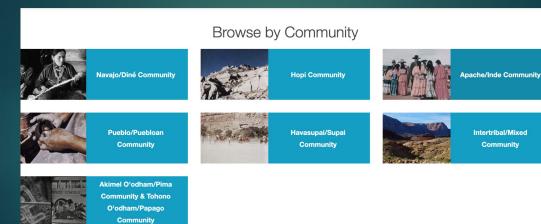
PLACEHOLDER FOR YOU, JENNIFER. THE SLIDE FORMAT BUTTON WILL RECOGNIZE THE FORMATTING OF THE SLIDE JUST ABOVE IT IF YOU NEED TO ADD NEW SLIDES.

Mukurtu.com--an adaptable CMS

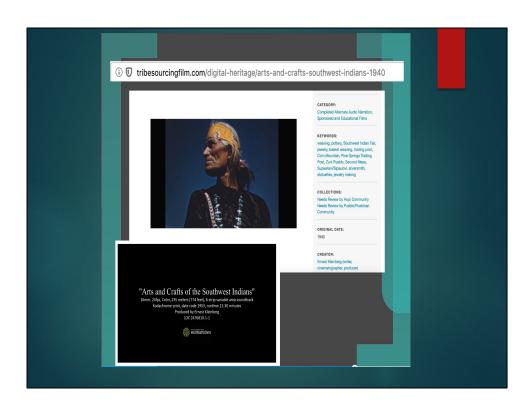
- ► Developed in Australia for Aboriginal indigenous communities
- "Mukurtu" means "a gathering place"
- ► Supports documents, images, audio, and video files
- Allows for community-based control of access: clan, age, gender, season, territory
- ► TK labels
- Accommodates indigenous language
 - dictionaries and natural language search architecture

*Local Contexts Hub [in Beta] for GLAM to implement decolonizing protocols reciprocally

Tribesourcing Southwest Film



Community



Original "voice of god" narration:

"Once a proud nation of hunters and warriors, now the **poorest** of the Southwest Indians, the Navajo people live in a **barren and arid** reservation of a thousand square miles. Most of the land is in Arizona and New Mexico. **They** are still a nomadic people, frequently moving from place to place on **their** vast reservation, wherever **their** small herd of sheep and goats will find grazing land and be fairly near one of the scarce water holes or springs. Their herds are the Navajos' livelihood. They drink the goat milk and sheep and goats provide all their meat. **Their women** make rugs and blankets from the wool. . . . The trading post is the Navajo's only link with the outside world; **the trader, his best friend.**"

Re-narration:

Native language use

"Yá'át'ééh. This is Rhiannon Sorrell at Tsaile, Arizona and I'm viewing the film, "Arts and Crafts of Southwest Indians Named narrator misleading, because it makes the trades in this film sound (female) and location like more of a recreational postion. like more of a recreational pastime than a way of life that has sustained the Diné since the early 20th century and continues to play a role in contemporary life and economics on the Navajo Nation. As you can see from these opening scenes, the Diné were not village-dwelling and lived in small bands spaced apart from each other and often far away from the nearest town. This is where trading posts came in hand. The one shown here is Pine Springs Trading Post, which operated as one of the many community hubs that also function much like a grocery store, an arts and crafts store, a bank, a post office, sometimes even family Identifying specific film location court. They also functioned even as a mortuary." (and later, specific people)

Rhiannon Sorrell

(Prerecorded at Diné College, Navajo Nation.)

ADVANCE -- JUST A PLACEHOLDER --- Jennifer can you set this up?



Set to HD

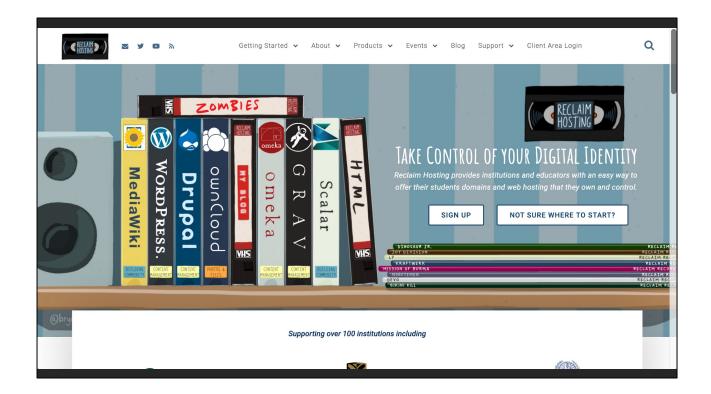
Melissa Dollman

ADVANCE -- JUST A PLACEHOLDER

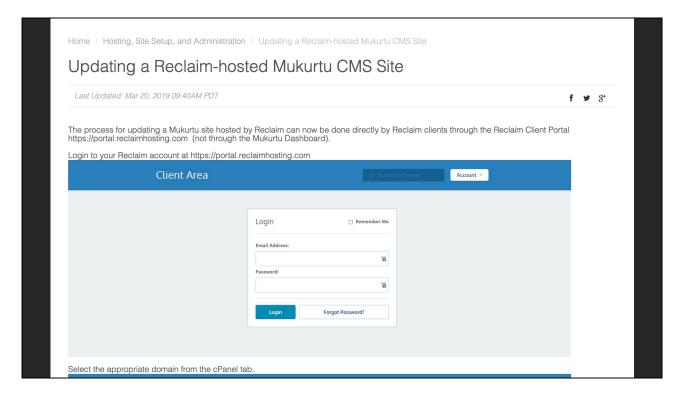


Hello! Again my name is Melissa Dollman and I am the project manager for the Tribesourcing Southwest Films site including site maintenance, media management, adding metadata and longer former descriptions for content.

I am speaking with you today from the ancestral and current homelands of the Agua Caliente Band of the Cahuilla Indians. My part of the presentation is tackling the integration of larger video and audio files into the Mukurtu platform and a bit about metadata and TK labels. This part will be a tad more technical, but once you're playing around under the hood, it'll all make even more sense.



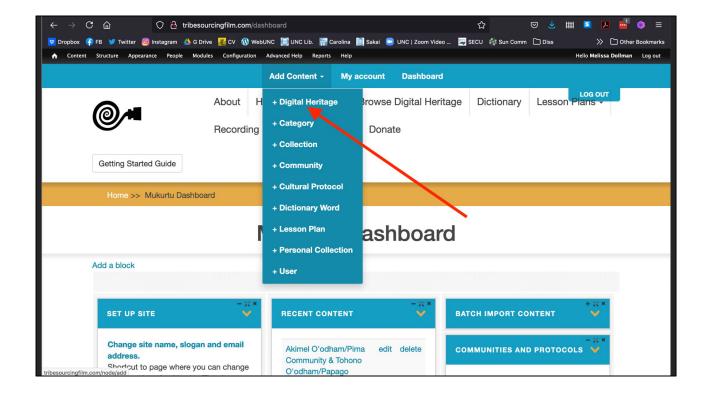
First about server space for our site. Our original site was on the University of Arizona servers, but we moved over to Reclaim Hosting essentially to ensure the university couldn't assert any rights control over the content. The films may be in the public domain, but the newly recorded narrations are not, although they are open access. Financially, that change to shared hosting costs the project \$120, and an additional cost for Vimeo Pro of \$100/year for 100GB of storage and a domain registration. The great thing about using Reclaim is they have a deal with Mukurtu whereby users can opt in to have **them** update Mukurtu software automatically as updates are released. That option takes a big task off my plate.



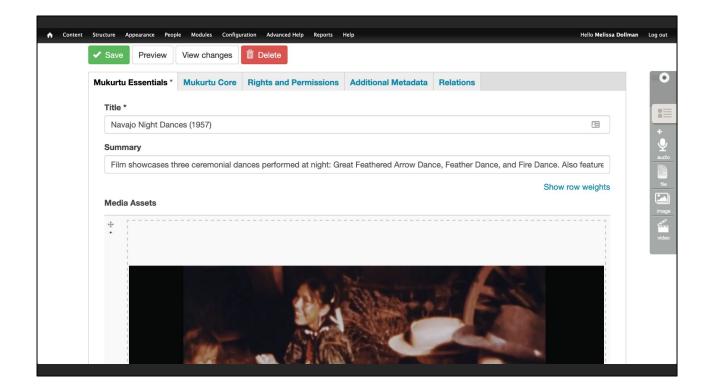
Issues we encountered after we switched. So we kind of broke Mukurtu. Not really -- I'm kidding. Our project did present an issue, however, that required our putting our heads together with IT support on both sides: Michael Wynne and another IT guy on Unviersity of Washington's staff for Mukurtu in particular were very helpful, and the Reclaim guys were less helpful and frankly a bit snarky on this point (although not bad generally). They're alright, I just threw them a curveball. But because we paid Ping Pong Media to re-scan these films, we wanted good quality access copies (and thus bigger file sizes) to stream from within the content management system. And while the project was on the university's server, we could do just that, up to 1.5 GB. But we went to shared hosting on Reclaim we found out the hard way (and by that I mean they don't document this on their site anywhere) that even though we bought plenty of server space, they limit the size of the videos we could stream to 250MB. Of course that reduces the quality of the image A LOT when it comes to any film over 12-15 minutes. We tried using a combination of uploading large video files via FTP service and batch uploading directly into the back-end with no luck.

Uploading video files from **vimeo**

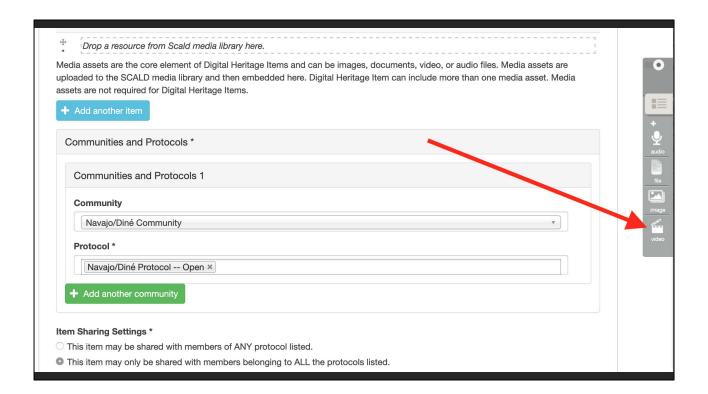
SO... we went the Vimeo route, meaning rather than streaming videos stored on our shared Reclaim server, we stream from Vimeo THROUGH Mukurtu's interface. So while we don't pay for Mukurtu, we do pay for Vimeo and Reclaim from grant dollars, and then I guess Jennifer's? It works out to \$200-300 a year. I fought pretty hard against going the Vimeo route until they broke me. And I came 'round because in Vimeo you really secure (as secure as one can on the internet) videos so they aren't open to the public except through Mukurtu. Then culturally senstive materials can be locked down by community, clan, or special groups like medicine men. I thought it might be useful to demonstrate the video upload workflow, quickly. The audio clips are in the content management system, on our hosted server. I'll address uploading them later.



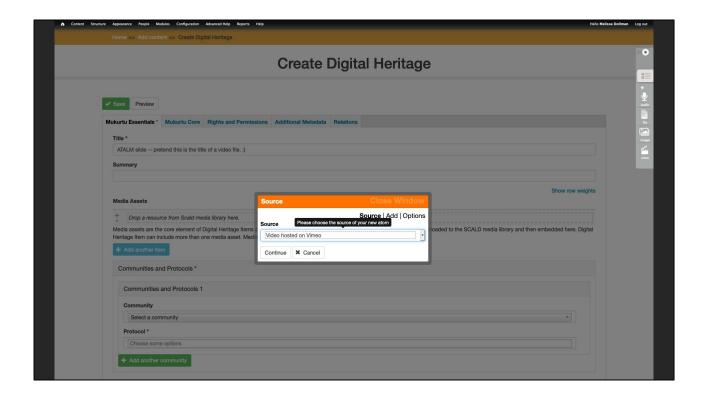
To begin -- we're looking at the back end, the dashboard. This is where you add content, attribute protocols, add dictionary words, and more.



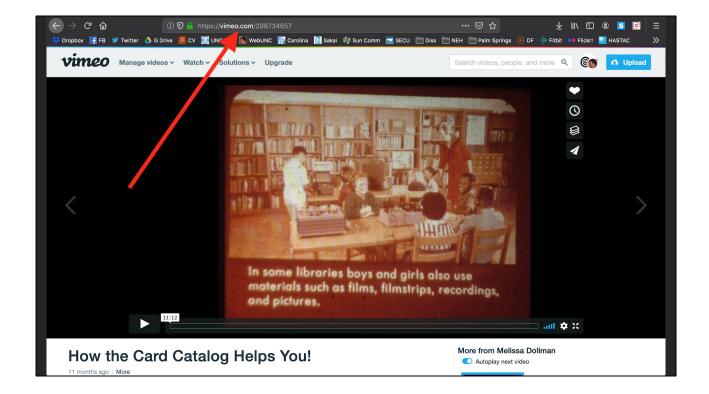
This is the edit view for a digital heritage page -- or page where you upload a digitized document (be it audio, video, photograph or text) and add titles, descriptions, metadata, maps, TK labels, and more.



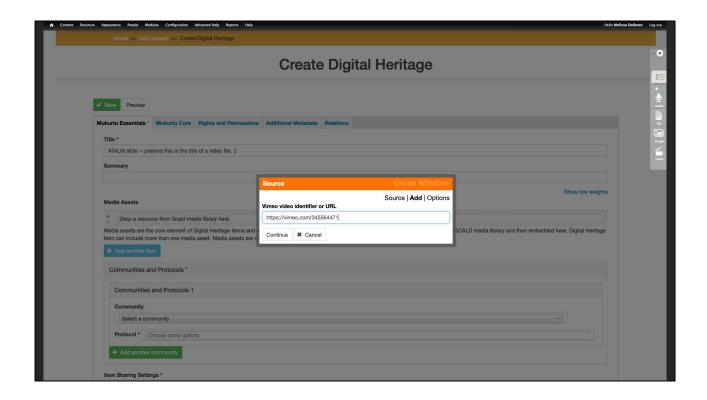
There are two ways to add videos to a digital heritage page. As you can see there, this film belongs to the Diné community and it is set to viewable by the public. I won't go into the ins and outs of setting up communities and protocols as Mukurtu's support I will start with how to add if you go the Vimeo route. Along the right side there is a tool for uploading. Click on "video."



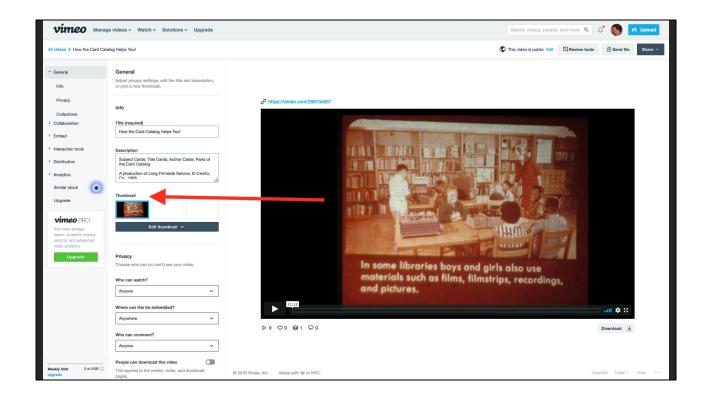
It brings up a dialog box where you choose -- in this case -- "Video hosted on Vimeo." You could also choose to host on YouTube or Dailymotion.



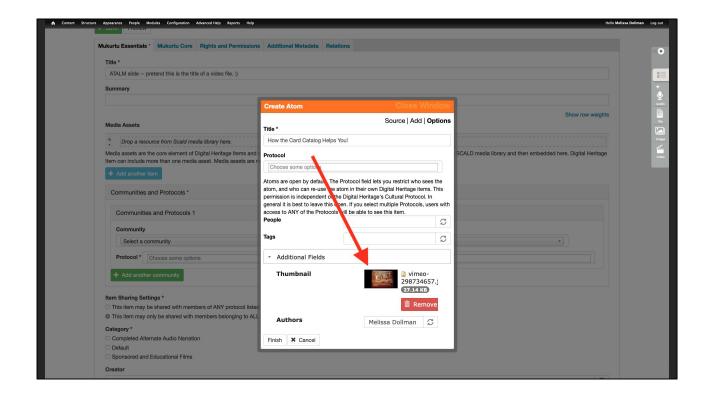
Over on Vimeo, you grab the URL for video you've already uploaded there. We'll look more at Vimeo later.



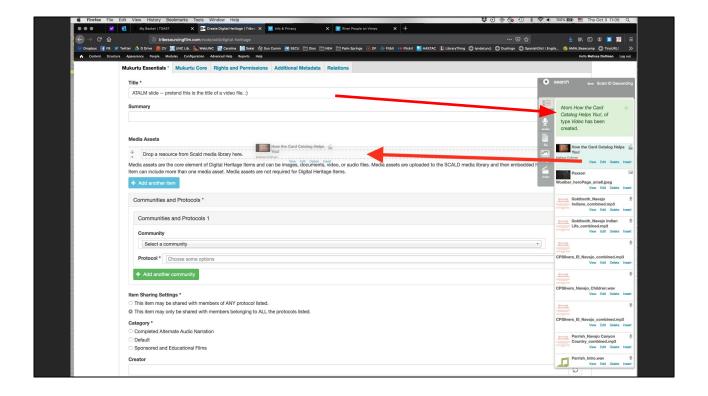
You paste it into the field that comes up...



Now this is the back end of Vimeo. This example video file (which is from my personal collection -- and not part of the project) has been uploaded, it the platform creates a thumbnail image for you which carries over to be the thumbnail over in Mukurtu.



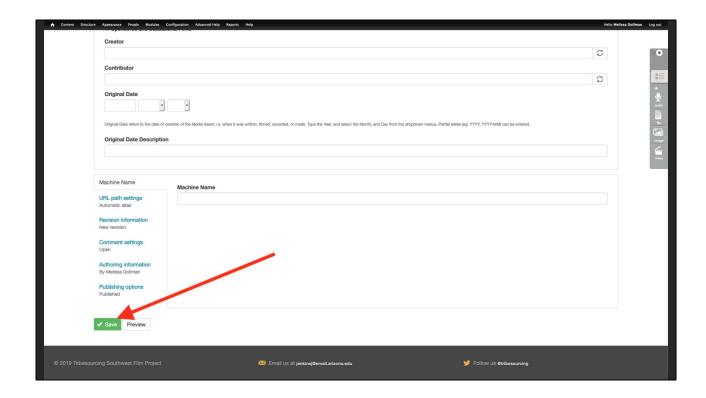
Here is the video in the uploader over in Mukurtu with the same thumbnail.



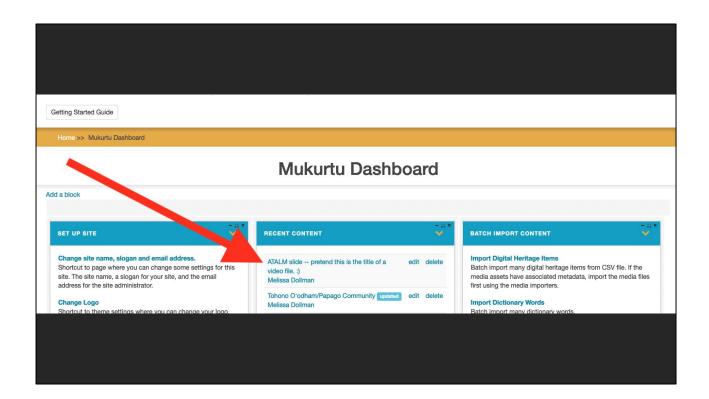
Once you click "Finish" on the uploader, the video appears on the sidebar tool. You can then drag and drop it into the "Media Assets" area...



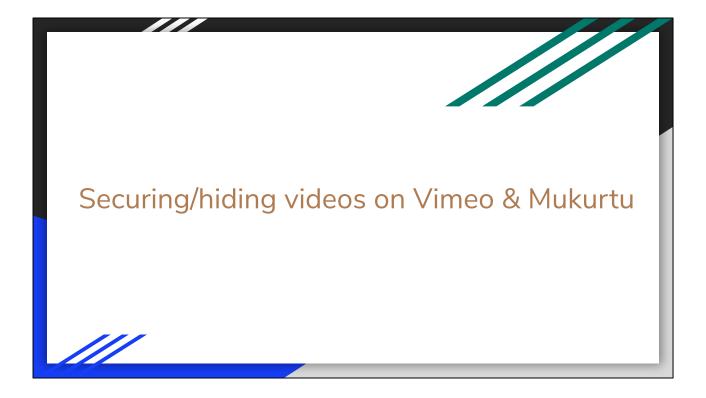
Once brought into a digital heritage page it looks like this.



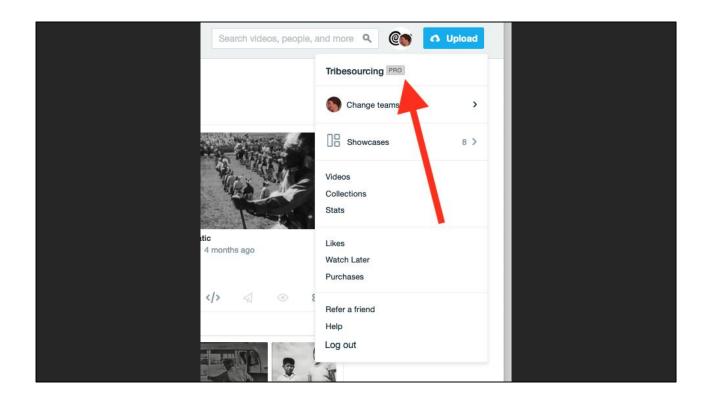
Hit Save.



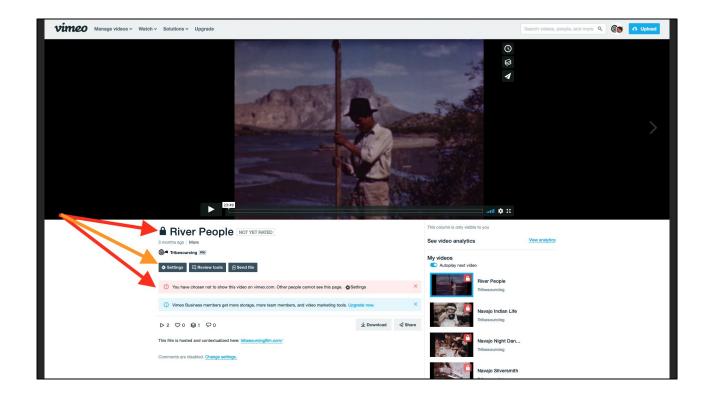
Once saved it appears in the Recent Content section.



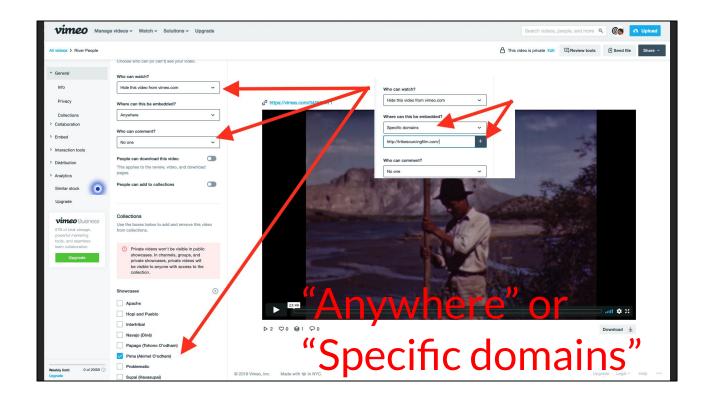
OK... again the main reason we went with Vimeo -- videos can be hidden easily and it's a commercial-free site.



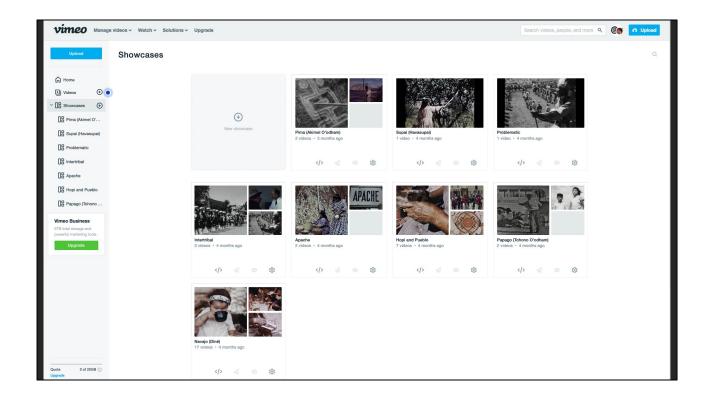
We had to purchase a Vimeo Pro account because of the amount of storage we needed.



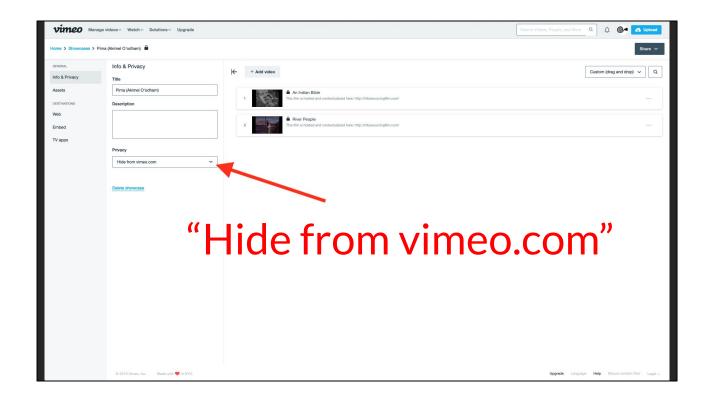
When locked down successfully, there are a number of indicators to let you know you've done it properly.



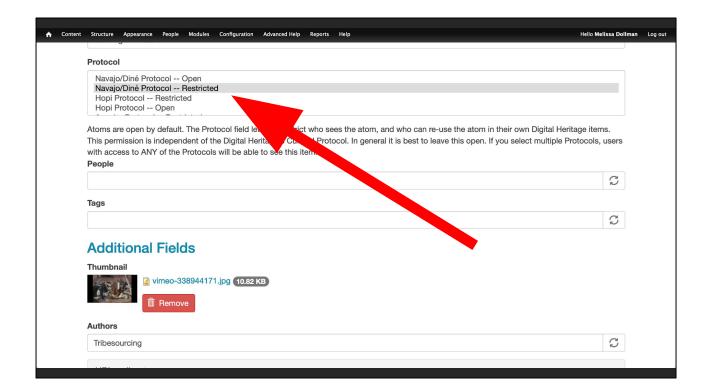
Here are the settings we use to prevent these videos from showing up in search engines like Google or within search results in Vimeo itself. We hide it; prevent comments; and while it suggests anyone could embed it, that simply allows us to embed it on our site. It can also be set to enable embedding only on certain websites. The little inset image shows how to set to a specific domain.



Vimeo provides for organizing videos into showcases. We organized videos by native community, matching the protocols they use in Mukurtu.

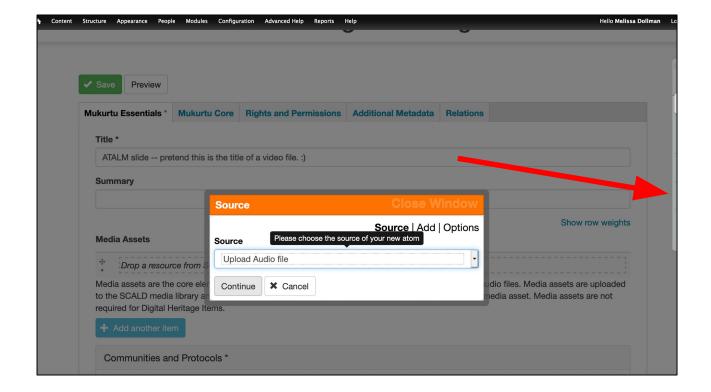


The showcase is also set to "hide from vimeo.com"

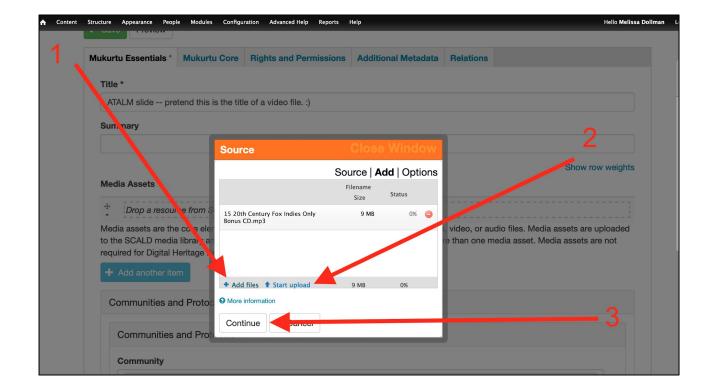


Back in Mukurtu -- the third line of defense for those films which should only be watched by a certain segment of a community's population is to restrict them according to community standards.

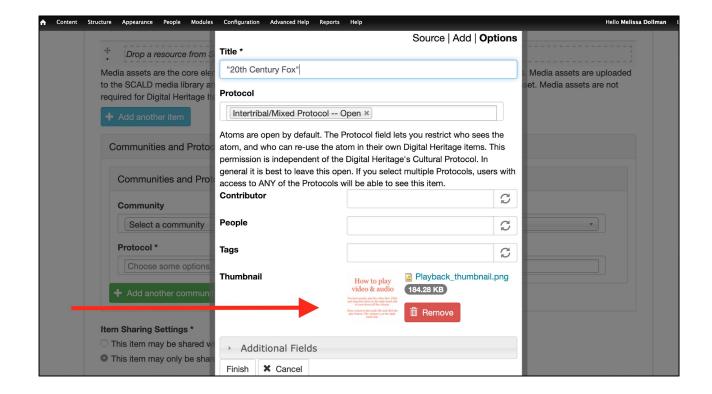
Adding Audio Files (Two Ways)



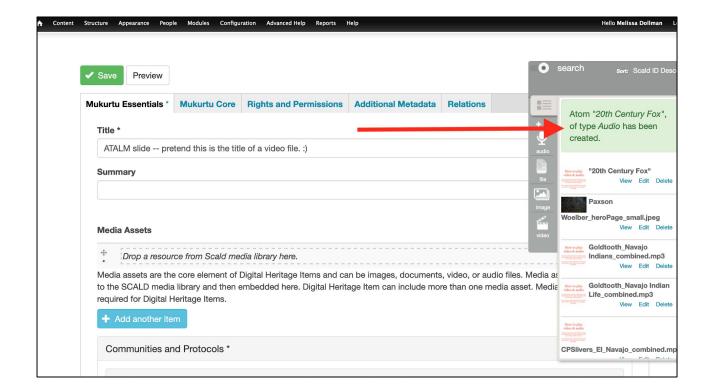
To upload an audio file directly into Mukurtu (meaning the file lives in the platform and is not brought in from an outside source), you choose "Upload Audio File" and "Continue."



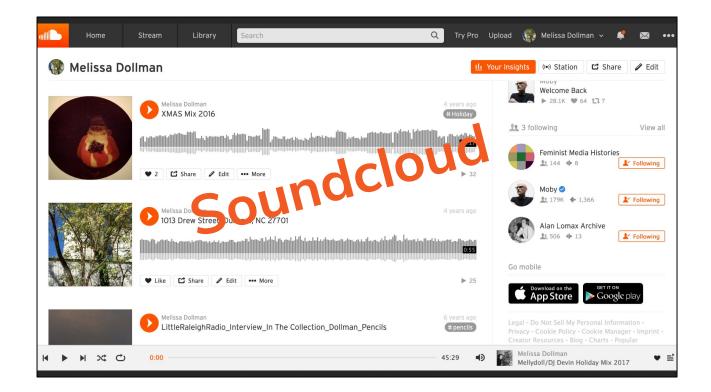
In this case you 1)Click "Add files" which opens a finder window on your computer to choose files; 2) You click "Start Upload"; and 3) You click "Continue."



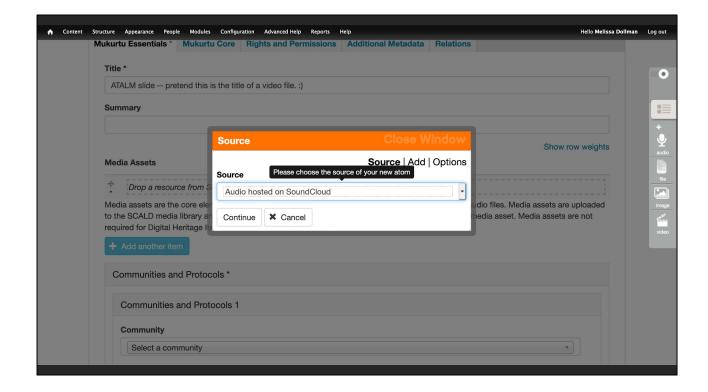
You can add a visual thumbnail for your audio file if you like.



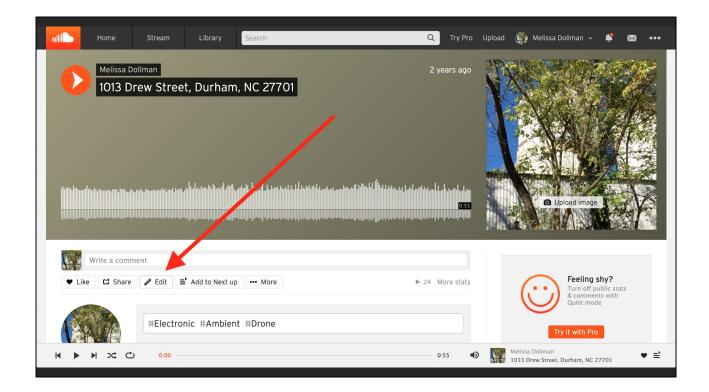
Here it is uploaded into the uploader tool. This is the technique we use for our audio files as they are not very big



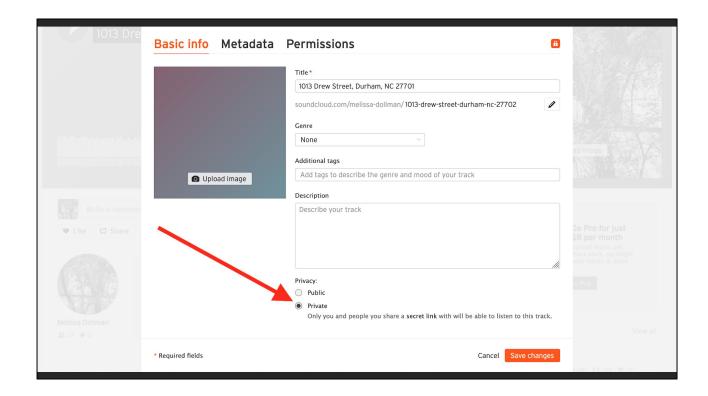
The other option is to bring audio into Mukurtu through an audio streaming service such as Soundcloud, which it supports.



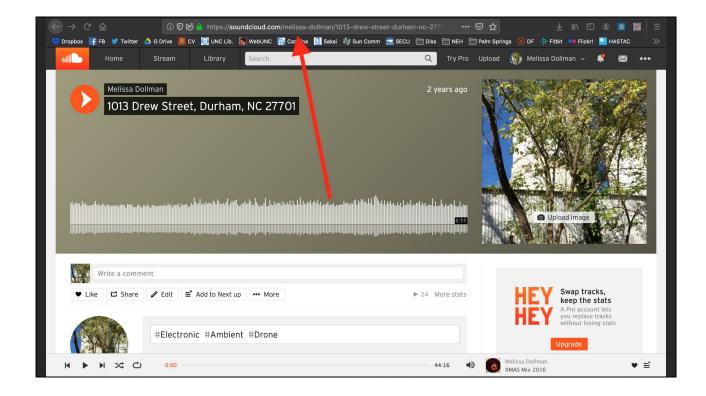
The uploader gives you the option as you can see here.



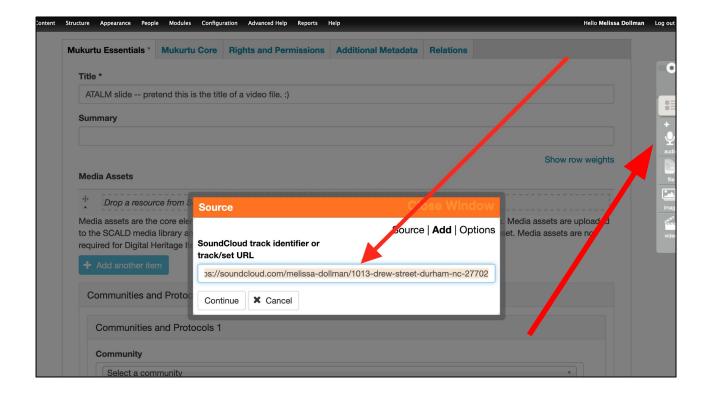
To hide the clip from search engines and Soundcloud's other users, upload the audio file and then click "Edit."



From the "Basic info" screen change Privacy options to "Private" and Save Changes.

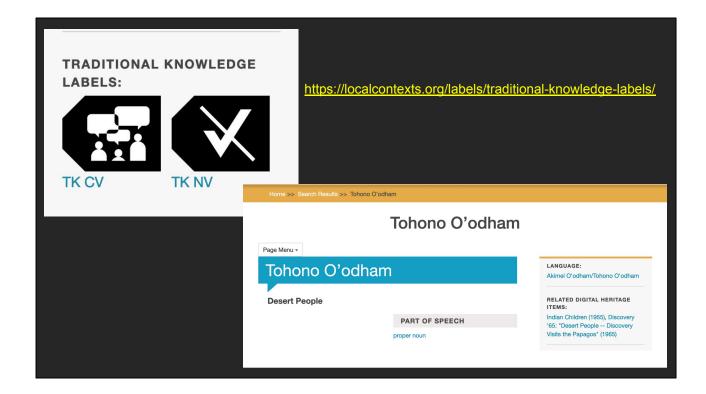


After saving, grab the URL from the audio page.



And add to the field on the uploader and click "Continue." It will appear where we saw the video uploads on the right.

Selection of Other Features: Dictionary Traditional Knowledge (TK) Labels



Among its mean features, two more we use are the Traditional Knowledge (or TK) Labels, which are icons for signaling to users a film may have potentially sensitive content, or requires additional vetting from the community, and the like. Local Context's web page gives a bunch of information on the labels and their uses if you're not already using them.

Another feature we use, and intend on expanding upon, is the Dictionary function. It is populated with vocabulary words in some of the communities' languages for which there are dictionaries or online resources. To get the ball rolling, I input many, and in the case of Diné Bizaad, Rhiannon vetted them. Here is an example of a basic term I entered from the [Ah-kee-mell Ah-ah-da-hm/Toe-hoe-noe Ah-ah-da-hm] language. It indicates language, part of speech, and importantly, in what films the word or concept appear.

Thank you!



Useful links:

http://tribesourcingfilm.com/ https://mukurtu.org/support/ https://localcontexts.org/labels/traditional _knowledge-labels/ https://doi.org/10.18357/kula.133









Here's our thank you slide -- and useful links -- but we actually aren't done yet. I'm going to jump over to our live site now to see how it functions. Show

http://tribesourcingfilm.com/digital-heritage/apache-indian-1945