Omaha and Ponca Digital Dictionary

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln has received a $348,800 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a comprehensive digital dictionary of the Omaha and Ponca languages. This dictionary will provide an interactive means for native communities, students, researchers and public to learn about these culturally significant languages.

These languages are historically and linguistically important to the Omaha and Ponca tribes. Once a united group, the Omaha and the Ponca long ago became separate political and historic entities. No comprehensive dictionary of these languages currently exists. Language preservation and revival is a pressing need because only a few dozen tribal elders in Nebraska and Oklahoma speak Omaha and Ponca as their first languages. This project will provide extensive information on the language and will be far more robust and usable than existing resources. This online dictionary should make it easier to teach, preserve and revive this language.

The project is funded by NEH through a joint NEH-National Science Foundation-Smithsonian Institution Documenting Endangered Languages initiative. It is being developed in collaboration with UNL's Center for Digital Research in the Humanities.

**Title of Grant:** Omaha and Ponca Digital Dictionary

**Award:** $348,800 for three years

**Funding Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

Designated as a "We the People" grant, a special recognition by the NEH for model projects that advance the study, teaching and understanding of American history and culture.

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