

AWAD meeting

Proposal: Group 1 Session III [Research and Intangible Culture Workshop]

November 29, 2006

The group proposes the establishment of an online comparative study of interactions between indigenous peoples and the Dutch during the age of expansion in the Atlantic world (as defined by the interests of the Dutch West India Company). This might entail comparing sub-regions and sub-periods and may eventually be expanded to include comparison with the experiences of peoples touched by other colonizing powers.

This would be a collaborative, open-ended pilot project with the aim of creating a resource tool, available to a wide range of researchers. It would serve as a test phase for similar projects.

1. Outcomes:
 - a. Stimulation of interest in an under-researched area
 - b. Creation of a physical product[s]: exhibition, virtual exhibition, publication
 - c. Encouragement of interest and support for sustaining heritage sites and archival resources
 - d. Identification of problematic areas and issues to be addressed in other Projects
 - e. Creation of a permanent information source for the AWAD database
2. Funding Sources
 - a. Government (national, regional, and local)
 - b. Private (foundations, corporations)
 - c. Income from products and copyrights (images, publications, etc.)
3. Steps to reach goals
 - a. Define and refine topic
 - b. Create infrastructure: governance, technology, etc. to establish continuity
 - c. Disseminate information
 - d. Identify experts(local and academic) and create preliminary bibliography
 - e. Identify participants
 - f. Coordinate projects by country or region
 - g. Establish standards and recommended procedures
 - h. Identify potential stumbling blocks and problems with goal of finding collaborative or cooperative solutions that can be transferable to other similar projects.
 - i. Design and create database
4. Characteristics
 - a. Open-ended; can be expanded at any time
 - b. Non-hierarchical
 - c. Built through collaborative contacts
 - d. Appeals to broad range of people: academic researchers, genealogists, anthropologists, archaeologists, museum staff, archivists, local historians