



Old Pascua Museum & Yaqui Culture Center
856 W. Calle Santa Ana
Tucson, Arizona 85705

Guidelines for the Handling of Culturally Sensitive Materials by or about the Yaqui/Yoeme/Hiaki

1. Moving images, in any format, depicting sacred Yaqui ceremonies and rituals are seldom authorized by the Pascua Yaqui people. To avoid inadvertently allowing access to materials of a sacred nature, it is recommended that host institutions carefully identify these as “culturally sensitive” in their catalogs, finding aids, libguides, indexes, and all public points of access.
2. Access to recordings or films identified as culturally sensitive is best restricted to all except for tribal members or on a case-by-case basis; when access is granted, it may be allowed on-site at the holding institution. Reproduction, whether professional or via hand-held devices, should be restricted in ALL cases unless approved by the institution and endorsed by the Pascua Yaqui traditional leadership.
3. Digitization of culturally sensitive materials, whether for distribution, dissemination, or preservation purposes, should be avoided until the Pascua Yaqui traditional leadership has been consulted.
4. Institutions should make every effort to share with their staff about the importance of observing best practices in relation to Yaqui materials designated as culturally sensitive, including identification in the institution’s public points of access, restrictions on access and reproduction, and exclusion of specific materials in digitization projects without prior consultation with the institution and traditional leadership.
5. New and veteran staff are welcome and encouraged to visit Pascua, to learn about the Yaqui way of life and to build relationships with colleagues at the tribe’s library and cultural heritage centers. We look forward to meeting you too.

Definitions

Culturally sensitive: Materials depicting ceremonies and rituals that are not personal and/or considered suitable for recording by the traditional Yaqui leadership.

Traditional Leadership: Comprised by the heads of the various Yaqui cultural societies. Discussions regarding access and reproduction of culturally sensitive information should be addressed with the heads of the societies involved with the specific ceremony in question.

Teopo Yoemia (Church and Altar Society)
Matachimí Society (Soldiers of the Virgin Mary)
Kohtumbre Ya’ura (Lenten Society)
Wo’i Wiko’i Ya’ura (Coyote Bow Authority)
Oficio Achalim (Deer Dancer and Pascola)