Introduction to eHRAF: Collection of Ethnography- A Guide

This guide is designed to help you

a) easily identify a culture, its background, life styles, etc.
b) understand how to compare two cultures using the OWC (Outline of world cultures) codes and
c) learn as much as you need about doing ethnographic research using library resources.

Assignment:

1. Choose an ethnographic reading on a community focused in time and place from eHRAF Collection of Ethnography
2. Then write about: What your life might be like if you lived in if you lived this time and space
3. Optional: How does the ethnography reflect the impacts of globalization and intersocietal contacts in this time and place?
4. Pick a second SCCS culture to compare and contrast with the first on our preliminary dimensions of culture. Compare the codes on these dimensions in the SPSS dataset used in class to your judgments, justified by <quotes from sources> for your ethnographies.

Starting at the UCI Libraries website: http://www.lib.uci.edu

How to Access the eHRAF database: A World Of Cultures At Your Fingertips

http://uclibs.org/PID/148 [Restricted to UC campuses]

Select ANTPAC (UCI Libraries Online catalog)
Search for title eHRAF and (preferred) sort by Online/Internet Resources

Select the file on eHRAF Ethnography:

a) eHRAF Collection Of Ethnography A World Of Cultures At Your Fingertips
   – for a detailed review of the world communities, listed alphabetically
b) eHraf. Collection Of Ethnography
   This is the database that allows you to search each culture in detail as well as make comparisons.

What is eHRAF Ethnography and how to search for cultures, their backgrounds, resources on various topics about these cultures.

The eHRAF Collection of Ethnography –from the ANTPAC results opens the URL, http://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/ehrafe/

Click on “BROWSE” to browse the cultures. The culture names or ethnonyms (alternative names) are in alphabetical order. A link on the left allows further browsing by country or geographic region.

At this point you can answer Question 1. –decide one (or 2-3) cultural group of interest for your paper.

Return to the Click on Browse screen and click on “BROWSE” subject. This brings up subjects in the database, the Outline of Cultural Materials vocabulary alphabetically arranged, with OCM numbers provided. For example if I click on “T” looking for tattoos, I find: Tattooers, 305
AND Tattooing, 304

At this point you can think of some of the topics you wish to compare your communities, if this is a choice you made.

If you click on the OCM 305, for example, you will get a detailed definition of the term, other related OCM and reference to narrower descriptions of these. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADORNMENT, 300</th>
<th>305, BEAUTY SPECIALISTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>305, BEAUTY SPECIALISTS</td>
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[eHRAF Ethnography Documents with this OCM]

Barbers and hairdressers; manicurists; tattooers; specialized cosmetic services (e.g., beauty salons); special techniques (e.g., shampoos); special apparatus; organization and training; etc.

See Also:
Electrical appliances, 403
Public baths, 368

Click on “[eHRAF Ethnography Documents with this OCM]” to review documents from cultures – organized alphabetical by region - addressing the topic of tattooing. For example checking under North America, I double clicked on “Navajo NT 13”

To find details about the Navajo community – double click on "More about this culture"
The cultural summary gives a description, bibliography and more about the community. Some cultures have more bibliographies. The bibliography is about everything, not only tattooing!

If click to the previous screen and choose, say for example, from the Middle East, the “Kurds MA 11” you can choose to do the same with two (or more cultures) At this point, you can begin to make some general comparisons of the communities of your choice.

Searching e-HRAF – for a detailed analysis of cultures.
For help, please use the tutorial, http://www.yale.edu/hraf/userrguides.html
Click on the search. Using the Text Search screen, Search OCM 305 _add/remove_ _And_ 304 [under browse OWC ] _And_ “word or exact phrase “tattoo” . Instead of exact phrase select All Cultures form the box titled, “Culture/OWC”

Results: Your search returned 34 matching terms within 5 documents in all cultures with ...
OCM subject codes: 305, 304
word/phrase[s]: "tattoo"

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