

# Expanding Access to Tribal Treaties in the United States from 1778-1886

**Megan Macken**  
Assistant Head, Digital Resources and Discovery Services, OSU Libraries

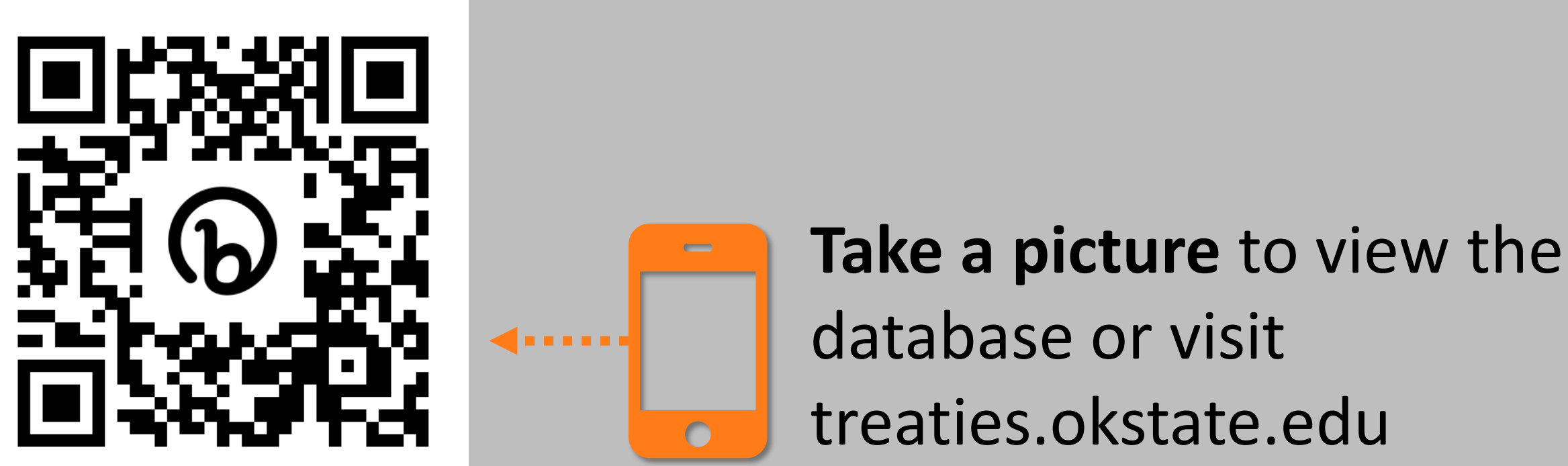
**Juliana Nykolaiszyn**  
Head, Digital Resources and Discovery Services, OSU Libraries

**Suzanne Reinman**  
Head, Government Documents, OSU Libraries

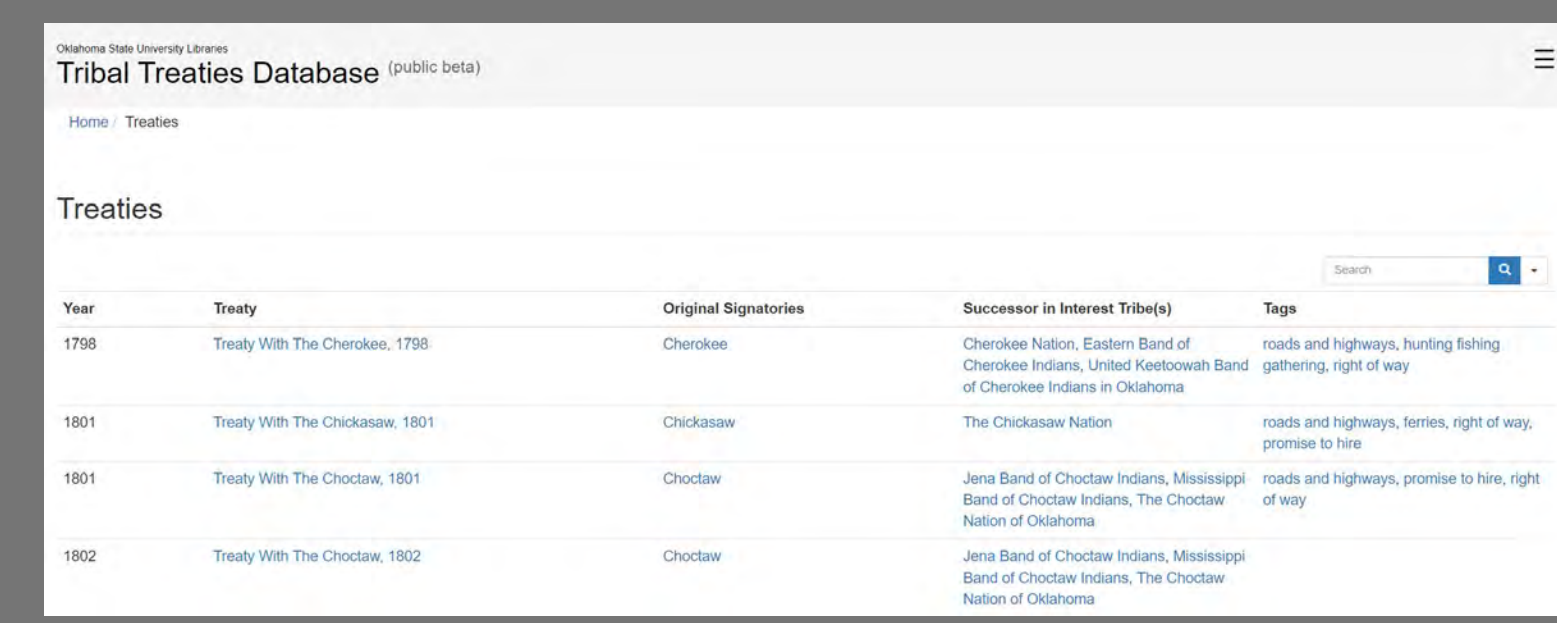
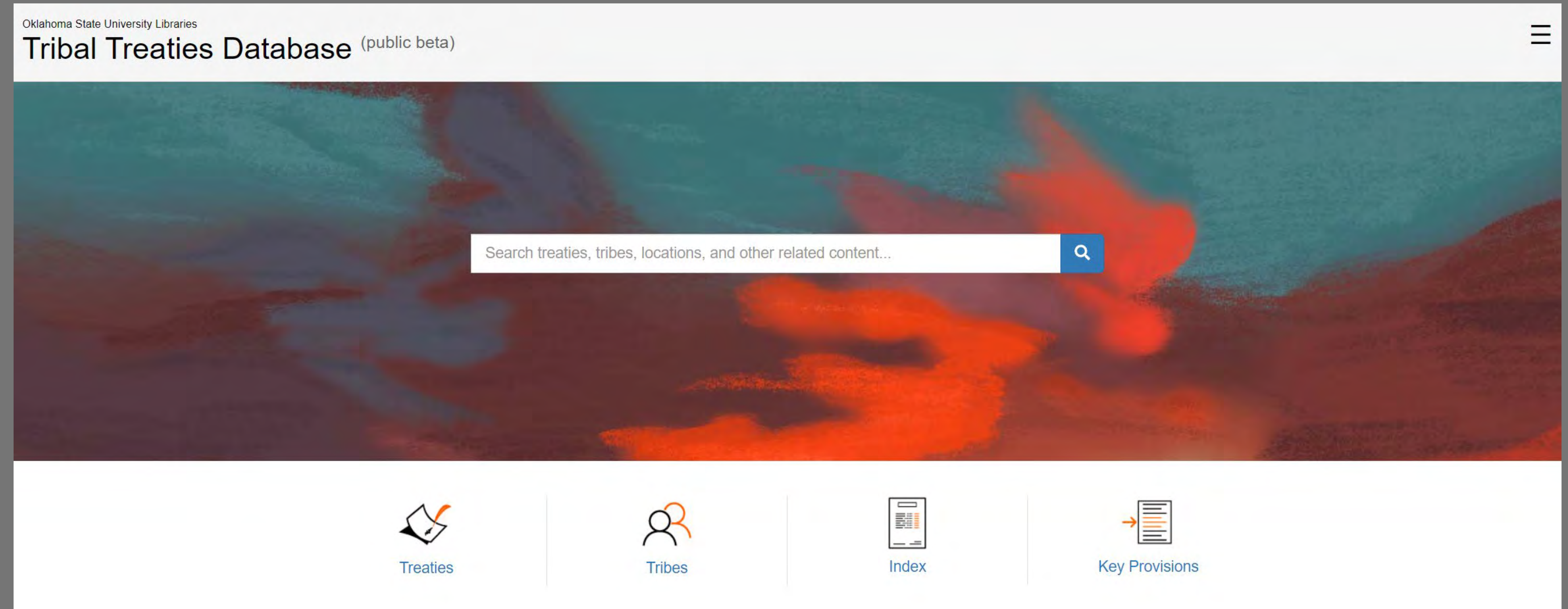
**Introduction**  
The Oklahoma State University (OSU) Libraries has long been a leader in providing access to Native American resources with several digital collections, including the seven-volume *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, edited by Charles J. Kappler. In June 2021, the OSU Libraries partnered with the USDA, DOI, and later DOD Legacy program to enhance the online presence of this work with the launch of the Tribal Treaties Database (TTD). This database includes agreements between Tribal Nations and the United States from 1778 to 1886.

**Importance of Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties**  
Compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler, this historically significant, seven volume compilation contains U.S. treaties, laws and executive orders pertaining to Native American Indian tribes. Published by the U.S. Government Printing Office between 1904 and 1941 and reprinted in 1975, the volumes cover U.S. Government treaties with Native Americans from 1778 to 1886 (Volume II) and U.S. laws and executive orders concerning Native Americans from 1871-1970 (Volumes I, III-VII).

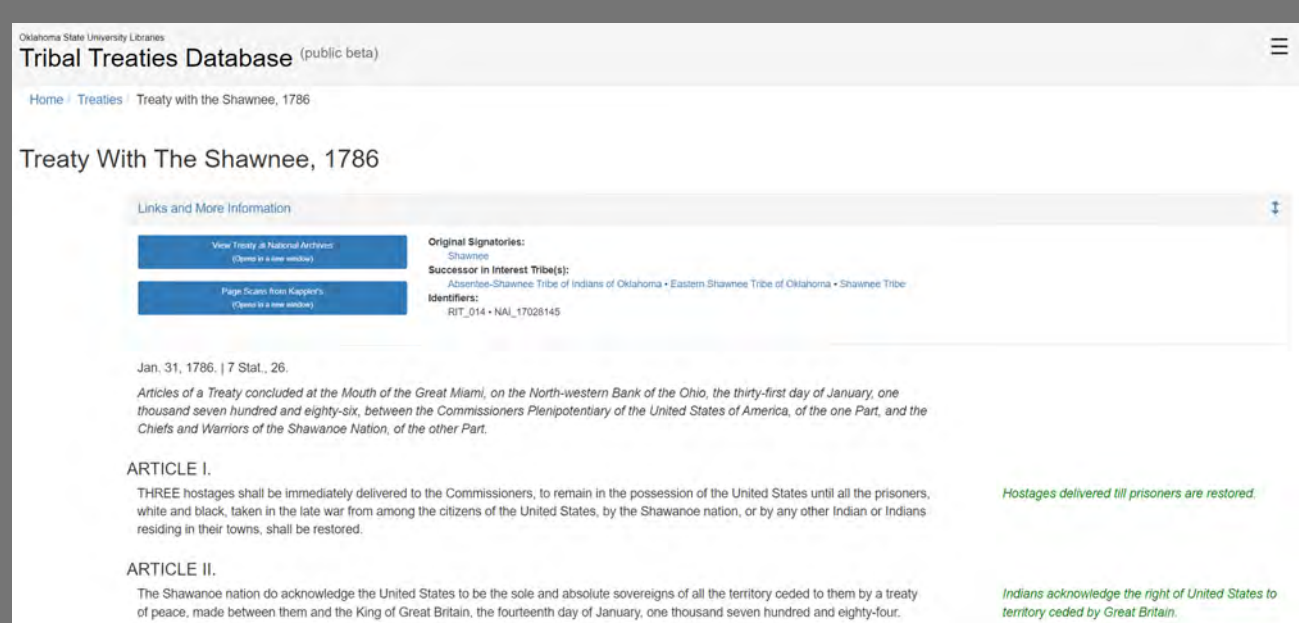
Volume II includes the 375 ratified treaties recognized by the U.S. Department of State, organized chronologically with the signing date, proclamation/ratification date, the Statutes at Large citation, and margin notes. The original index is organized by tribe and date. Many scholars consider this work one of the primary resources for Native American treaties since its publication.



# The Tribal Treaties Database improves digital access to Native American treaties, agreements, and more—bringing historical content to the present day



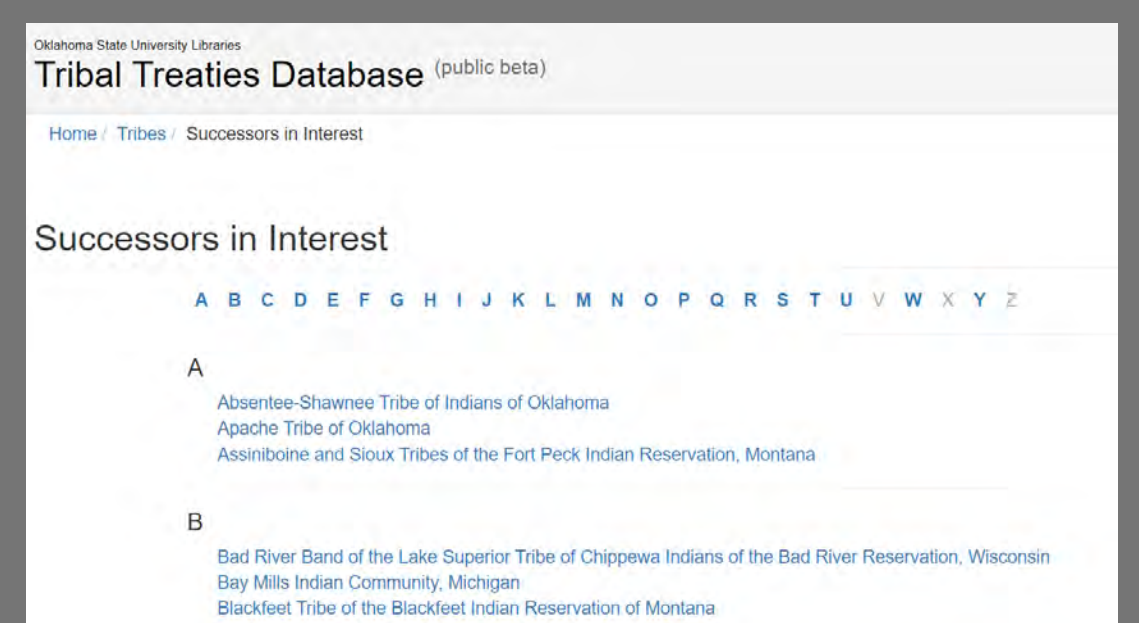
Treaties organized by year, treaty, signatory, successor, and tags



Example of treaty with text, links, tags, and identifiers within database



Example of original signatory tribes



Example of successor in interest tribes

**Tribal Treaties Database**  
Goal: A user-friendly, easy to navigate, easy to search platform housed in an open-source content management system.

Outcome: The site was created in MODX, an open-source platform that powers other OSU libraries-related websites. HTML from the original 1990s digital project helped populate treaty entries and original signatories and preserve margin notes. Our partners in the federal government requested features such as easily reproducible website content and enhanced subject indexing for tribes and keywords. Since the project's launch, we have added the following elements to the website:

- Updated comprehensive index
- Identification of provisions such as hunting and fishing, right of way, roads and highways, provide agriculture assistance, provide education assistance, and more
- Identification of additional original signatories
- Identification of successor in interest tribes
- Links to original treaty scans at the National Archives
- Enhanced search functionality with highlighting

**Future Updates**  
Anticipated updates for the next phases:

- Improvements to search functionality
- Addition of treaties pre- and post-Kappler's
- Continued data verification
- Release of a companion system for contributors and advanced researchers built in Omeka S

**Users by Country**  
November 1, 2021 – February 19, 2023

