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In March I attended a PBCore workshop at WGBH in Boston. The workshop walked us through the PBCore cataloging tool and gave an in-depth look at this metadata standard.

Our organization, KYUK, is located in southwest Alaska and focuses primarily on producing Yup'ik (Alaska Native) language and cultural content. Our audio/video archive consists of hundreds of hours of interviews with Yup'ik Elders, local historic events and documentation of traditional practices. My department is a third of the way through a multi-year project to digitize, catalogue and make our audio and video archive accessible to the public, mainly through grants from the National Historic Preservation and Records Commission and the Council on Library and Information Resources.

We've chosen PBCore as our metadata standard for this project. PBCore allows us to track the names of people, places, and activities so that we can connect our audience with the traditions and languages of their Yup'ik ancestors.

We are working with Summit Day Media, an archivist firm in Anchorage, to coordinate the project, digitize our collection and build our database. Summit Day Media (SDM) is using PBCore standards to build the database so that once it is delivered our department will be able to pick-up where SDM left-off in managing the collection.

I am the Multimedia Director/Producer at KYUK and the lead on our digitization project. Before this workshop I had no experience with database management and the workshop was a great introduction. The exercises we went through gave me real-world experience using the PBCore cataloging tool, making it accessible for my staff and I.