The Vision Maker Media (VMM) Archives project began in 2010 under the guidance of Brendan McCauley and a committee of local resource people, including Terry Dugas at NET, Mary Ellen Ducey from the UNL Library, Paul Eisloeffel, and VMM’s founding executive director Frank Blythe (Eastern Band of Cherokee/Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota). When the project began, the materials were already stored in a secure vault area at Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET), but were not processed or described. We knew we were storing broadcast masters, raw footage and a variety of other media materials.

In 2012, Mary DeLeary (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation), a recent graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Museum Studies. Student worker Alana Stone (Rosebud Sioux – Sicangu Lakota) assisted in getting the materials inventoried, and organized by format and in alphabetical order, as well as having inventory numbers assigned to each individual item. The materials were described using the PBCore Metadata Standard, a common standard in public broadcasting and one that is set up for media materials. With a grant from the NEA for 2014-2015, Alison Lotto continued to update this metadata, survey the remaining materials, and create a prioritization schema for the digitization of our materials. We also worked closely with NET to ensure that temperature and humidity were monitored, and kept in the best possible conditions. This guide was created with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

VMM uses the PBCore cataloging standard to receive and send metadata between our organization and others. We also use PBCore to see what tapes were digitized for what uses such as a preservation and other formats that we use for internal viewing, broadcasting, streaming, etc.

We also encourage our filmmakers, producers, directors, etc. to incorporate it into their use as well. VMM holds an annual Vision Maker Media Producers Lab every year for newly funded producers. During the course of this lab members from the team hold workshops about each aspect of their job and what we expect from our filmmakers. Alana Stone (Project Coordinator) held an Archives/PBCore session about the key functions of PBCore and how each producer should be storing and organizing their various files. Each producer was introduced to the PBCore website to download the templates, get more information, and watch the tutorials.