

## Reflection

The project I am submitting, entitled 'Native Americans in Hollywood' is an eight page research paper which is, implied by the title, on the subject of Indigenous American people as they have been portrayed in film. My focus is on Hollywood movies and what they did to help and hurt real Native Americans, but I also delve into the history of why Native Americans became such a popular film subject, as well as the present and future of Indigenous filmmaking. This research project was undergone for the Native Communities in Southern California class. I was quite enthusiastic about choosing this topic, as I am a fan of movie history and analysis. This was not a new or original topic of discussion, but what I wanted to do was trace a line from pre-20th century entertainment featuring Native Americans to their place in Hollywood, as well as how Native people are currently taking back their stories through the medium of film. I was fascinated by what I learned about the relationship between Native Americans and Hollywood in my class and wanted to write my final paper on the subject, to both expand my knowledge and analyze what I had already learned in a more meaningful way.

For my paper I had only checked out two physical books: *Indians in Unexpected Places* and *Hollywood's Indian*, but I was also able to find the book *Reservation Reelism* online through the library's OneSearch and read it for free. I also attempted to check out the documentary *Reel Injun* as well, which I found through OneSearch, but upon a physical search in the library's movie section I found out the DVD was actually at a different Cal State University library. Nevertheless, the staff on duty at the time were extremely helpful and patient with me as I looked for the film was wasn't there. Normally, the first place I look for sources for school papers is JSTOR, but I knew that the school's library was going to have the books recommended to me by my professor and I would be able to find scholarly sources just as easily through the school.

The library's OneSearch function was extremely helpful to me as I was able to locate both the physical and digital books I mentioned before easily, which I was especially thankful for since I wrote this paper in Fall of 2021, when I was still trying to minimize public excursions. It's also wonderful that the library allows students to check out books for months at a time, as I wrote the paper over several months. I think the OneSearch function is a great, accessible resource for students looking for any manner of book or scholarly article.

When I went to look for research about independent Indigenous filmmakers, I didn't have to look much further than California's American Indian and Indigenous Film Festival, which is presented by Cal State San Marcos. It was really amazing to found out that the university had such immediate connections to my area of research and I found myself feeling quite hopeful about the future of Indigenous filmmaking.