Indigenous Data Sovereignty Choice Webinar

Tuesday, December 16 at 2pm
With Kaia MacLeod, Rachel Chong, Bronte Chiang

Today’s Agenda

- Kaia: Cataloging and metadata: approaches to integrating Indigenous world views and community-specific protocols into data description and discovery.
- Rachel: Indigenous-focused roles: considerations for leading projects that respect Indigenous sovereignty, community priorities, and cultural context
- Bronte: Non-Indigenous–focused roles: strategies for contributing meaningfully to ethical data practices, even when Indigenous studies are not a primary responsibility

Kaia MacLeod

Indigenous Cataloguing Librarian
University of Calgary

“I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. The city of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation within Alberta (including Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).”

Cataloguing and metadata

- FAIR, CARE, and OCAP®
- TK Labels in Marc Records
  - Digital Collections mock up
- Subject headings (FNMIIO, CSH, LCSH, CRKN)

Be
FAIR
Findable
Accessible
Interoperable
Reusable
and
CARE
Collective Benefit
Authority to Control
Responsibility
Ethics

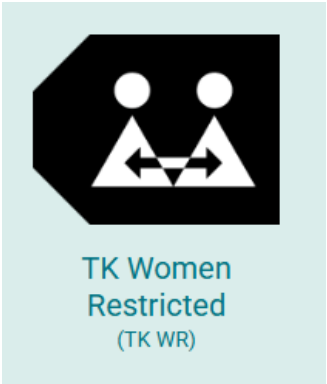
CARE and OCAP

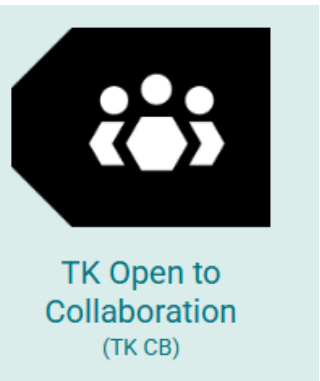
- Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA) CARE principles
  - **C**ollective Benefit
  - **A**uthority to Control
  - **R**esponsibility
  - **E**thics
- First Nations Principles of OCAP®
  - **O**wnership
  - **C**ontrol
  - **A**ccess
  - **P**ossession

Traditional Knowledge Labels: Indigenous Communities

Local Context website

- Provenance labels: identify the group
- Protocol labels: outline traditional protocols required for access
- Permission labels: Indicate what activities the community has approved.





Notices: Institutions and researchers

- Engagement notice
- Disclosure notices
- Collections care notice: support property cultural care and stewardship

Attribution Incomplete

Leave Undisturbed

CHR 469903 – Libocedrus plumosa (D.Don) Sarg.

Data provider:	Allan Herbarium
Barcode:	CHR 469903
Specimen type:	Sheet
Database record added:	01 March 1995
Database record updated:	24 February 2023

Components

Primary component

Active identification

Determined name:	Libocedrus plumosa (D.Don) Sargent
Determiner:	Druce AP
Identification date:	1979-04 (Verbatim: APR-1979)
Preferred name:	Libocedrus plumosa (D.Don) Sarg.
Division:	Pinophyta
Class:	Pinatae
Order:	Coniferales
Family:	Cupressaceae
Identification type:	Determination

Permissions

Project permits

Project title:
Biological specimens housed at Manaaki Whenua: Te rohe o Whakatōhea

Reference:
Local Contexts - Whakatohea

BC Provenance (BC P) | Nā wai/ Nō hea

BC Research Use (BC R) | Rangahau

BC Open to Collaboration (BC CB) | Kotahitanga

BC Open to Commercialization (BC OC) | Umanga

Project title:
Local Contexts - Allan Herbarium (CHR)

Reference:
CHR Collection - Local Contexts

Biocultural (BC) Notice

TK label and notice in a record

- More Local Context labels examples found here.
- Library of Congress example in article here.

UofC Digital Collections Mock Up

ADD TO CART | DOWNLOAD | SHARE | AUTO-TAG | GET LINK | MORE

Moccasins [Lize [Liza] Loutit]

Silk embroidered (old style) floral design: pink, yellow and green on inserted white stroud vamp, ankle cuff of white stroud with cut-work design inserted under fur trim. One large flower: pink with yellow and green centre (five-petal design); one pink bud; on branch with five green leaves; small inserted vamp with yellow, green and pink embroidered edging Cuff: beaver fur Native tanned smoked moose hide, soft sole, pointed toe, T-shaped heel-seam

ASK A QUESTION

About This Image

Date
1974, 1975

Creator
Loutit, Liza

Place
Canada, Fort Providence, Northwest Territories

Subject
Athapaskan, Clothing, Embroidery, Moccasins

Traditional Knowledge

Provenance
TK Community Voice

Permission
TK Outreach

Protocol
TK Non-Verified

Record type

Subtype
Archival Image

EDIT LAYOUT (WILL SAVE RECORD FIRST)

CONFIGURE FIELD-LEVEL SECURITY

Visibility class
Download M +

Unique identifier *
CU280153

Legacy Identifier
mph ath. 6-75

Lead asset for:

Related Image Asset

Related Copy

Basic information

Parent folder
Dene Crafts collection (CU2STO31561)

Title
Moccasins [Lize [Liza] Loutit]

Full Title

Alternative Title

Original Title

Subject
Athapaskan
Clothing
Embroidery
Moccasins

Creator
Loutit, Liza

Client

Traditional Knowledge (TK)

Provenance

Provenance Labels identify the group or sub-group which is the primary cultural authority for the material, and/or recognizes other interest in the materials.

Permission

Permission Labels indicate what activities the community has approved as generally acceptable. Other uses require direct engagement with primary cultural authorities.

Protocol

Protocol Labels outline traditional protocols associated with access to this material and invite viewers to respect community protocols.

Rights

Conditions of Use
<a href="https://libanswers.ucalgary.c...

License

License URL

Usage Rights
Education
Instruction
Private study

Administrative information

Status: Published

Asset set to publicly accessible purpose

Edit statuses

Editor's rating
★★★ (F)

Public Notes

In lockdown

Storage group
PROD - DO NOT TOUCH - Default st...

Display template

Asset Source

Best resolution available

Digitization Options

Preservation Status

Preservation Source Link

Actions

Upload new version
Download
Share
Flowsteps
Relationships
Raw metadata
Asset rights
Orders
Full Logs Of Views And Downloads
View shares
Audit trail of metadata changes
See versions
See storage

Subject Headings

Using appropriate terminology requires using different vocabularies

- LCSH: Library of Congress Subject Headings
- CSH: Canadian Subject Headings
- FNMIIO: First Nation, Métis, Inuit, Indigenous Ontology
- CRKN: Canadian Research Knowledge Network

Terminology Examples

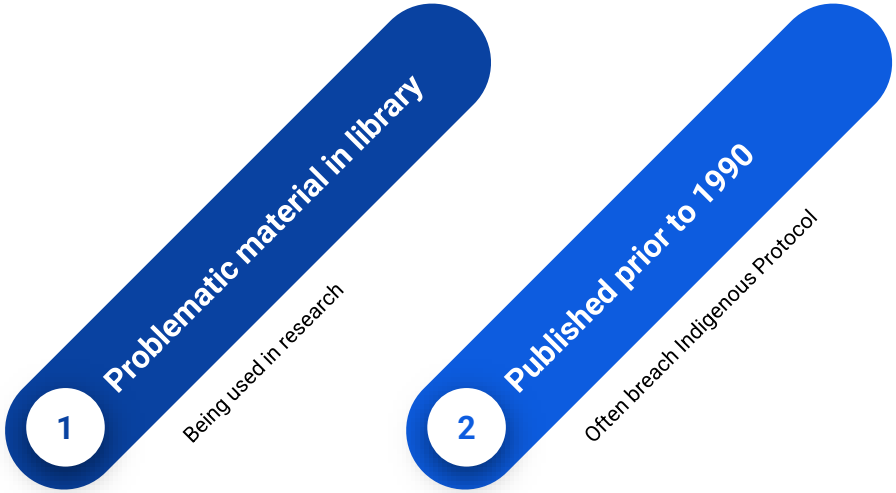
	LCSH	CSH	FNMIIO	CRKN (Interim Headings)
Ojibwe/ Ojibwa	Ojibwa Indians	Ojibwe	Nation dependent Ojibway/Ojibwe	Ojibwe
Cree	Cree Indians	Cree	Cree	Nehiyawak
Siksika language	Siksika language	Siksiká language	Blackfoot	Siksika language

RACHEL CHONG

Indigenous Initiatives Librarian
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

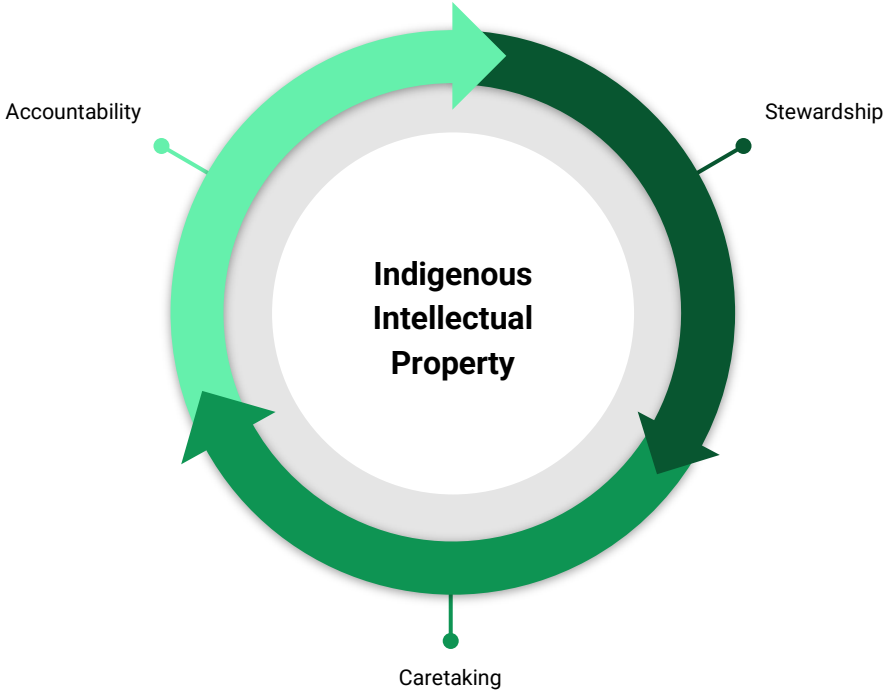
“We at Kwantlen Polytechnic University respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and study in a region that overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral First Nations territories of the Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlem, and with the lands of the Kwantlen First Nation, which gifted its name to this university.”

Indigenous Information Literacy - OER



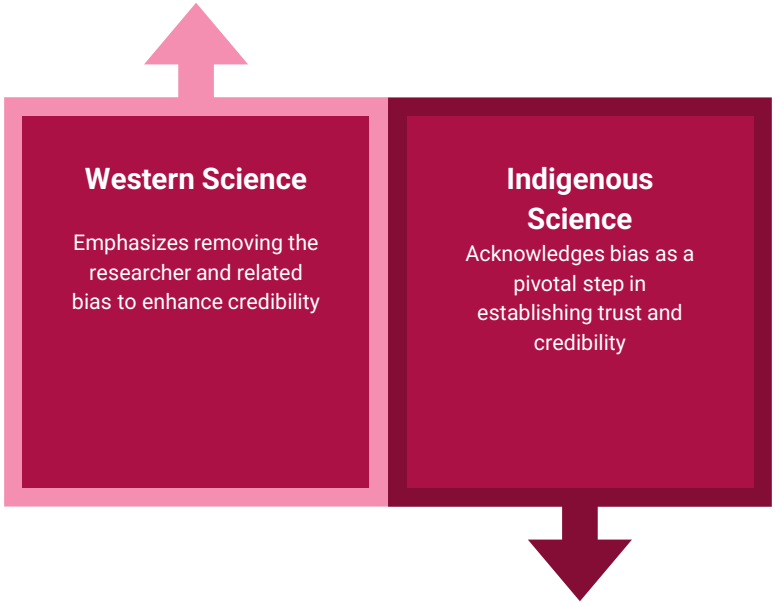
Younging, 2025

Indigenous Information Literacy - OER



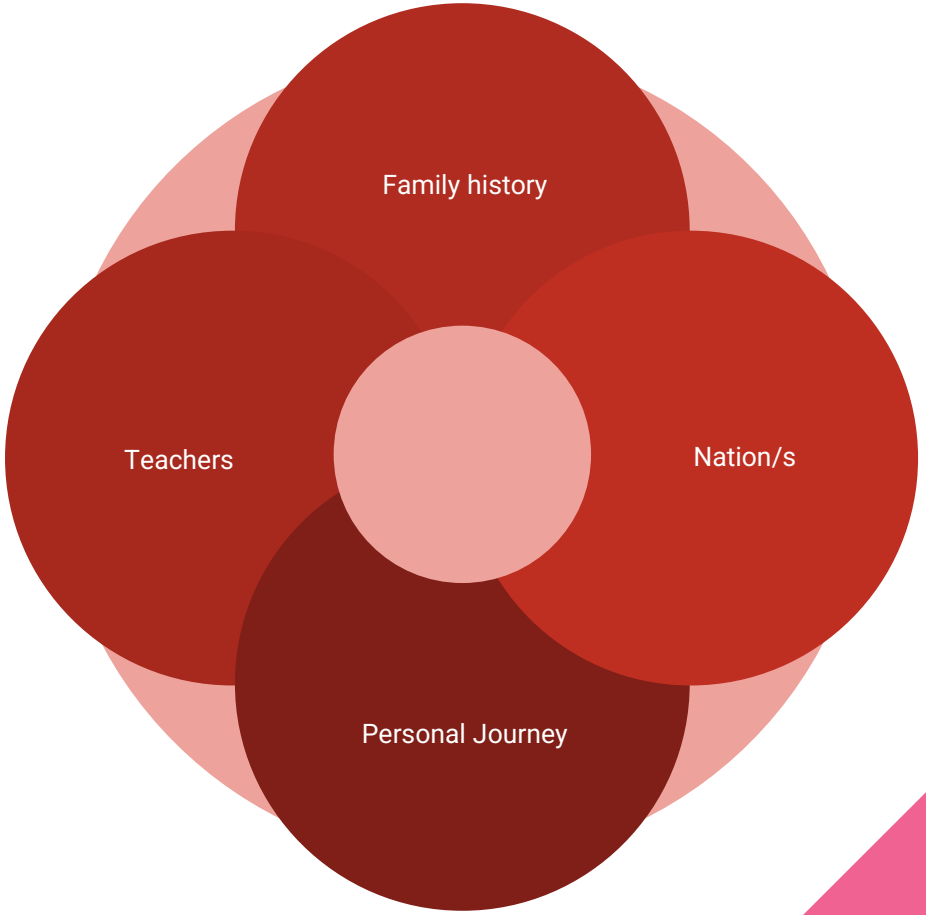
Younging, 2025

How We Approach Bias



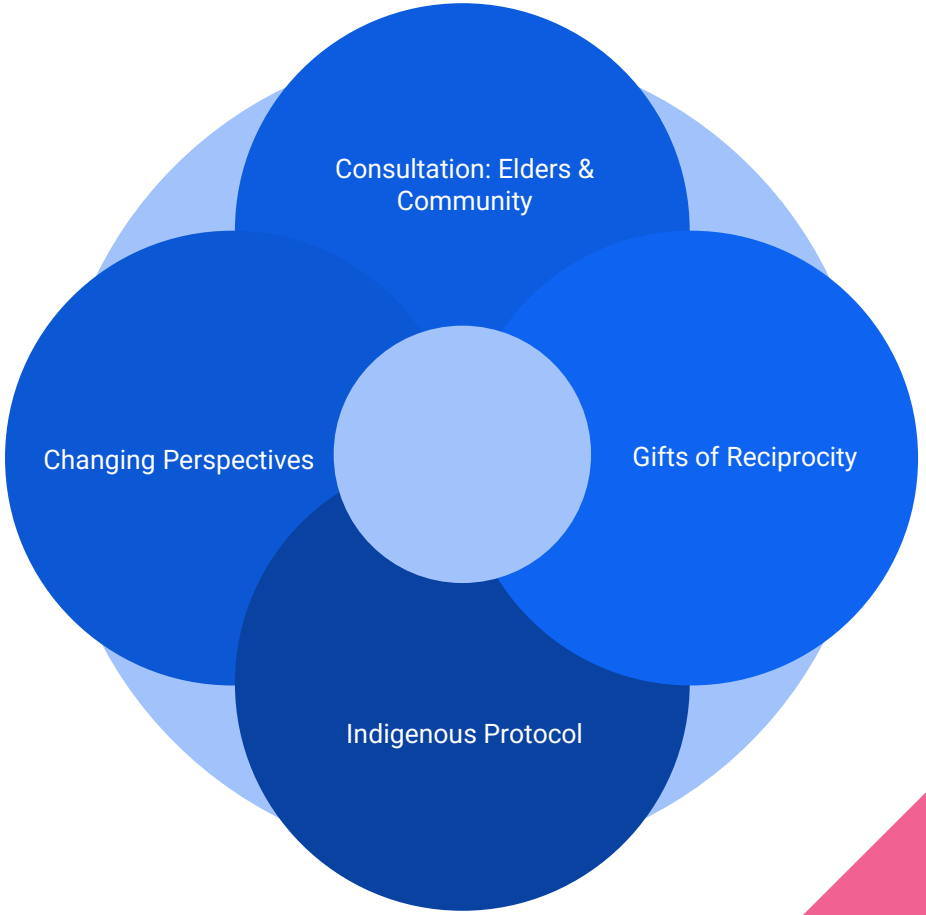
Younging, 2025

Situating



Chong, 2022

Research Done in a Good Way



Chong, 2022

TCPS2

TCPS2	Article 9.1 - 9.4	Articles 9.12-9.13	Article 9.12
	“Community engagement through the review and approval of research” Consulting with community and Elders	“Mutual benefits within the research” Offering gifts of reciprocity	“Knowledge should be used for community, not just the researcher” Offering gifts of reciprocity

Government of Canada, 2022

TCPS2

TCPS2	Article 9.8	Articles 9.17	Article 9.18
	“Respect community customs and codes of practice” Following Indigenous Protocol	“Share results with the community” Gifts of reciprocity	“Intellectual property and attribution belong with the community” Following Indigenous Protocol

Government of Canada, 2022

Indigenous Oral Stories Series

OCAP®

Ownership	Control	Access	Possession
“refers to the relationship of First Nations to their cultural knowledge, data, and information. This principle states that a community or group owns information collectively in the same way that an individual owns his or her personal information.”	“within their rights to seek control over all aspects of research and information management processes that impact them”	“have access to information and data about themselves and their communities regardless of where it is held.”	“possession or stewardship is more concrete: it refers to the physical control of data. Possession is the mechanism by which ownership can be asserted and protected.”

OCAP, 2025

UNDRIP

Article 13 - Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

Article 31- Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures and… They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

UNDRIP, 2007

Bronte Chiang

Digital Literacy Librarian
University of Calgary

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. The city of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation within Alberta including Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6.

Instruction & Indigenous Data Sovereignty

- Recognize Bias: AI systems reflect the biases of their creators and training data, including colonial assumptions.
- Acknowledge Positionality: Our perspectives as educators and librarians shape how we teach and interpret technology.
- Discuss Data Ownership: Briefly introduce the concept that not all data is “neutral,” Indigenous data is governed by sovereignty principles like OCAP®.
- Question Default Settings: Encourage students to ask who benefits from defaults and whose voices are missing in datasets.

Librarian Outreach within Faculties

- Introduce Indigenous Data Principles: Offer quick overviews of frameworks like OCAP® and CARE in research contexts in consultations.
- Develop & Share Resource Guides: Curate Indigenous-led scholarship and data sovereignty resources for faculty, and support in their syllabus.
    - Great Indigenous focused research guides from UBC Xwi7xwa Library
- Support Ethical Research Design: Advise on incorporating Indigenous governance and consent into data collection plans.
- Embed Critical Perspectives: Help faculty integrate discussions on colonial systems, bias, and positionality into assignments.
- Connect to Indigenous Expertise: Facilitate links to Indigenous scholars, community guidelines, and institutional protocols.

Indigenous Ways of Knowing within AI Instruction

- Indigenous data goes beyond metrics & numbers: it encompasses all information about Indigenous peoples, from Indigenous communities, and gathered on their lands.
- Indigenous data sovereignty is enshrined in Canadian law, through the legislation of the UNDRIP at both provincial and federal levels
- Data sovereignty protects against digital colonialism by requiring consent and governance from Indigenous Nations.
- AI instruction that strikes a balance between students need to learn a tool while remaining critical of it and aware of its issues.

Indigenous Ways of Knowing within AI Instruction

Surveillance capitalism claims private human experience, transforming it into behavioral data that can be commodified and sold. — Shoshana Zuboff

- Tech companies extract private experience as raw material, paralleling colonial dispossession.
- Knowledge extraction logic persists in digital spaces through data mining, surveillance capitalism, and commodification of human experience
- Highlighting the concept of "*machina nullius*" (no one's data) parallels *terra nullius,* highlighting how Big Tech operates in a legal vacuum. A term coined by David Gaertner (UBC)

Positive Examples of Indigenous AI intersections

Indigenous Futures: Rather than deficit narratives, Indigenous scholars envision futures grounded in sovereignty, reciprocity, and resistance, challenging dominant techno-utopian ideologies.

- All have in common: constant Indigenous community input, with Indigenous people and voices leading it.
- Cherokee Nation Task Force Report on AI, Data Sovereignty, and Cybersecurity
- Haíłzaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation – Counting Salmon

Supporting Indigenous Initiatives Internally

What You Could Do	How to Prepare Yourself
Join Indigenous-led committees and working groups to share labour	Complete self-directed learning on Indigenous histories, Nations, and research protocols. Read novels, nonfictions and other storytelling methods from Indigenous voices
Take on administrative and behind-the-scenes tasks so Indigenous colleagues aren't expected to carry all the work	Build competency through ongoing reading, courses, and institutional training
Do the relational work: show up consistently and follow through on commitments	Model humility: Reflect on your role and impact; understand when to step forward vs. step back
Advocate for equitable workload distribution and proper resourcing	Help create policies, terms of references, or support for Indigenous colleagues in academia

Thanks for listening!

Thanks for listening

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