

**iConference March 2020**  
**Sessions for Interaction and Engagement**

**Title:** Innovations in Archival & Information Practices: Colonialism, Indigenous Peoples and Supporting the Respectful Use of Records

**Organizers:** Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (RSHDC), University of British Columbia  
Elizabeth Shaffer (RSHDC), University of British Columbia  
Tricia Logan (RSHDC | iSchool), University of British Columbia

**Key Participants:** Elizabeth Shaffer, [panelist] (RSHDC), University of British Columbia  
Tricia Logan, [panelist] (RSHDC | iSchool), University of British Columbia  
Emily Larson, [panelist] (RSHDC), University of British Columbia

**Abstract:**

Work across archival and information practice sectors have provided varied innovations for creating better practices in support of Indigenous communities and access to traditionally colonial records. Archivists and information professionals have increasingly complex roles as advocates for Indigenous peoples and colonized populations. Innovations in digital collections systems design, collaborative policy development models and cooperative protocol development are presented for discussion in this session.

This session will ask participants to share information about their own archives and/or libraries, speak openly about barriers and successes they have had in their efforts to support Indigenous communities and create community-based archives. A focus of the session will revolve around how existing archival practices could be modified to support a movement towards more inclusive and respectful archival practices and discuss topics involving ethics, consent, ownership, access and privacy.

**Description:**

***Purpose and Intended Audience:***

Increasingly, Indigenous communities around the world are reclaiming their Indigenous data and records that have been constructed about them (e.g. Anderson, 2005). Notions of Indigenous data sovereignty, information governance and records repatriation are directly associated with increased self-determination and assertion of rights and freedoms for many Indigenous Nations. Historically, Indigenous communities have been separated and displaced from archival documentation and materials relating to history, culture, language, songs, lands, resources, heritage and communities (e.g. Fourmile, 1989; Anderson, 2005, Gardiner and Thorpe, 2014).

Grounded in colonialism, scientific approaches to information inquiry and data management often recognize the individual, the investigator, or the agency/department as the creator (and often de facto owner) of the information. Traditionally, in archival theory, discourse and management, the rules governing decisions about whose voices are included or excluded, what evidence is privileged, whose voices and what records are deemed worthy of preservation, who has access to archives and how archives are arranged and described are Eurocentric and privilege a particular positionality (e.g. Lawson, 2004; Stoler, 2009; Cook, 2013). These practices have resulted in governments, academic researchers, anthropologists and ethnographers, linguists, and churches creating, collecting and governing large amounts of information about Indigenous people and their cultures that are currently held in archives and libraries (e.g. Anderson, 2005; Nakata and Langton 2005: 13; Callison, Roy & LeCheminant, 2016).

This session is intended to engage with anyone involved in or interested in archival, library or information practice and who is interested in work to innovate archival practices as they apply to Indigenous peoples and/or colonial records. Our session will be framed around work in Canadian Indigenous communities but anyone interested in the archives of colonial control are welcome to the session. Activities and engagement at the session will involve collaborative work with topics on ethics, consent, ownership, access and privacy.

The intended audience for this discussion is scholars and students in the iSchool community, including those researchers and students who are interested in the growing discourse surrounding colonial disruption and the role of information and records.

***Proposed Activities:***

The proposed session will be divided into two segments. First, the panelists will introduce and demonstrate their work and research developing an Indigenous informed, iterative digital archives and related policy and engagement environment.

Next, participants in the session will discuss how archivists can be advocates for their own communities or work in partnership with Indigenous communities. Activities will include discussion and review of existing practices from various international Indigenous communities and archives. In the session, participants will be provided with examples of contentious records, policies and practices to use as exemplars and points of debate. consent, ownership, access and privacy.

Dissemination of the discussion, activities and innovations will carry on after the conference through email distribution and posting on listservs. This session should encourage ongoing discussions and exchanges in best practices with fellow participants.

This session is intended to engage with anyone involved in or interested in archival, library or information practice and who is interested in work to innovate archival practices as they apply to Indigenous peoples and/or colonial records.

Activities and engagement at the session will involve collaborative work with topics on ethics,

***Relevance to the Conference/Significance to the Field:***

The topic of this session is relevant to anyone involved in or interested in archival, library and/or information practice and who are interested in work to innovate archival practices as they apply to Indigenous peoples and/or colonial records and records systems. As information and archival scholars and educators, it is our responsibility to engage information and records professionals on the topic of Indigenous records held in archives and institutions, including issues of rights, access, privacy, ongoing management and preservation, and issues surrounding repatriation. With participation in this Session for Interaction and Engagement, we hope that participants will deeply engage with current developments and research on this topic, as well as have the opportunity to join a community of practice whose discussions and work in this area are ongoing.

**Duration:** One 90-minute session

**References:**

- Anderson, Jane. *Access and Control of Indigenous Knowledge in Libraries and Archives: Ownership and Future Use*. New York: American Library Association, The MacArthur Foundation, and Columbia University, 2005.  
[http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/alaconf2005/paper\\_anderson.pdf](http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/alaconf2005/paper_anderson.pdf)
- Bruhn, Jodi. "Identifying Useful Approaches to the Governance of Indigenous Data." *International Indigenous Policy Journal* 5, no. 2 (2014): 1-32. <http://doi.org/10.18584/iipj.2014.5.2.5>.
- Bryne, Alex. "The Importance of Culture in Digital Ecosystems: Managing Indigenous Research Data." In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Management of Emergent Digital EcoSystems*, 1-7. New York: 2009. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/1643823.1643825>.
- Callison, Camille, Loriene Roy, and Gretchen Alice LeCheminant, eds. *Indigenous Notions of Ownership and Libraries, Archives and Museums*. Berlin/Munich: De Gruyter Saur, 2016.
- Cook, Terry. "Evidence, Memory, Identity, and Community: Four Shifting Archival Paradigms." *Archival Science* 13, no. 2-3 (2013): 95-120. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10502-012-9180-7>.
- Doyle, Ann M. "Naming, Claiming, and (Re)Creating: Indigenous Knowledge Organization at the Cultural Interface." PhD diss., University of British Columbia, 2013.  
<https://doi.org/10.14288/1.0073667>.
- Fourmile, Henrietta. "Who Owns the Past? Aborigines as Captives of the Archives." *Aboriginal History* 13 (1989): 1-8.

- Gardiner, Gabrielle, and Kirsten Thorpe. "The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive: Connecting Communities and Research Data." *Language Documentation and Description* 12 (2014): 103-19. <http://www.elpublishing.org/PID/140>.
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. *National Inuit Strategy on Research*. Ottawa: 2018. <https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/National-Inuit-Strategy-on-Research.pdf>.
- Lawson, Kimberley L. "Precious Fragments: First Nations Materials in Archives, Libraries, and Museums." Master's thesis, University of British Columbia, 2004. <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/15608>.
- Morse, Bradford. "Indigenous Human Rights and Knowledge in Archives, Museums, and Libraries: Some International Perspectives with Specific Reference to New Zealand and Canada." *Archival Science* 12, no. 2, 113-40. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10502-011-9165-y>.
- Nakata, Martin and Marcia Langton. *Australian Indigenous Knowledge and Libraries*. Sydney: UTS ePress, 2009. <https://doi.org/10.5130/978-0-9802840-1-0>.
- Rainie, Stephanie Carroll, Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear, and Andrew Martinez. *Data Governance for Native Nation Rebuilding*. Second version. Tuscon: University of Arizona, 2017. [https://nni.arizona.edu/download\\_file/view/1120/315](https://nni.arizona.edu/download_file/view/1120/315).
- Rainie, Stephanie Carroll, Jennifer Lee Schultz, Eileen Briggs, Patricia Riggs, and Nancy Lynn Palmanteer-Holder. "Data as Strategic Resource: Self-determination and the Data Challenge for United States Indigenous Nations." *International Indigenous Policy Journal* 8, no. 2 (2017): 1-29. <http://doi.org/10.18584/iipj.2017.8.2.1>.
- Regan, Paulette. *Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011.
- Rodriguez-Lonebear, Desi. "Building a Data Revolution in Indian Country." In *Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Toward an Agenda*, edited by Kukutai Tahu and Taylor John, 253-72. Acton, Australia: ANU Press, 2016. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1q1crgf.21>.
- UN General Assembly. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. 07-58681. March, 2008. [https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf).