

Stepping Forward Together

*Lessons from Reconciliation
Projects at the University of Alberta*

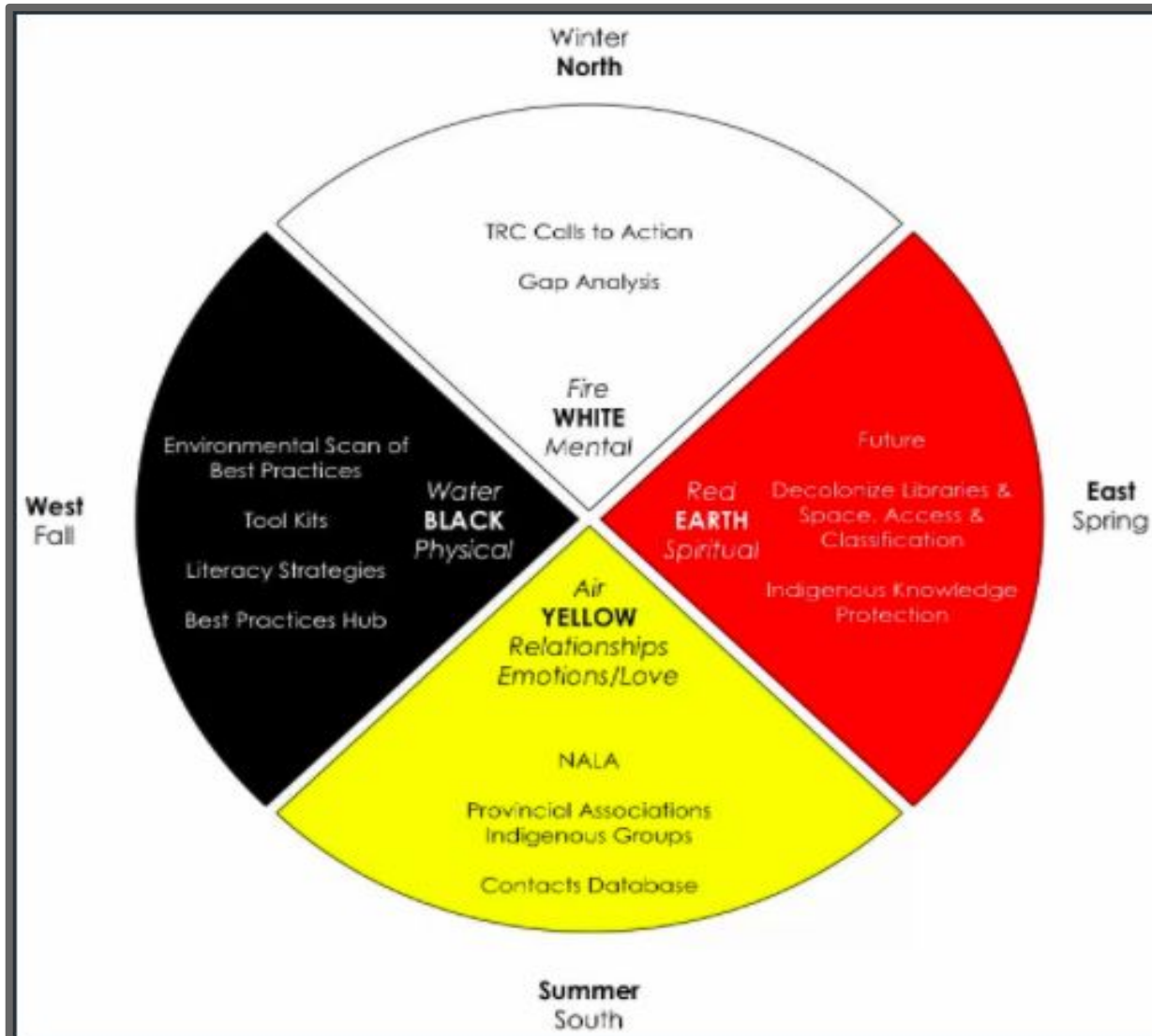
Anne Carr-Wiggin, Sharon Farnel,
Sheila Laroque, Kayla Lar-Son,
and Tanya Ball

**How has the land and your
surroundings shaped you?**

Territorial Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to the University of Regina, with three federated colleges: the First Nations University of Canada, Campion College and Luther College. The main campus of the University of Regina is situated on Treaty 4 lands. These are the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihšīnāpēk, and Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis. Today, these lands continue to be the shared territory of many diverse peoples from near and far. The nêhiyawak originally referred to Regina as oskana k̄a-asastēki which literally means "The place where bones are piled up." This is why Regina's nickname is "Pile O'Bones" and this is the origin of the name of our current location in Wascana Park.

Presentation Outline





Yellow (Emotional)

Relationship Building

Working within the University can be like being a tugboat in the wake of a liner...

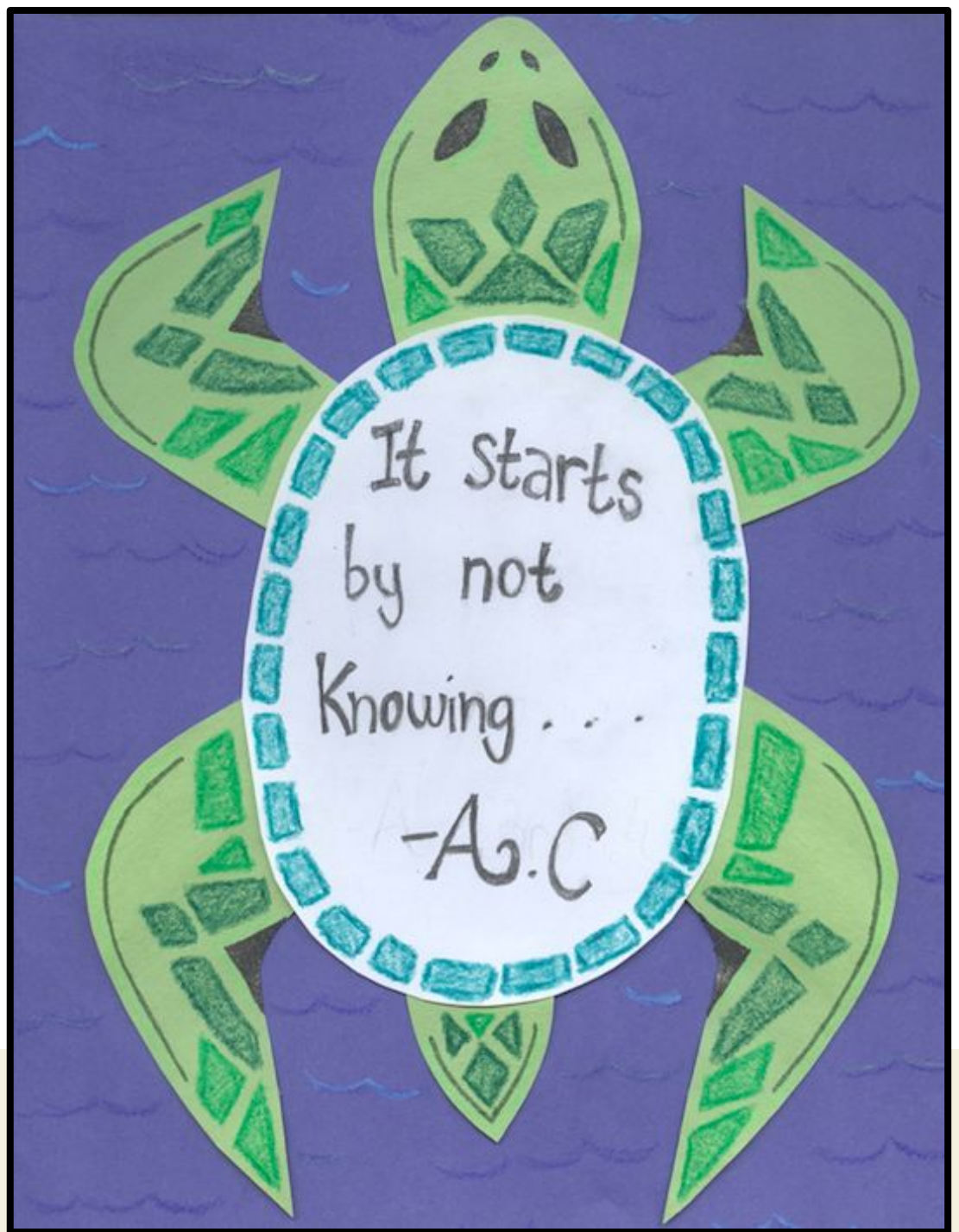
“A high tide raises all boats, but large waves sink small ships”

-Chris Anderson, 2018

How Do You Build Meaningful Relationships?

- Learn how to hang out
- Relationships take time
- Think about RECIPROCITY
 - *Who will benefit from your work?*
 - *Why are you there?*
 - *Why does this matter for you?*
- Think beyond your institution
- Know your people: Indigenous and non-Indigenous
- You don't need to be married to a community
- Be flexible and self-reflective
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes
 - *If you make them - **own them!***
- SHOW UP!

Most
Importantly...



How Do You Be a Good Ally?

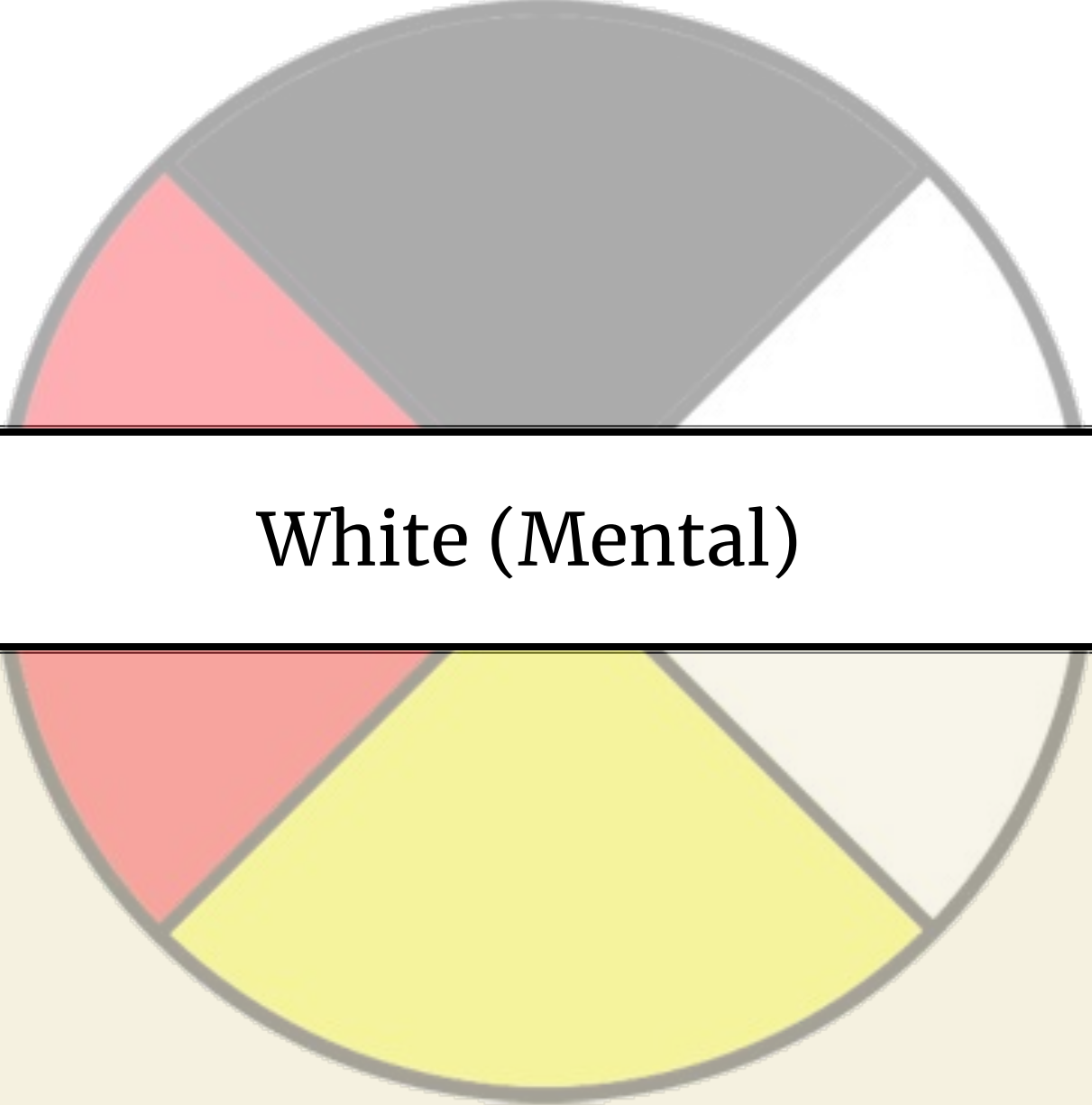
- Know your place. (Know where you come from. Know when to step back. Let the community take the lead.)
- You have a relationship with the people you have touched; you have no automatic “in.” (Indigenous people: it’s about who they **are**. Non-Indigenous people: it’s about what we **do**. **We Are All Related**, but we have to show it.)
- Be there. Always. Take time. Build trust. Drink tea. Listen. Hug.
- Just take it. (Take the heat even if you don’t deserve it. You may experience the kind of microaggressions Indigenous peoples experience constantly. Some Indigenous peoples do not feel benevolent to Europeans or people of other newcomer cultures.)



UAL Relational Initiatives

- Communication
 - Conferences
 - Library colleagues - Town Hall and beyond
 - Indigenous Internship and Residents
 - Creating sustainable education
- Prison Projects
 - Intersectionality
- Ithaka S+R
 - Responsibilities
 - Relationships with faculty
 - Future changes to service





White (*Mental*)

Intro - White (Mental)

- Who we are
- Decolonizing Description Working Group
 - Who?
 - What?
 - When?
 - Why?
- Working collaboratively to more respectfully and appropriately represent Indigenous peoples and contexts

Mental Aspects as Related to Cataloguing and Classification



“

*Worldviews inform ways that
Knowledge is Organized within
Libraries. This can be both abstract
and tangible simultaneously.*

“The collective memory of imperialism has been perpetuated through the ways in which knowledge about Indigenous peoples was collected, classified and then represented in various ways back to the West, and then, through the eyes of the West, back to those who have been colonized” (L. Tuhiwai Smith, 1999)

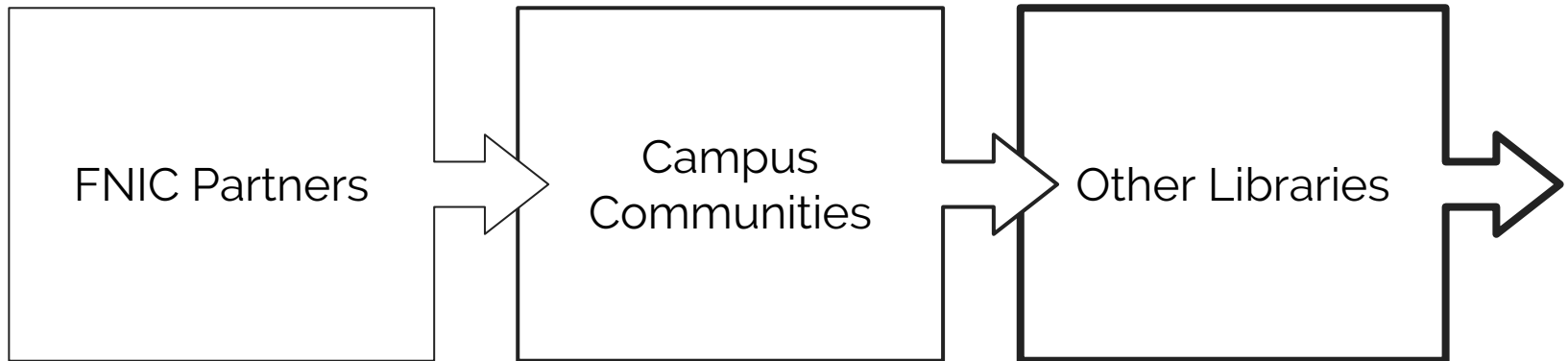


Community-Based Research

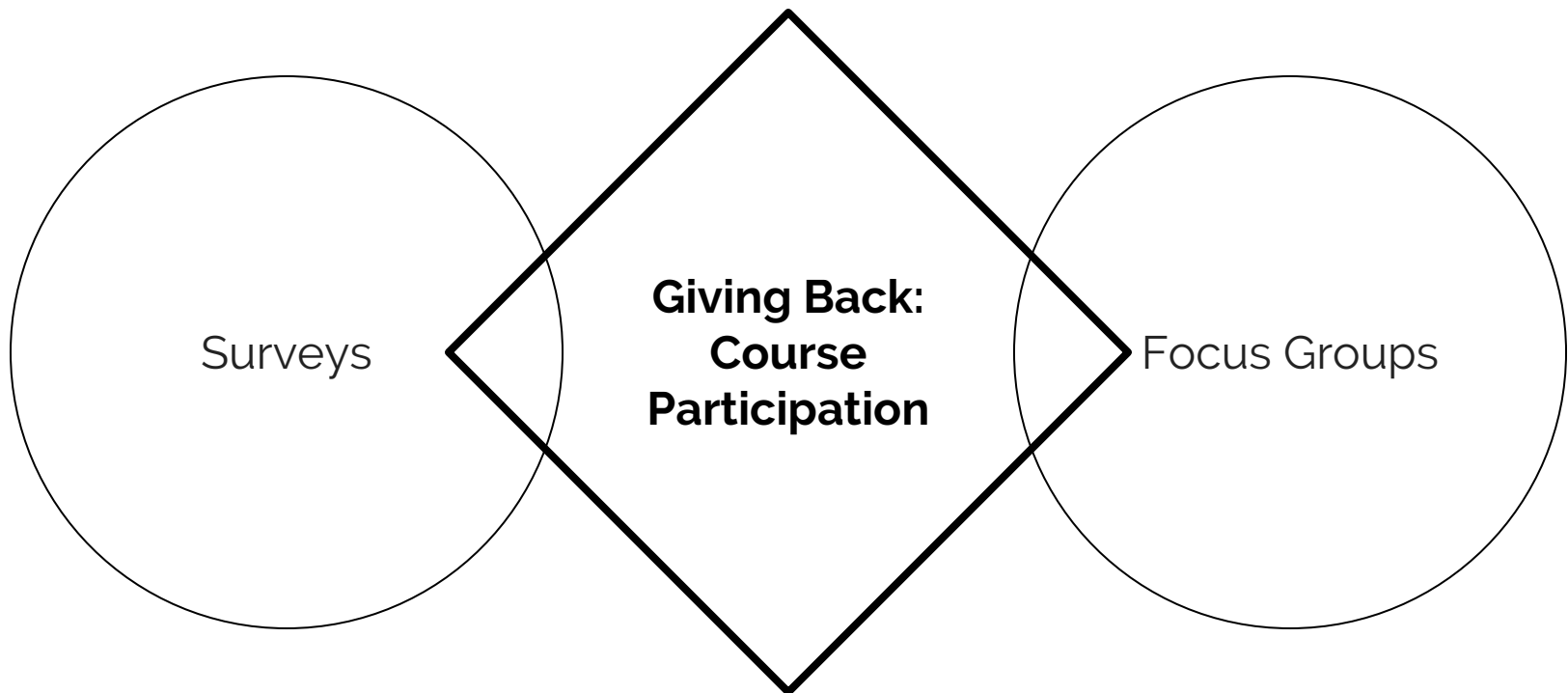
Philosophical Foundations

- Practicing inclusivity
- Valuing multiple perspectives and ways of knowing
- Recognizing that knowledge organization is not neutral

Community Consultations



Approaches



Collaborative Futures



University of British Columbia

Adopting Indigenous knowledge organization in Indigenous spaces first



Manitoba Archival Information Network

Collaborative community consultations; sharing of processes and recommended changes



CFLA Indigenous Matters Committee

Canada-wide collaboration, multi-institutional partnerships and stakeholders



Linked Data Options

Exploring potential of alternative methods of developing and applying knowledge organization systems.



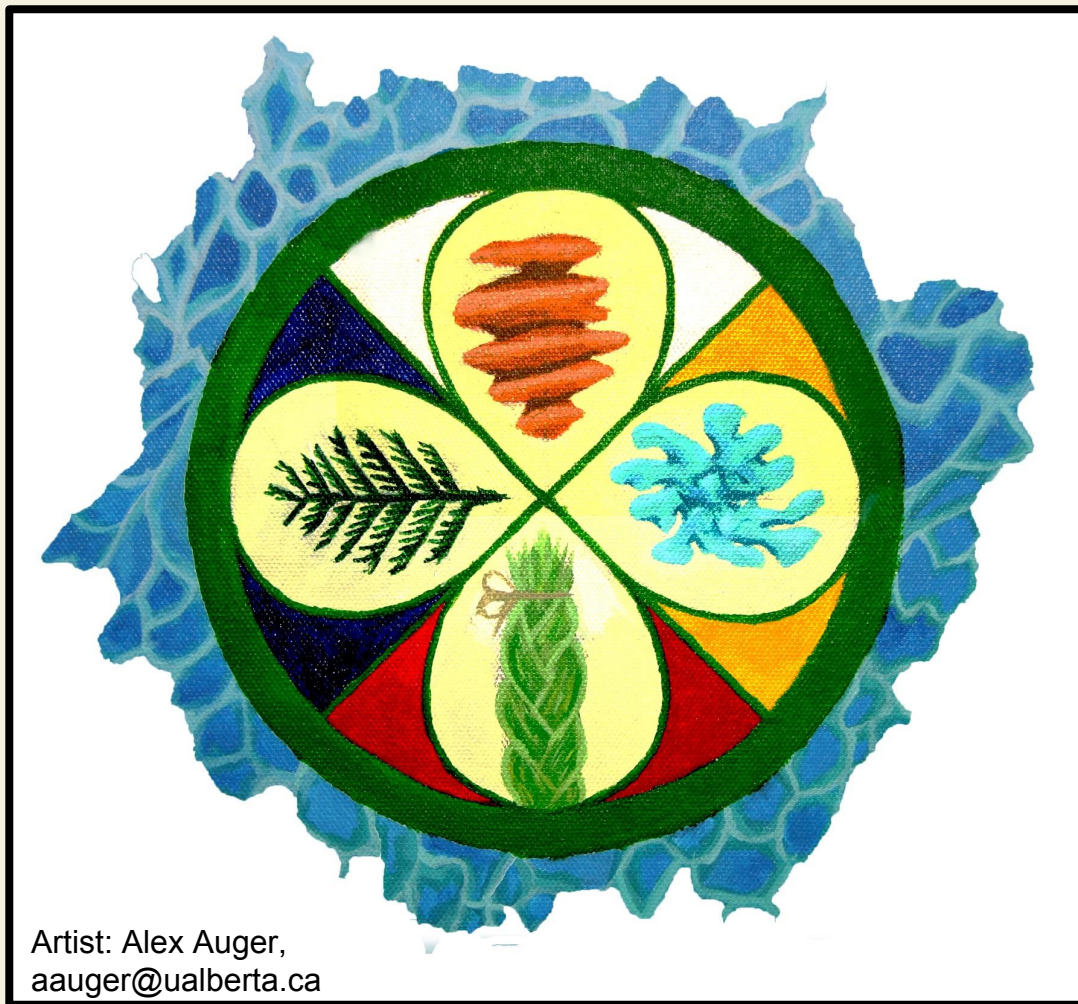
Collaborative Cataloguing

Grassroots, collaborative efforts to advocate for change to existing systems, and to build capacity within the metadata community.



Public Library Partnerships

Working in partnership with public libraries to make connections within communities, gather input on how to improve systems, and combine resources.



Artist: Alex Auger,
aauger@ualberta.ca

A circular diagram is centered in the background, divided into four equal quadrants by a dark grey border. The top-left quadrant is grey, the top-right is white, the bottom-left is red, and the bottom-right is yellow. A black rectangular box with a thin white border is superimposed horizontally across the center of the circle.

Black/Blue (Physical)

Indigenous Spaces

Physical Spaces



Digital Spaces





We are all on Indigenous lands

Physical Safe and Inclusive Spaces





Library services in the bush



Community archival research sessions



Relationships are KEY

**Why are no Indigenous peoples applying for jobs?
Why is job retention of Indigenous employees
difficult?**

Relationships are KEY

Why are no Indigenous peoples applying for jobs? Why is job retention of Indigenous employees difficult?

We need to look at our own institutions and our own relationships.



We do not need to be married to communities but we need to be there for them when they need us



Relationships can mean standing up with, and supporting communities in different ways

Digital Spaces

<https://wahkohtowin.wordpress.com>



Photo credit :Red Man laughing



Photo credit A Tribe Called Geek

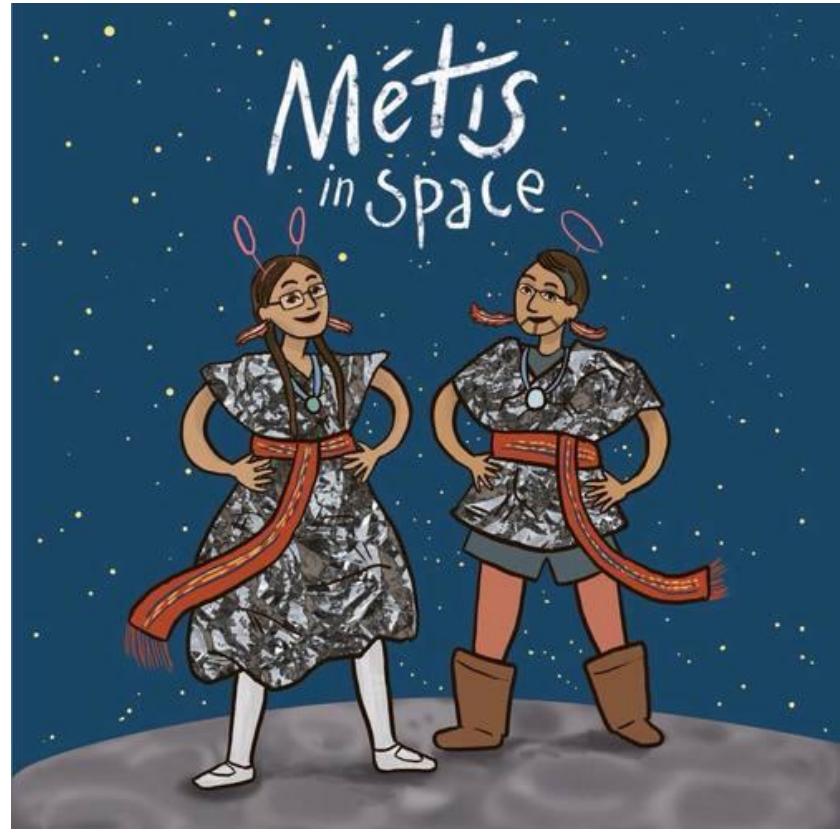


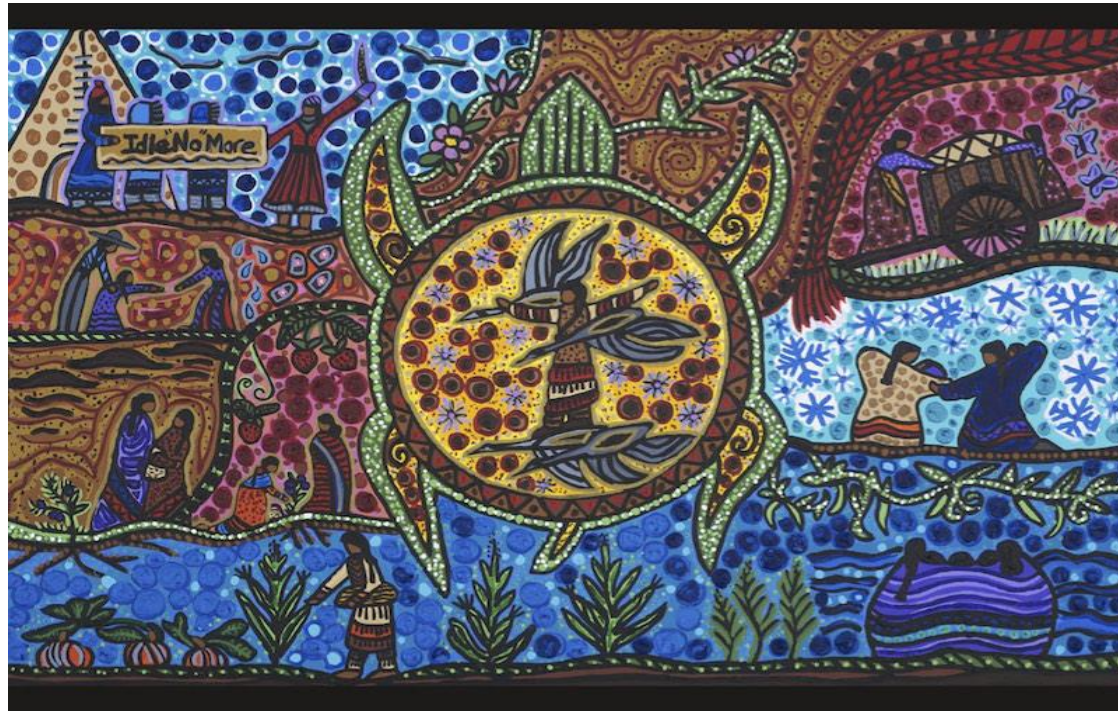
Photo credit : Metis in Space

Digital Indigenous HUBS

Spaces for coming together

[UofA Indigenous Hub](#)

[UofS Iportal](#)



Digital Sovereignty and Ownership

- Who has the rights to videos, images, twitter posts etc?
- Where do Indigenous peoples fall into copyright legislations and where does traditional knowledge stand?
- What can we as librarians and academic institutions do to help?



Digital Citizenship

A digital citizen refers to a person utilizing information technology (IT) in order to engage in society, politics, and governance in a responsible manner.

K. Mossberger, et al (2008)

For Indigenous peoples this allows for space where they can engage with:

- Community
- Activism
- Resiliency
- Knowledge Preservation
- Politics

Racism and Digital Spaces





Red (Spiritual)

Future Considerations

A Few Ideas:

- Recruitment and Retention
 - Working with students
 - Creating safe spaces for student
 - AND STAFF! Your relationships will help you
- Change from the Top
 - Policies, policies, policies
 - Strategic plans
- Education from Community
 - Indigenous LIS at UofA
 - Building relationships with local community
- Celebrate Resilience!

Now, it's your turn!

What could the future look like for your institution?

What ideas resonated with you?

What can you take home?



Thank You!