

Who am I?

Indigi-Queer, Red River Michif (he/them) – Roots in Saskatchewan, commitments across Turtle Island

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Information, U of T Lii Lozh di Kaastor – Two-Spirit digital atlas & beaver-lodge methodology

Lab Manager, Technoscience Research Unit Indigenous-led lab partnering with Aamjiwnaang First Nation & the Acceleration Consortium (AI for material discovery)

Co-Investigator, Residential School Survivor Stories Interactive community-controlled web-maps (grant renewed 2024)

Indigenous Advisory Council, Ontario Library Assoc. (since 2021)

Practice threads: libraries ♦ archives ♦ data sovereignty ♦ community tech

**What areas do I
come from?**

Corporate Management

Non-Profit/Charity Sector

Medieval Literature

Archives

Genealogical
Data

Settler Colonial
Mesh

Child-
-Welfare

Police



Health



INSTITUTE SPECIAL REPORT



Supporting Chemical Valley

Problems to Actions

Problem – Adoption, Sixties Scoop, & treaty evidence are scattered across 5 + agencies (provincial child-welfare, Library & Archives Canada, Vital Stats, church archives, band offices).

Action – Co-designed *Identity Records Toolkit*:

- FOI & privacy-act request templates
- Step-by-step genealogical search paths (prov./fed. indexes, parish registers, census)
- Trauma-informed peer-support circles & data-sovereignty consent forms

“So... What *Is* a Librarian, Anyway?”

Conventional box: “Someone who manages a collection & answers reference questions.”

Channel Your Inner Beaver

1 . Know your river – *Roots* What communities claim you? Where do your obligations already flow?

2 . Map the currents – *Roles* What power do you hold (skills, credentials, networks) that can redirect information streams?

3 . Carry the sticks – *Relationships* Who are your co-builders? Name three people/orgs you'll keep in the loop – always.

4 . Leave room for water – *Repair* How will you make space for knowledge you don't yet understand? What training, language, or protocol will you seek out this year?

Building the Lodge, Together

Commitment	What it looks like tomorrow	What we still need to learn
Show up where people already gather	Join the weekly language table, the youth radio hour, the union meeting.	Cultural protocols, time-budgeting that values presence as real work.
Practise Radical Reference	Offer “info pop-ups” at shelters, powwows, protests, and clinics.	Trauma-informed service; consent-first data collection.
Honour Data Sovereignty	OCAP, CARE, and local nation-specific data agreements are built into every project charter.	Legal harmonisation, persistent identifiers that respect Indigenous naming conventions.
Regenerate, don't just preserve	Digitize + contextualize + <i>return</i> records so they feed living community goals.	Sustainability planning; communal tech stewardship models.

Unpicking the Mesh We Help Sew New Patchworks of Experience

Operation	In cárdenas' terms	In librarianship's patchwork
Cut	A necessary break that names harm, severs oppressive structures	Refuse extractive vendor contracts; sunset harmful subject headings.
Shift	Toggling between visibility / invisibility to survive & maneuver	Move labour off the reference desk into community spaces; decentre the catalogue as the only "front door."
Stitch	Binding fragments into new life-forms; healing through connection	Re-link dispersed adoption, treaty, and health records; quilt together cross-department coalitions.

Patchwork Praxis: Your Take-Home Challenge

Commit this year to...

Sunset a policy,
heading, or
license that hurts
community.

Shift a service
into the
community's own
space.

Stitch a
fragmented
record system
back together.

Decide your *operation*

Cut

Shift

Stitch

First concrete step

List one harmful
term/platform;
draft retirement
plan by July.

Identify one
gathering where
librarians aren't;
schedule a pop-up
table.

Partner with
archives/IT to pilot
a cross-walk or
data-return
workflow.

The background features a large teal shape on the left side and a smaller teal shape on the bottom right. A diagonal gradient band, transitioning from light green to light orange, runs from the top left towards the bottom right, passing behind the text.

**Thank you and I hope
that you have a
beautiful conference**