Indigenous Knowledge, Intellectual Freedom, Copyright Issues and Academic Libraries (Panel)

Dr Gregory Younging, Coordinator, Indigenous Studies Program, University of British Columbia Okanagan; Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of Creator’s Rights Alliance.

Camille Callison, Learning & Organizational Development Librarian, University of Manitoba.

Ann Ludbrook, Copyright and Scholarly Engagement Librarian, Ryerson University.

Kim Nayyer, Associate University Librarian, Law and Copyright, University of Victoria.

Canada has committed to the implementation of UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and the Truth & Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Actions therefore the Canadian Intellectual Property Rights regime must acknowledge the rights of Indigenous people over their traditional and living knowledges and cultural expressions. Developing culturally appropriate access protocols with Indigenous peoples and commitments to respectful relationships are some avenues to facilitate this development as Canadians actively work towards reconciliation. Indigenous knowledge is often held in mainstream cultural memory institutions such as libraries, archives, and museums, as a result of research, appropriation or with the participation of Indigenous communities and authors. This panel presentation seeks to provide much needed contextual information on the issues surrounding Indigenous Knowledge and libraries by featuring an eclectic group of speakers from different backgrounds and varied expertise discussing issues pertaining to the protection of Indigenous Knowledge. Dr. Gregory Younging, with start the discussion by outlining the major issues and challenges surrounding Indigenous knowledge from a national and international perspective. Camille Callison will discuss ongoing research on the development of Indigenous Knowledge protocols to facilitate culturally appropriate access to Indigenous knowledge located in libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions as well as the CFLA/FCAB Truth & Reconciliation Committee report recommendation that was seminal to the development of the CFLA-FCAB’s position statement on Indigenous Knowledge and the Canadian Copyright Act jointly by the Indigenous Matters and Copyright Committees. Ann Ludbrook will discuss Indigenous Knowledge in the intellectual property frameworks of Creative Commons licencing and the public domain. Kim Nayyer will give examples of Indigenous Knowledge protection projects and tools, discuss researcher access to Indigenous knowledge in collections, and best practises for building Indigenous Knowledge collections.