Sovereignty and Governance for Indigenous Data Futures

Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Indigenous Studies Seminar Series
Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Panel – Indigenous researchers forging flourishing Indigenous futures
13 May 2022

With acknowledgement of:

Assistant Professor Stephanie R. Carroll,
(Ahtna – Native Village of Kluti-Kaah
Associate Director, Native Nations Institute
Director, Collaboratory for Indigenous Data Governance
University of Arizona

Professor Tahu Kukutai
(Ngāti Tiipa, Ngāti Kinohaku, Ngāti Māhanga,
Te Aupōuri)
Pou Matarua | Co-Director, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga
The University of Waikato
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND DATA: 101

1. Sovereignty matters.

1. Data are our relations.

1. Data are critical to the exercise of tribal sovereignty and ensuring healthy, vibrant communities.

1. Only Indigenous Peoples/nations can exercise Indigenous data sovereignty.

1. Enacting Indigenous data sovereignty includes both data for governance and the governance of data.

1. Assertions of Indigenous data sovereignty spur innovation and design in data and research policy and practice.
# WHAT ARE INDIGENOUS DATA?

Information, in any format, that impacts Indigenous lives at the collective and individual levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATA ABOUT OUR RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land information, history, geological information, titles, water information, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATA ABOUT US AS INDIVIDUALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative, legal, health and social data; commercially held data; service use data; our own data; etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATA ABOUT US AS NATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional and cultural information, archives, oral histories, literature, ancestral knowledge, community stories, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Informed by British Columbia First Nations emerging definition.
The *right* of Indigenous Peoples and nations to govern the collection, ownership, and application of their own data.

1. Derives from inherent rights to govern peoples, lands, and resources.
2. Genesis in traditions, roles, and responsibilities for the use of community held information.
3. Positioned within a human rights framework and court cases, treaties, and/or recognition.
4. Knowledge belongs to the collective and is fundamental to who we are as peoples.

INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY

The right of Indigenous peoples and nations to govern the collection, ownership, and application of their own data. Derives from inherent rights to govern their peoples, lands, and resources. Genesis in traditions, roles, and responsibilities for the use of community held information. Knowledge belongs to the collective and is fundamental to who we are as peoples. Definition from Rodriguez-Lonebear, D., and Rainie, S.C. (2016). US Indigenous Data Sovereignty founding documents. Much of the language regarding rights and framing comes from the charter of Te Mana Raraunga, the Maori Data Sovereignty Network in Aotearoa/New Zealand founded in July 2015. Available at www.tmr.maori.nz. Positioned within human rights framework and court cases, treaties, or recognition.
RECOGNITION OF IDSOV

Global
- UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy. Recommendation on the Protection and Use of Health-Related Data
- COVID19 Indigenous Data Guidelines for Research Data Alliance
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation Statement on Open Science
- UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science
- AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research
- Education in partnership with ORCID and RDA for workshops in North America, Central America and Asia-Pacific regions
- In Process: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Data Management Policy
- In Process: Chair IEEE P2890 Indigenous Data Working Group

Aotearoa New Zealand
- Co-Designing Māori data governance model for all of government data (Government Chief Data Steward + Stats NZ)
- National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement
- Australia New Zealand Standard Research Classification: Indigenous Studies as a broad division alongside biological sciences and economics etc.; Indigenous data sovereignty as a field
Every Indigenous community has enormous collections of tangible and intangible cultural material, knowledge, and data, held in archives, museums, libraries, repositories, and other online databases. Significant information about these collections, including individual and community names and proper provenance information, is missing. Indigenous peoples and communities are largely not the legal rights holders. Issues of responsibility & ownership, as well as the incomplete and significant mistakes in the metadata, continue into the digital lives of this material. There are more researchers working and collecting data and samples from Indigenous communities than ever before, generating vast amounts of new data.

Source: Stephanie R. Carroll, University of Arizona
AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research

Indigenous knowledge and data

2.7 Indigenous peoples have the right to manage the collection, interpretation and use of their information.
   a. ownership management and communication of research data and results should be negotiated between Indigenous peoples and the researcher or other parties based on the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty and governance.
   b. processes should be agreed at an early stage for ownership, management and use of, access to, and distribution of research results. Written agreements are normally required to clarify and secure rights in data.

2.8 The contribution of Indigenous peoples’ knowledge, resources and access to data should be acknowledged by ensuring ongoing ownership, control and/or access for Indigenous people to research results.

2.9 Institutions with responsibility for data access and use policies or design and management of data ecosystems should adopt Indigenous data sovereignty and governance principles.63
   a. where a conflict arises between accessibility and Indigenous peoples rights, then Indigenous peoples’ rights should prevail.64
   b. researchers must be aware of and apply the international data principles of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and CARE (Collective benefit, Authority, Responsibility and Ethics).65
University Open Access Policy

The University of Tasmania has an Open Access Policy which applies to all research publications. University researchers can find compliance information including, the Open Access Fact Sheet, in the Open Access subject guide.

Indexed by Google Scholar, TROVE, CORE and BASE

Open to Collaborate

Our institution is committed to the development of new modes of collaboration, engagement, and partnership for the care and stewardship of past and future heritage collections.

Also used at:
Special & Rare collections homepage https://www.utas.edu.au/library/research/special-and-rare-collections
SPARC homepage – the repository for our Special & Rare collections https://sparc.utas.edu.au/
Project: Counting our tūpuna
Hapū-controlled data ecosystem

APPLIEDGONS
Web-based

TIKANGAAccess permissions

PĀTAKA
*Servers must be in Aotearoa NZ

DIGITISED DATA
- Whakapapa
- Whenua (Maps, GIS)

Photos
- Koorero
- Waiata
ACTIVATING IDS + IDG IN UNIVERSITIES

Indigenous-led (collective), Indigenous by design, future-focused

Leverage IDSov principles: Domestic + CARE
Have a clear plan

Commit to Indigenous data infrastructure as a long-term investment (hard and soft)

Make it easy for communities to access their data – ditch the maze mentality, enable distributed systems

Co-produce policy and practice to embed rights, interests, and ethics

ACT
Accountability
Control
Transparency
SO WHAT NOW ….

- IDSSov and IDGov links already exist across the CANZSUS states
- Transforming institutions to operationalize IDGov has begun, but much left to do (infrastructure, ethics, policy, law)
- IDSSov and IDGov provide HUGE opportunities to catapult institutions into doing research differently – with and for, not on behalf of – and doing innovative research
- If there are ‘trade-offs’ to be made (e.g. open data), and it involves Indigenous data, the decision-making lies with Indigenous communities

Indigenous data belong in Indigenous hands
Ngā kupu aumihi | Thank you!