

Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Canada and Beyond: Applying an Indigenous Data Lens to the Impacts of Bibliometrics and Research Outcomes

April 29th, 2021

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Photograph taken by Spencer Corbiere
Teme Augama Anishnabai
Temagami Lake 2020

PLAN

- Introduce myself
- Introduce some high level discussion on Indigenous data, sovereignty, and governance
- Share some of my perspectives on how all of these things relate to a topic of bibliometrics and research impacts.
- Stir some ideas and thoughts
- Q & A

Situating Myself



Introduction

- Data has the ability to **impact decision-making, influence health policy, leverage funding, and improve health outcomes.**
- Data expansions within the age of digitization are happening quicker than we can keep up.
- In turn, Indigenous data are being added to and Indigenous knowledge(s) are being (re)produced, renewed, and revitalized.
- Indigenous Peoples' interests, values, and priorities are essential to **all** processes involving information and knowledges (aka DATA) about Indigenous lives.
- Historically, Indigenous Peoples and priorities were excluded from the decision-making processes- as Indigenous groups around the world take back their autonomy, there is a global shift in the ways in which Indigenous data are managed, owned, shared, stored, and controlled.

Indigenous Data

INDIGENOUS DATA include any information in any format that affects Indigenous lives at the individual or collective levels (Information on land, resources, people, and nations).

Sovereignty

INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY (ID-SOV) is the right of Indigenous Peoples to govern the collection, application, and ownership of Indigenous data and information.

Governance

INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE (ID-GOV) is the mechanisms by which ID-SOV is activated

Advancing ID-SOV on Globally

Indigenous Peoples all around the world have inherent, collective rights. In order to provide research outcomes that are relevant to Indigenous populations, there is an important role for mainstream and settler organizations within this space. It is important to recognize that Indigenous Peoples have inherent rights to self-determination, sovereignty, and self-governance that are not earned or granted; they simply exist.

As Indigenous Peoples continue to assert our inherent rights, the primary goals are nation rebuilding through self-determination and self-government.

Non-Indigenous organizations can contribute by working *with* Indigenous nations towards accomplishing those goals. By helping to eliminate obstacles/barriers and advocating for changes to oppressive systemic policies and practices.

Globally, initiatives are advancing their collective rights by instilling Indigenous-based protocols for how Indigenous data are defined, owned, access, and controlled.



The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Article 3 – right to **self determination**
- Article 4 – right to **autonomy and self-government**
- Article 5 – right to maintain and strengthen **distinct** political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions
- Article 15 (i) – right to **dignity** and **diversity** of cultures traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information
- Article 18 – right to **participate in decision-making** in matters that would affect rights...and to develop indigenous decision-making institutions
- Article 19 – States shall... obtain free, prior and informed **consent** before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them
- Article 23 – right to **determine** and **develop** priorities and strategies...and to administer programs through their own institutions if possible
- Article 31 – right to **maintain, control, protect** and **develop** intellectual property
- Article 33 – right to **determine** their own identity or membership. Right to determine structures and select membership of their institutions

GIDA

Global Indigenous Data Alliance

Promoting Indigenous Control of Indigenous Data





The First Nations Principles of OCAP[®]

Ownership

Control

Access

Possession[®]

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN CANADA?

- Over 30 years of work has been done that have laid not only the foundation but provided a structure for successful nation-to-nation rebuilding for Indigenous Peoples across the country.
 - The Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP formed in 1991 and report released in 1996)
 - The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (Calls for Action in the TRC, 2015)
 - The Final Report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Calls for Justice for MMIWG, 2019).

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

TRC CALL TO ACTION #18

“acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools”

TRC CALL TO ACTION # 19

“establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes”

TRC CALL TO ACTION #20

“recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples”

TRC CALL TO ACTION #43

“to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for for reconciliation”

In Canada: Advancing Indigenous Data Governance

- Must be reflective of the interests of the three distinct Indigenous groups in Canada: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis
- Within those three groups, must also recognize the diversity in languages, cultures, traditions, and nations.
- Means honouring traditional relationships and treaties.



Kayaking with my sister
on Lake Temagami,
Summer 2020

How does all of this relate to research outputs??

- Indigenous-led research that informs Indigenous rights and interests.
- This involves Indigenous-led processes from the inception of research ideas.
- Indigenous guidance and leadership should be integrated at every point of the decision-making process.





- Anti-colonial mindsets are leading to more Indigenous-led research and, as a result more Indigenous-led journals.
- Some of these journals may have a lower impact factor- but they are designed to advance Indigenous priorities and Indigenous-led capacity.



- Engaging with partners BEFORE you design a project
- Engaging partners THROUGHOUT the

Combined, all of these factors can lower overall bibliometrics and also limit Indigenous people's ability to secure full professor positions and tenure track roles. This also decreases the opportunity for people to engage with the work, see its potential and develop new research from it. It lessens the ability for Indigenous researchers to grow and continue to fulfill the priorities of Indigenous peoples.

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may get to the end, and your partners
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capacity, or a nu
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relationship bui

- Funding agencies tend to fund mainstream spaces with lots of staffing. May be less likely to fund an Indigenous organization or community without having vetted community support.
- Indigenous researchers are often working on

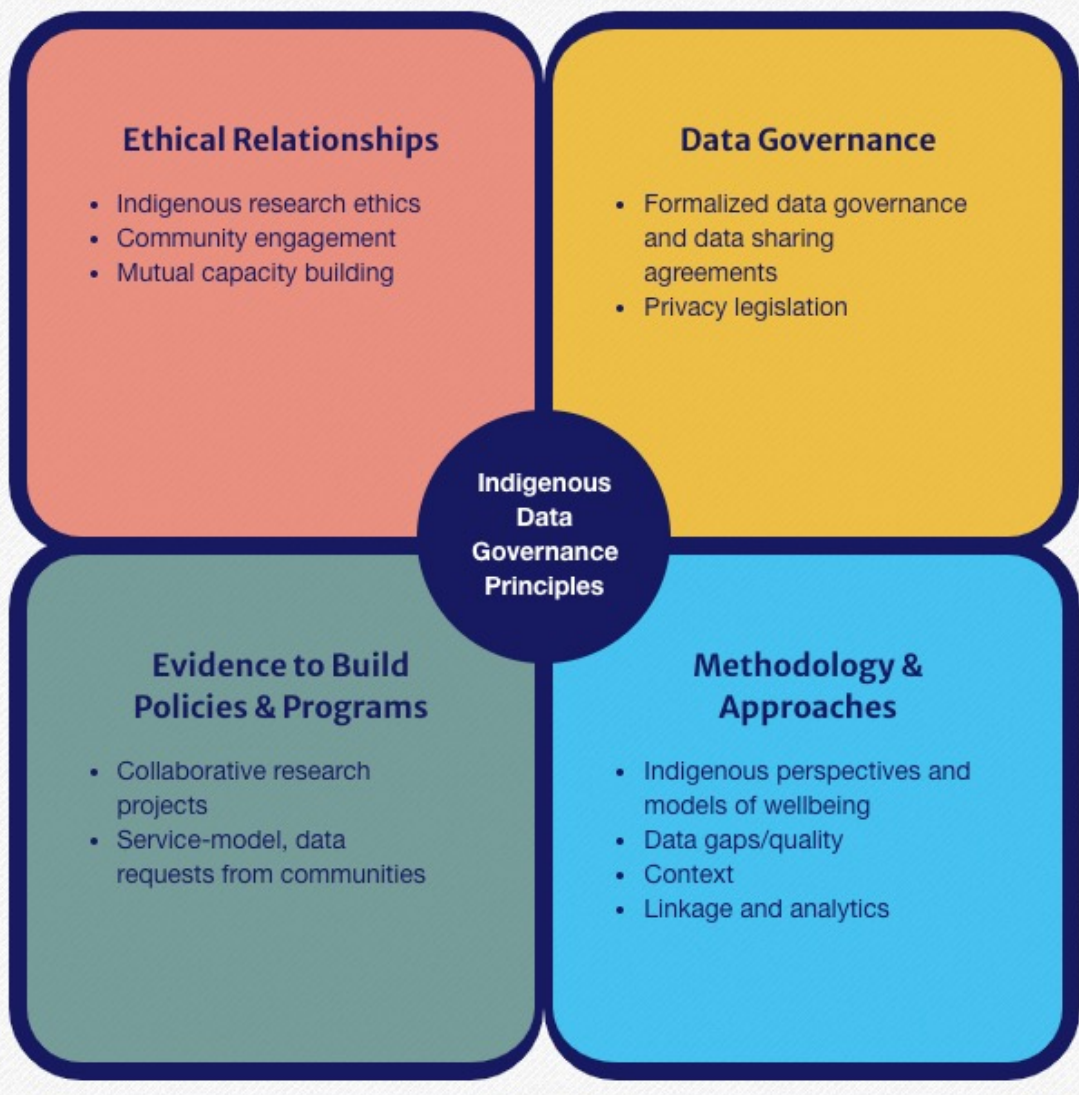
There are also many established non-Indigenous researchers leading Indigenous-related work. This increases the number of applicants and may even favour these applicants because they are established, publish in mainstream journals, etc. Selection processes based on bibliometrics or standard measures of success may fail to

Indigenous-led journals are often the first choice for Indigenous researchers, which may mean less research recognition and uptake. At this point in Indigenous research methodologies as well, there has likely been a series of outputs that aren't recognized in the ways that research output success are currently measured.

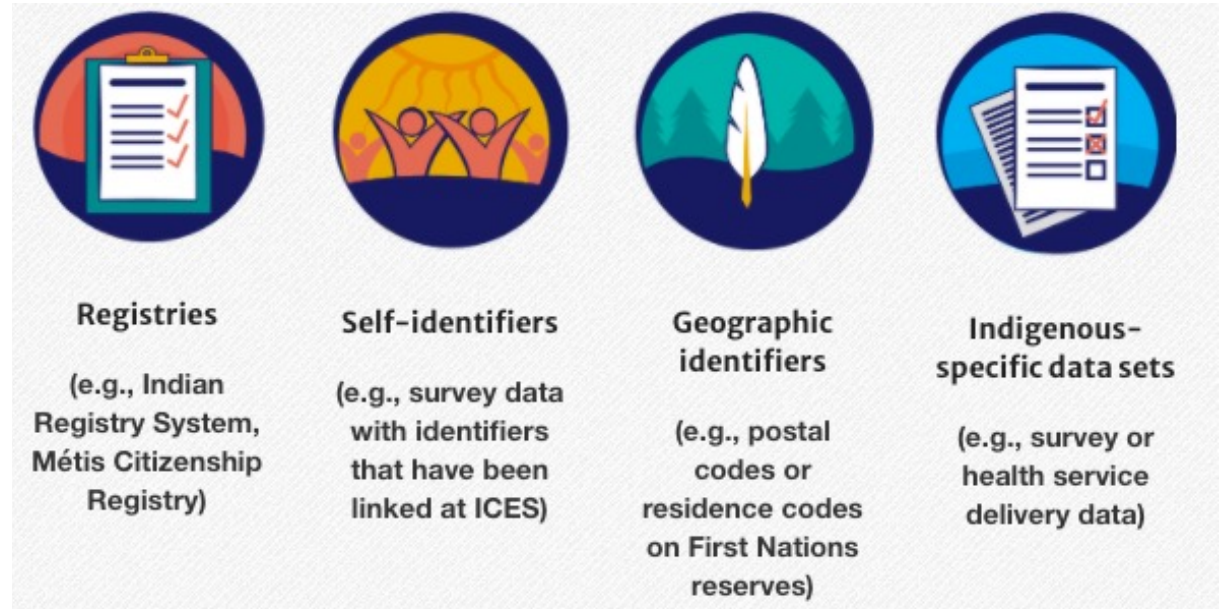
Indigenous researcher is accepted- their work completed and manuscript completed- processes for community vetting and Indigenous authorship opportunities can create publication delays and bibliometrics may impact successful publication.

the values of relationships built
unities, community-based
and Indigenous researchers may be

Framework for working with Indigenous Data at IC/ES



INDIGENOUS DATA AT ICES INCLUDE...

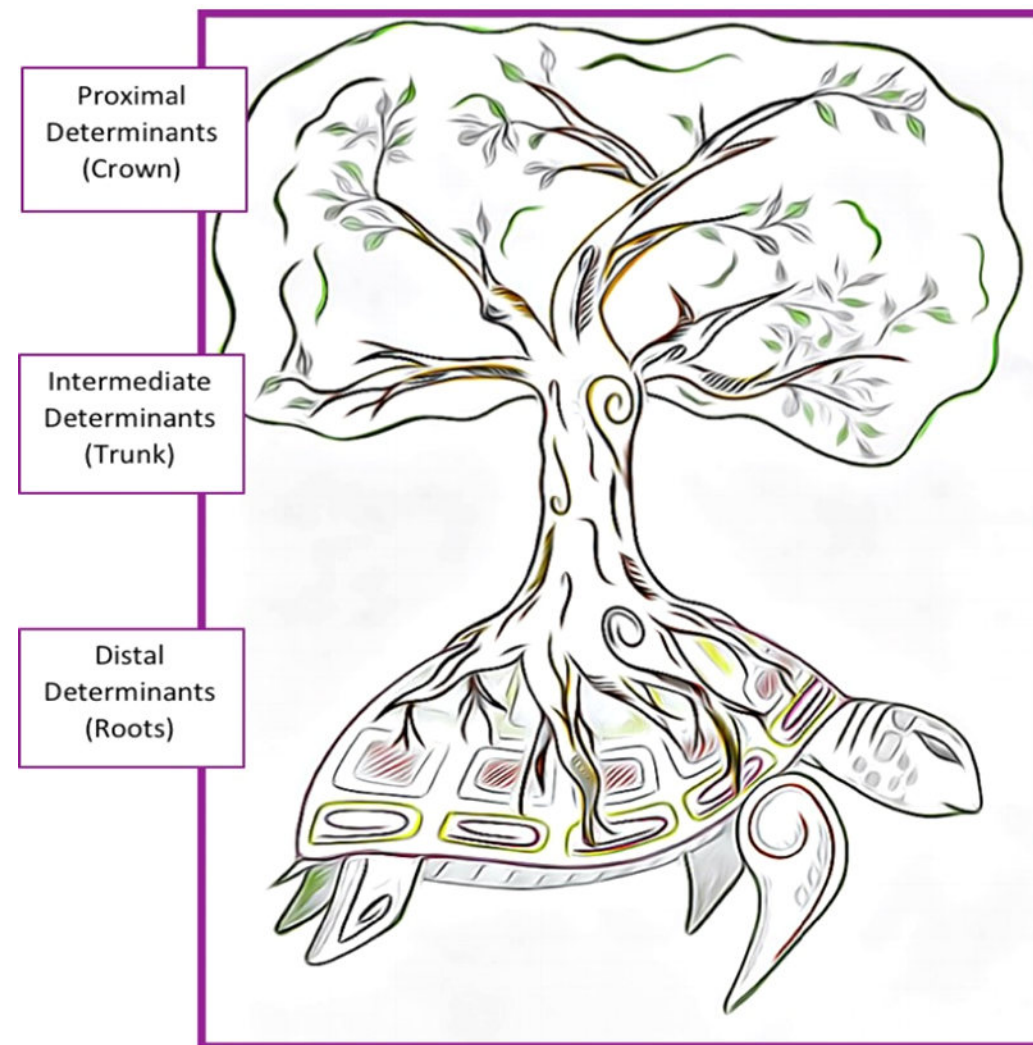


In Canada: Advancing Indigenous Data Governance

Proximal Determinants: early child development, income, social status, education, employment, and food security

Intermediate determinates: health care systems, education systems, community infrastructure, governments, and social supports

DISTAL: Deeply Rooted Factors such as historical, political, economic, and social factors that can impact the mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical of individuals and community wellness



Wholistic [whole health] Framework Tree Adaptation by Robyn Rowe (with permission).

Moving Forward

- These examples highlight only a piece of the limitations of bibliometrics in relation to Indigenous data.
- Metrics that consider the amount of time, energy, and effort that Indigenous researchers are putting in to support nations through reports, engagement, education, and other means are also needed.
- Increasing the diversity of people that are funded within these spaces is a good start.
- Considerations to how Indigenous populations can be more actively engaged in this knowledge creation process.

The Role of non-Indigenous allies

- The **foundations** of ID-SOV and ID-Gov are Indigenous leadership and Indigenous decision making
- The primary role of Non-Indigenous Allies in ID-Sov and ID-Gov is to support Indigenous leadership/decision making.

- 1. Step back – Let us Lead**
- 2. Use your privilege to advocate for ID-Sov and ID-Gov**
- 3. Openly adopt ID-Sov and ID-Gov Principles**
- 4. Enable Indigenous Data Leadership/
Decision Making**

Open-Access Learning on ID-SOV

Links:

- [Indigenous Data Sovereignty, 2016](#)
- [The State of Open Data, 2019](#)
- [Good Data, 2019](#)
- [Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Policy, 2020](#)



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INFORMATION, DATA, AND RESEARCH ABOUT OUR PEOPLES
—COLLECTED ABOUT US, WITH US, OR BY US—
BELONG TO US AND MUST BE CARED FOR BY US.
- LIZ LA QUEN NÁAY KAT SAAS MEDICINE CROW

CHI-MIIGWETCH



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