

Aboriginal Peoples: Engagement and Scholarship

This assessment of library collections and programs has been completed by Deborah Lee, Aboriginal Engagement & Indigenous Studies Liaison Librarian and Jill Crawley-Low, Assistant Dean Collections with reference to the report: *University Library Service in Support of Aboriginal Engagement, Programming and Scholarship* (2011), authored by David Smith, former Indigenous Studies Liaison Librarian and edited by Allyssa Barlow.

1. Proposal Identification

Full name of signature area: Aboriginal Peoples: Engagement and Scholarship

2. Introduction

The University Library's branches/units (including University Archives) has actively supported Aboriginal research, programming and scholarship at the University of Saskatchewan over two integrated planning cycles and anticipates expanded engagement for the third integrated planning cycle of 2012-2016. This support of Aboriginal engagement and scholarship is manifested in activities as diverse as: development of collections and resources; provision of library instruction and reference service; collaboration through programs and projects with Aboriginal communities; and, library and archives faculty research resulting in publications and presentations at conferences. An inventory of University Library activities in support of Aboriginal programming and scholarship is published in a September 2011 report, but the purpose of this analytical report is to narrow the focus to library collections and resources that support the signature research area entitled *Aboriginal Peoples: Engagement and Scholarship*.

Through the *Aboriginal Peoples: Engagement and Scholarship* signature research area, the U of S seeks "... to lead the way in examining issues such as residential schools and reconciliation, land claims and treaties, protection of heritage and culture, economic development and resource management, health and wellness, and law and governance." The University Library is a partner in contributing to this signature research area by developing and maintaining specialized collections and resources that support the research, teaching and scholarship endeavours that will lead to pre-eminence in these identified areas.

3. Summation

Collections relating to Aboriginal Studies have been developed over the lifetime of the university for the purpose of preserving our cultural heritage and supporting research, programming and scholarship. Aboriginal Studies is truly interdisciplinary in its scope and information resources are found in the University Library's seven physical branches as well as the eighth virtual branch consisting of electronic information resources that are available at all times.

Information resources for Indigenous scholarship crosses all formats and related disciplines including Native Studies, Education, History, Law, Political Studies, Northern Governance and Development, Sociology, Psychology, Art & Art History, English Literature, Archaeology, Anthropology, Commerce / Economic Development, Agriculture & Bioresources, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, and the University of the Arctic. Of the seven branch libraries, the Murray Library contains the most extensive collections on Indigenous issues; however, extensive collections in other disciplines have been acquired and continue to be sought after by other Library branches. For instance, Indigenous legal materials are collected by the Law Library; Aboriginal children's literature and music materials are collected by the Education and Music Library; and considerable Aboriginal health resources can be found in the Health Sciences Library. The Murray collections' particular strengths in Indigenous Studies and Native-Newcomer relations topics are found in: Aboriginal social and identity issues; decolonization studies through healing and reclaiming traditional knowledge, philosophy and worldview, and cultural traditions; sovereignty and governance issues; contemporary conflicts; intergenerational effects of residential schooling; language revitalization; Aboriginal history in western Canada; recent publications on Aboriginal literature in North America; federal government publications and records related to Aboriginal peoples; special collections materials focusing on Saskatchewan; and missionary/oblate records.

- **Books**

Print books continue to be important to those engaged in Indigenous Studies. For instance, the Education Library has purchased resources for the *Aboriginal Education Collection* on topics including Aboriginal views and concepts of math and science, culturally relevant mathematics and science curriculum, and Aboriginal contributions in the area of science, mathematics and technology. In the Murray Library, book purchases for a wide range of topics (such as those mentioned in the preceding paragraph) are purchased regularly and a substantial number have been flagged for purchase of extra copies to meet high demand and to remove barriers to access. As well, the *Canadian History Permanent Reserve* consists of monographs, journals and videos, including many titles in the field of Aboriginal history that receive high use from faculty and students on a regular basis.

- **E-books**

The Library subscribes to many full-text e-book collections which are networked to allow online access at any time from any location. Individual e-book titles are typically found using the catalogue. For example, large collections of e-books spanning a variety of disciplines are found in the Cambridge University and Oxford University presses and the Springer e-books collections. E-book publishing is somewhat unsettled; however, the University Library selects e-books on Aboriginal topics as they are published.

- **Audio-Visual**

Aboriginal researchers often benefit from collections and research resources that support a variety of learning styles. As a result, audio-visual materials are particularly popular and effective in supporting teaching techniques and learning styles given their linkages to the oral tradition and are necessary to complement print materials. The former Video Database, Division of Media and Technology transferred much of its collection of DVDs and VHS videos to the Murray Library in 2007 including materials on a wide range of Indigenous issues and topics. The University Library has a modest (but growing) collection of A-V materials because they require specialized curation and housing. More recently, A-V materials relating to Indigenous Studies are purchased as recommended by faculty, students, or library liaisons.

- **Other Formats**

Indigenous groups across Canada (and elsewhere) have been active historically in expressing their views via newspapers since the 1960's and 1970's. Unfortunately, under most circumstances these newspapers were not well funded and often published for short periods. However, their coverage of the Indigenous worldview and documentation of historical information not covered in other information resources makes them invaluable to researchers and learners. The University Library subscribes to many print and online newspapers individually and in packages and continues to improve its collection of Canadian Indigenous newspapers. (It should be noted that some Aboriginal newspapers are indexed and accessible to U of S Library users through mainstream databases.)

The Education and Music Library acquires new resources in the area of Aboriginal education including curriculum materials, children's literature by and about Aboriginal peoples, print and AV materials recommended by Saskatchewan Learning, *Teaching Treaties in the Classroom* kits, 239 titles of Aboriginal music recordings of and by Aboriginal people from this province, and others.

Since 2003, the University Library has doubled its already substantial holdings of Canada's Department of Indian Affairs (Record Group 10) microfilm from approximately 1,250 to over 2,500 reels of microfilm. This

makes the University Library’s collection one of the best in Canada outside the home of these resources, Library and Archives Canada.

- **Electronic Resources**

The majority of the Library’s electronic resources including journals, indexes, and subject-specific materials are networked to permit immediate online access at any time and from any location. Over the last decade, a number of active Canadian site licensing initiatives have dramatically increased the breadth and depth of e-resource content available in university and college libraries in Canada, including the University of Saskatchewan. Thus, large and small institutions can now boast comparable e-resource collections in a wide range of disciplines. In addition to providing access to the core e-resources needed by their clientele, academic libraries are distinguishing themselves by focussing on preserving and making available their specialized and unique materials and collections.

8.1 Full-text Article-level Access

As with monographs, serials related to Aboriginal peoples and issues are multidisciplinary. More than 60 journals directly related to Indigenous issues are currently subscribed to in electronic and/or print format, and there are many other journals which include resources of interest to scholars and students working in this subject area.

8.2 Indexes and Subject E-Resources

Library clients use subscription-based and publicly available subject indexes as gateways to full-text e-resources. “FindIt” links embedded by the University Library in subscription e-resources as well as in publicly available web resources provide seamless access to our licensed full-text journals.

Some of the most significant core journal article databases for Indigenous research which are available to university faculty, students, and staff include:

Academic Search Complete	eHRAF Collection on Ethnography
America: History and Life (+ Full-Text)	Empire Online
Bibliography of Native North Americans	HAPI Online and Class Periodica (Latin Am. Studies)
CBCA Complete	North American Indian Thought and Culture
Early Canadiana Online	ProQuest Education Journals
Early Encounters in North America	Web of Knowledge

8.3 Indigenous Studies Portal (iPortal)

An innovation in Aboriginal studies collection development at the University of Saskatchewan is the Indigenous Studies Portal (iPortal). The iPortal is a virtual library or database that (as of November, 2011) links to more than 29,000 full-text online research resources, all related to Indigenous Studies. These resources include articles, book reviews, e-books (including government reports), theses, websites and archival documents (such as photographs, correspondence and other unpublished textual materials). The vision of the Indigenous Studies Portal is to be the best full-text online research tool for Indigenous Studies resources in Canada.

The iPortal as a research and educational tool is unique in Canada for its broad range of electronic resources related to Aboriginal peoples, cultures and issues in Saskatchewan, the Prairies, Canada, and beyond. Areas of strength include resources in education, governance, health, history, law & justice, social issues, treaties, and arts and literary arts; recently the iPortal has been increasing its content in Indigenous economic development and science areas, such as forestry, mining and agriculture. The iPortal is continually developing its content by collaborating with campus researchers in the area of Aboriginal scholarship and by partnering with community and other academic groups to digitize materials for preservation and educational purposes. For instance, the iPortal has digitized Aboriginal content in the *Prairie Forum* journal and the first four volumes of the *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development*; thus, the iPortal is the only host of online content for both of these journals. Also, content from two out-of-print books have been digitized and made accessible on the iPortal, including the first autobiography of an individual who attended residential school. (An important component to these digitization projects is the necessity to obtain copyright permissions from the publishers and in some cases, the authors.) In addition, the University Archives and the iPortal partnered to digitize a wide variety of archival resources from several cultural organizations in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan to create the very popular *Our Legacy* website, which includes archival photos, correspondence, the verbatim transcripts of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples' round table hearings and many other kinds of textual documents (see more on this under section 10.0).

In 2011, the iPortal partnered with the Canadian Plains Research Centre at the University of Regina to harvest their records from the *Indian History Film Project* to bring greater awareness to these transcripts of oral history interviews with Aboriginal Elders. Another unique feature of the iPortal is the ability to search for resources by using maps / geographic locations of First Nations reserves in Western Canada. The iPortal also features a link to U of S authors who have published in the area of Indigenous Studies. This webpage provides links to both online and offline publications of University authors, that is, content that is available on the iPortal and what is available via the U of S catalogue (such as print books and chapters in books). New government reports along with relevant House of Commons and Senate Committee proceedings related to Aboriginal issues have been flagged and forwarded for inclusion on the iPortal.

9. Publicly Available Web Resources

Government publications, statistics, and GIS information resources are rapidly evolving with an increasing amount of government documents, statistical datasets, and geospatial information being made freely available on the internet. Of interest to Aboriginal engagement and scholarship in this regard, the GIS (Government Information Systems) Librarian has included a link on the GIS LibGuide entitled GIS Resources for Native Studies. However, not everything is open access; thus the Library provides access to many licensed services. For example, Statistics Canada publishes many statistical datasets, including census data and specialized surveys, which are available through the Data Liberation Initiative license to which the library subscribes.

The University Library is one of two full depositories in Saskatchewan for publications of the Government of Canada, including documents on land claims and self-government agreements. In addition there are over 1,800 publications from the Department of Indian Affairs & Northern Development as well as complete sets of Canadian parliamentary publications and census publications with demographic information relevant to Indigenous issues, such as various iterations of the *Aboriginal Peoples' Survey* published by Statistics Canada. The collection includes comprehensive holdings of Government of Saskatchewan publications and maps of Saskatchewan rural municipalities. The University Library is also a depository for National Topographic Series of Maps, 1:50:000.

10. Unique Collections

The University Library has an impressive number of special collections relating to Aboriginal cultures, ways of life and history reflecting the “sense of place” that permeates Saskatchewan. A sampling of unique collections is mentioned here, with a more extensive listing in the Smith report.

Resources for Aboriginal Studies is a web-based resource displaying 300 photographs, 60 documents, 527 law cases, descriptions for 647 photographs entries, and 363 archival materials related to Aboriginal peoples from archives and libraries in the Saskatoon area. The law cases were provided by the Native Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan, and are U of S password protected.

Law librarians and staff work closely in support of the editors of three U of S law journals, the *First Nations Gazette*, *Canadian Native Law Reporter* and the *Justice as Healing Newsletter*. The *Canadiana Pamphlet Collection* includes photographs and postcards depicting Western First Nations' people and materials on Louis Riel and the Métis Resistance. In addition, Special Collections has some one-of-a-kind items related to the Métis Resistance, such as the Louis Riel poem and Gabriel Dumont's teapot. The *Arthur S. Morton Manuscripts Collection* includes scrapbooks of newspaper articles and other ephemera related to Aboriginal peoples and topics. Two other notable collections are the *Poundmaker Historical Collection of Photographs* and the *Adam Shortt Library of Canadiana* (original home of the *Peel Bibliography*).

The University Library has substantial collections relating to First Nations and Métis individuals and organizations. As well, Archives staff have been involved in a number of projects to promote Aboriginal Studies such as the *Our Legacy* website containing 140,053 digital items and 7,158 descriptive records of archival, library and museum material relating to First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. The largest known print collection of the *Kamloops Wawa*, a rare newsletter written in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in English, French and Chinook for an Aboriginal readership in western Canada resides in the University Library. Two hundred issues of the *Kamloops Wawa* along with 16 other publications related to Chinook jargon have been digitized and are now accessible electronically through the *Our Legacy* website.

11. Interlibrary Loan

The Interlibrary Loan Service enables library clients to request materials not owned by the University Library at no charge to them. The service depends on borrowing and lending agreements between the library and other libraries and does not replace on-campus support for programs.

12. Liaison Services

Liaison librarians are active as the link between the university community and the University Library's collections and services. Liaisons develop library collections in their assigned subject areas (including for Indigenous Studies), provide research assistance to library clients, and support learning in information research skill development in a variety of settings. They also communicate with their clients about library events and initiatives.

In summary, the University Library will continue to develop collections and associated services to support research and scholarship in the signature research area, Aboriginal Peoples: Engagement and Scholarship.