

Transcript of video contribution by

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Hello. I'm Darcy Cullen, founder and leader of Raven Space and Assistant Director, Acquisitions at the University of British Columbia Press. I'm speaking to you today from the Treaty 6 territories of Cree, Dene, and Dakota, homeland of the Métis of Saskatchewan. Today I am raising questions for the Open Access Workshop in the context of Indigenous community-driven scholarship. Is the open access infrastructure robust enough to support multimedia forms of scholarship which are favored by Indigenous knowledge co-creators?

Is it flexible enough to support community-engaged publications, both in terms of co-creators designing and producing the publications, and in terms of reaching and engaging audiences outside academia, so the fruits of collaborative research contribute to the cause of indigenous peoples? Does it offer a diversified network of funding and financial support that recognizes the roles and resources involved in producing works and ensure Indigenous knowledge is included in the public and institutional record of knowledge?

I speak from a position at Raven Space where we publish multimedia, peer-reviewed works for, by and with Indigenous peoples. It was founded at UBC Press with a local and global partners from key stakeholder groups, including prominent Indigenous organizations and generously funded by the Mellon Foundation. At Raven Space, we're adapting open access so that we can deliver Indigenous community-driven publications of the highest standard in an online format.

In our eBook format, there are non-linear works that include not only texts but also embed oral histories, language audio files, videos, interactive teaching modules, animation, drone footage and interactive maps of territories and environments. We are combining open access with Indigenous concepts of ownership, access and control with sharing of knowledge and cultural heritage. The questions we raise for discussion today center on three aspects of this.

If Indigenous knowledge-holders and their partners are choosing these varied models of expression, the open access infrastructure has to be able to recognize them and have a channel distribution, discoverability and access for them. The format choice is also based on audience reach and engagement. What are the mechanisms needed to be in place to improve discoverability and access by audiences outside conventional channels of academia?

How can the open access library and publishing movement ensure that these resources find their way into the broader and diverse publics outside the university? Who else do we need in our network in order to make good on the promise of open access as actually connecting with specific nonacademic audiences? How is the OA community gathering information about these audiences to serve and better?

Because we still see the roots of the way in a university centric model. This is reflected in the way we talk about or don't talk about the incentives to publish and the reward mechanisms for publication. For scholars in the social sciences and humanities, the intent of publishing is that the work is read. It can be found, read, it can have an impact.

You can influence thought, debate, policy. You can educate now and into the future. More tangibly, publishing [...] for retaining position and is rewarded with promotions, salary increases and prestige. Indigenous community co-authors share some of the incentives and rewards, their knowledge is accessible and used to teach, learn and grow, and for the well-being of their peoples into informative thought, debate, policy and education.

A publication is also a vehicle for the legacy resilience of Indigenous cultures and peoples. For the community of co-authors, what are the tangible rewards? What's the compensation model? How does the removal of royalties or other financial returns influence participation in the knowledge economy? Identifying incentives and rewards among community-based partners in order to respond to them would be good action to take.

The third aspect definitely raises the amount of funding and financial ecosystem. Open access is about shifting costs away from the user and instead investing in the production publications. Two challenges that we encounter, among others, are that collaborative research requires collective planning and design of publications. We need funding programs that don't roll designation plans into a research grant proposal, but instead help design designated publication planning and production funds, including for honoraria and travel for community review processes, so that Indigenous co-creators in the relationships of research are actively part of the publication process. A network of supporters should also include multiple strategies: research, digital tech, indigenous education, private sectors, grassroots, government working within some sort of shared framework.

How do we mobilize a way into a diversified investment opportunity that brings value proposition? There's a lot to discuss and I'm grateful to be part of the workshop today and look forward to hearing other presenters and the discussion that takes place.

Thank you.