

Title: Repatriating the Self: Towards Inclusive Māori Librarianship

Presenter: Nicky Andrews

Abstract:

As an urban Māori raised without any knowledge of Tikanga Māori, and in a family which actively discouraged any participation in iwi or Māori matters, I consistently struggled with feelings of displacement and lack of worth which have carried through into adulthood. As an adult, I have taken steps to heal this displacement and immerse myself in Mātauranga Māori, through community-building, critical thinking, and efforts to decolonize my thinking and practice.

As a library professional, I know that practitioners in Aotearoa have Mātauranga Māori embedded into their library credentialing process, and through assessment measures such as BoK 11 and the efforts of Te Rōpū Whakahau. What options are available for Māori or indigenous library workers overseas to partake in similar learning and service opportunities? In what ways can we support each other amid challenges such as scarce funding resources, or lack of federal recognition for sovereign nations? In this paper, I will reflect on the efforts I have made to deepen my learning as a Māori librarian, the surprising connections I have made, and the creative ways I have engaged with indigenous knowledge systems while a student at the University of Washington Information School, and an NCSU Libraries Fellow at North Carolina State University. I will also attempt to outline some of the unique challenges to indigenous practitioners at libraries, universities, and museums, including coping with historical trauma, microaggressions, and burnout. Lastly, I will outline some of the ways that librarianship can be made more inclusive and welcoming to indigenous people, including looking at credentialing in North America and Aotearoa, and offering examples of indigenous librarianship and mentorship which have given me hope. Reflecting on my lived experiences will allow me to consider the sub-theme, *Hoea te waka*, and how we can move beyond narratives of grit and resilience, towards a more equitable profession.