

Title: Indigenous systems of knowledge at the intersections of the LIS field and academia

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Abstract:

The inclusion of Indigenous systems of knowledge (ISK) in the Library and Information Science (LIS) field is relatively new in the United States. After hundreds of years of attempted eradication of Indigenous knowledge systems and elimination of Indian self-government and Indian self-education, Native communities are now in a position to reclaim Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous education through institutions such as libraries, schools, and institutions of higher education. The inclusion of Indigenous systems of knowledge in LIS research requires an understanding of the historical role the US government has played in shaping the agenda when discussing Indigenous knowledge within library and information services to Native Americans. Thus, this paper will look at government-sponsored LIS projects and research in Indian country. This paper will also consider the important role professional associations have played in the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in the field. Finally, this paper will look at LIS academic institutions and their inclusion of Indigenous systems of knowledge as an intellectual construct. As an Indigenous PhD student/graduate, I will reflect on my journey in the LIS field in the United States and discuss some of the barriers, challenges, as well as opportunities to improve LIS education for Indigenous PhD students and Indigenous MLIS students.