

Title: nêhiyaw Kinship as a Framework for Information Literacy Instruction

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Abstract: Creating capacity in student researchers for self-care as they navigate challenging research is essential to an Indigenous information literacy framework. The violent processes of colonization and discrediting of Indigenous knowledge is at the core of much of the research done at universities, and as librarians teach information literacy without acknowledging that history, we continue to disregard the emotional and spiritual health of student researchers. Librarians should see building kinship and the resulting responsibility to create capacity for self-care during research as a fundamental component of Indigenous information literacy that combats the historical and ongoing violence experienced by Indigenous researchers in universities. Trauma and research intersect intimately for Indigenous students, so librarians need to address the student's whole self — mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical — in information literacy instruction. Librarians who perceive their research relationships through kinship in a nêhiyaw (Cree) and Michif (Métis) worldview have defined roles by relationality which structure the accountability towards their students. Kinship in this sense prompts people with two main questions: who are you responsible for? who are you accountable to?

In our roles as librarians doing information literacy instruction, we are responsible for students' holistic health – beyond the mental exercise of searching for resources – while researching. This session draws from a recently published chapter “Indigenous Information Literacy: nêhiyaw Kinship Enabling Self-Care in Research” from the book *The Politics of Theory and the Practice of Critical Librarianship*. There are some information literacy instruction models that begin to address emotional competency, but these are incomplete and exploratory; by contrast, the nêhiyaw law of wâhkôhtowin uses building kinship as a framework for distinct roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities. wâhkôhtowin can inform librarian's reciprocal research relationships with their students.