

# What role can the library play in engaging with Indigenous Knowledges?

Working with Indigenous Peoples and Priorities

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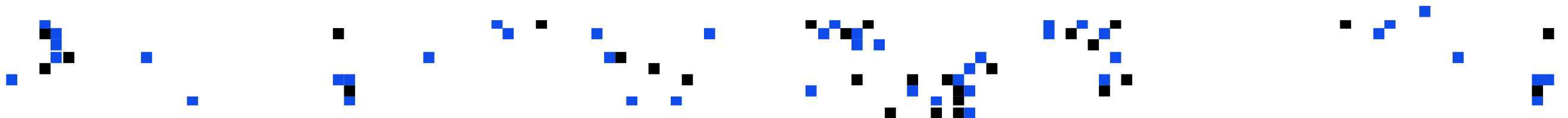
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Libraries and archives in Australia are failing  
to support the information needs of  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples  
in relation to the management, care and  
protection of Indigenous knowledges

As a sector we are not caring for people, the land, the stories in a way that supports Indigenous self-determination



Working with Indigenous people and priorities

Principles and protocols to build engagement

# Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities

NHMRC six core values from Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders

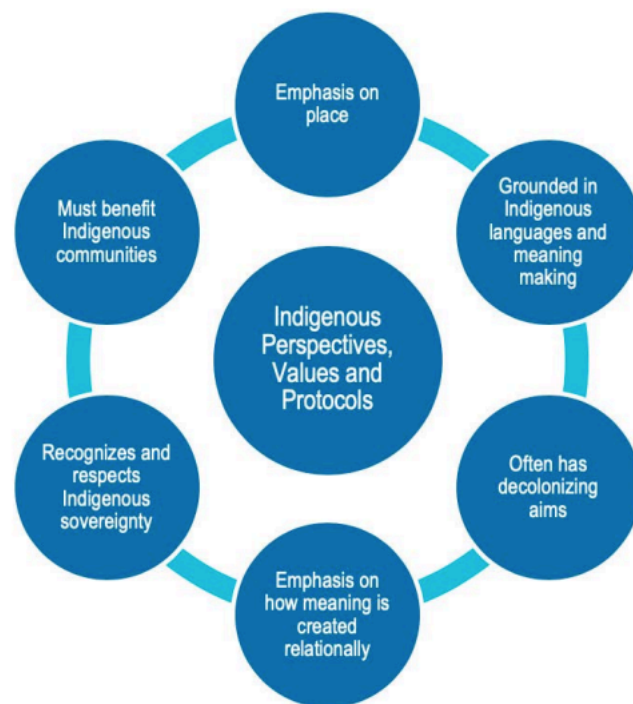
In these guidelines NHMRC outlines six core values – spirit and integrity, cultural continuity, equity, reciprocity, respect, and responsibility – which are to be addressed when undertaking research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.



<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/ethical-conduct-research-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-and-communities>

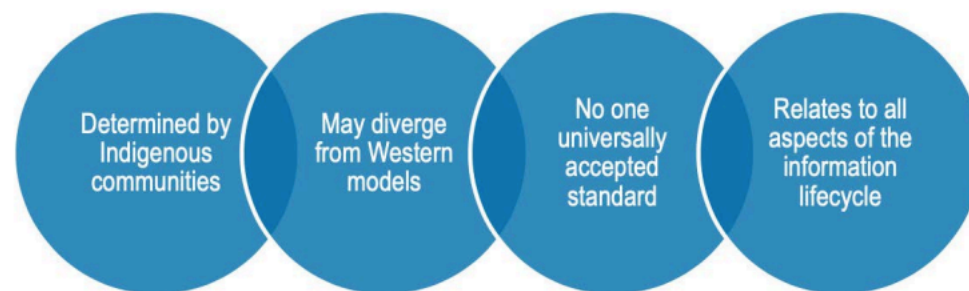
## ITHAKA S·R

A holistic perspective: Placing Indigenous perspectives at the center of inquiry



Cooper, D. (2019).  
When Research is  
Relational:  
Supporting the  
Research Practices  
of Indigenous Studies  
Scholars.

The interwoven characteristics of Indigenous information protocols



<https://sr.ithaka.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SR-Report-Research-Support-Services-Indigenous-Studies-04112019.pdf>

# Five Calls to Action

# Endorse and implement the ATSILIRN Protocols



## ATSILIRN Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services

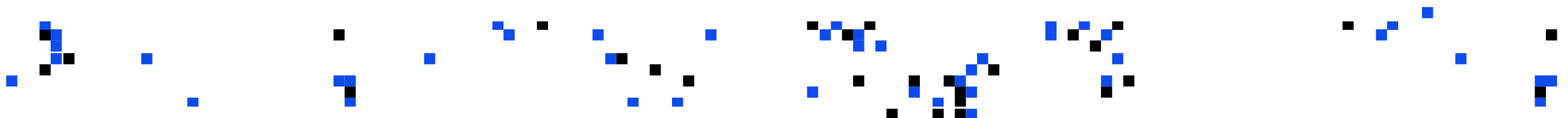
The Protocols cover focus areas of:

1. Governance and management
2. Content and perspectives
3. Intellectual property
4. Accessibility and use
5. Description and classification
6. Secret and sacred materials
7. Offensive
8. Staffing
9. Developing professional practice
10. Awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and issues
11. Copying and repatriation of records
12. The digital environment

Employment in  
leadership roles

Pathways in  
and out and up

<https://atsilirn.aiatsis.gov.au/protocols.php>



# Make space for Indigenous led research in library, archive and information studies

RESEARCH REPORT

April 11, 2019

## **When Research is Relational**

**Supporting the Research Practices of Indigenous Studies Scholars**

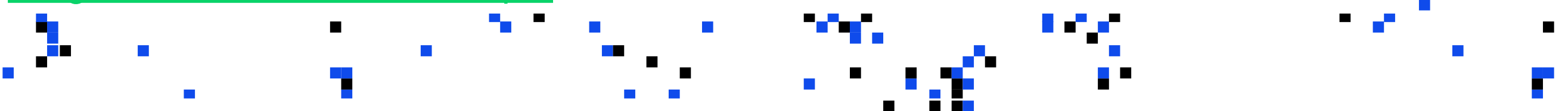
**Growing Institutional Capacity** – special considerations, professional and cultural competencies

**Broadening Opportunities for Information Discovery and Access** - Subject headings, catalog descriptions, and other metadata, Non-published materials and access for Indigenous communities.

**Building Collections** - Support Indigenous authors and Indigenous publishers, Collect and preserve content in new media formats, Honor Indigenous rights to information sovereignty

**Researching Information Support Needs in Indigenous Studies** - Privilege Indigenous perspectives and worldviews, Prioritize reciprocity.

<https://sr.ithaka.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SR-Report-Research-Support-Services-Indigenous-Studies-04112019.pdf>

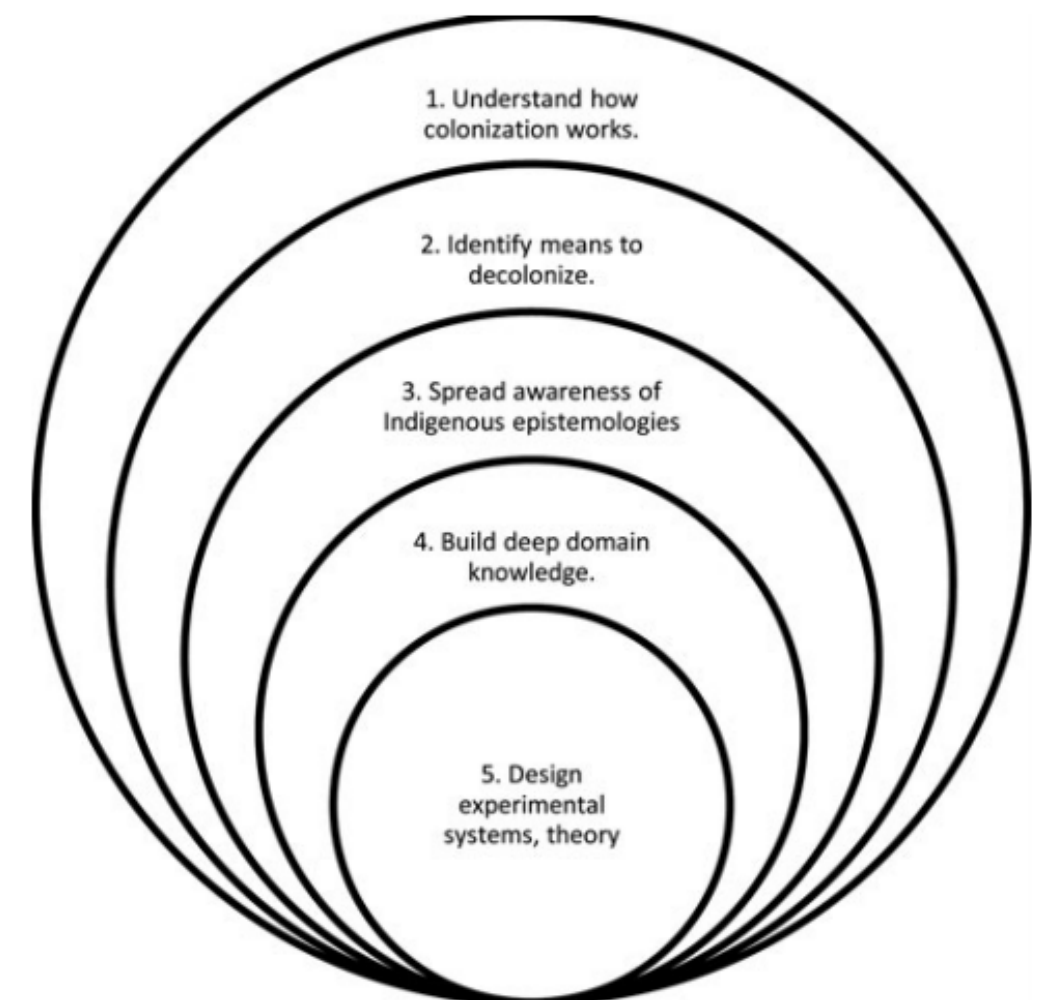


# Understand how colonisation works and support Indigenous ways of knowing & techniques for imagining

*M. E. Duarte and M. Belarde-Lewis*

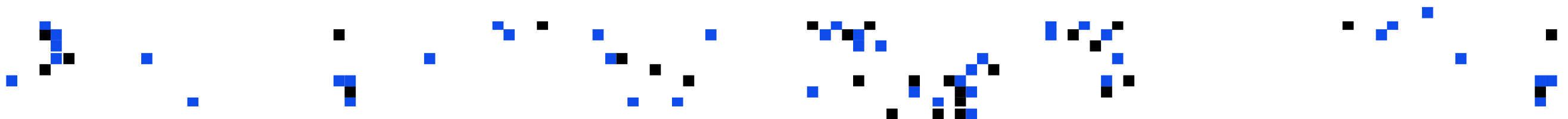
Duarte & Belarde-Lewis, (2015) Creating spaces for Indigenous Ontologies

Importance of building projects and systems with Indigenous people in the design process & Identifying ways to 'Decolonize through Digital Repositories'.



**FIGURE 1** Stages in the Technique of Imagining.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01639374.2015.1018396>



Be activists/advocates  
challenge neutrality  
be agents of change

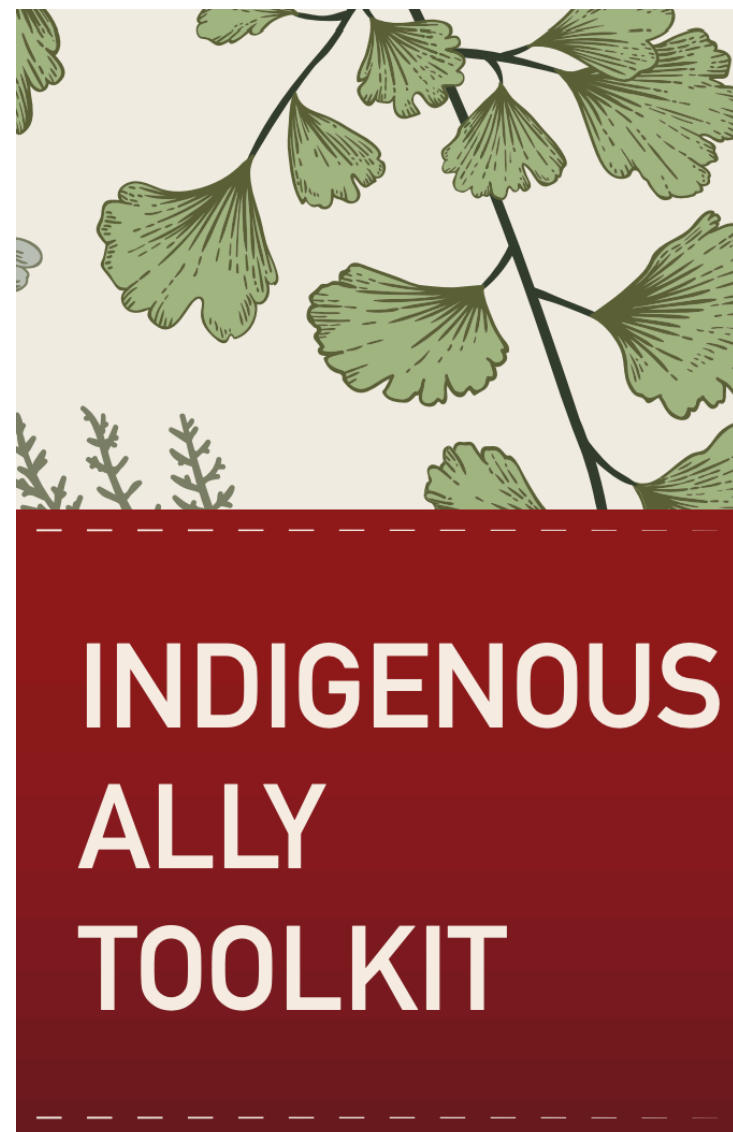
[HOME](#)[ACTIVITIES](#)[READINGS](#)[PARTICIPATE](#)[LINKS WE LOVE](#)[ABOUT US](#)

**Neutrality is a drag.**

<http://www.archivistsagainst.org/>

# Understand your own standpoint and your role

- Build relationships and listen
- Speak with local communities or local stakeholders
- Speak with other Indigenous people in the sector
- Radically realign resources to support action



## STEP #1: BE CRITICAL OF ANY MOTIVATIONS

When getting involved in this kind of work, one should ask themselves:

**Does my interest** derive from the fact that the issue is currently "buzzing"?

**Does my interest** stem from the fact that the issue will meet quotas or increase chances of any funding?

**Does my involvement hijack** the message and insert my own opinions or values instead of respecting those of the Indigenous communities?

**Am I doing this** to feed my ego?

These movements and struggles **do not** exist to further one's own self-interest, nor are they there as "extra-curricular" activities. <sup>2</sup>

HOW  
CAN  
I BE  
A GOOD  
ALLY?

Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network –  
<https://exchange.youthrex.com/toolkit/indigenous-ally-toolkit>

# Thank you

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