



VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY

# Situating Representations of Indigenous Knowledge in Place & Context: Recommendations for Vendors

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“... many of the commercial content products marketed to the Library are out of step with local decolonizing efforts”

## Migration to New Worlds



Discover the motives, aspirations, realities and personal hardships for European and Asian migrants during two centuries of global migration

Set against a backdrop of colonial expansion, industrial progress and global conflict, *Migration to New Worlds* tells the stories of individuals and families who risked everything to build new lives in North America and Australasia between 1800 and 1980.



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*With Vancouver Island University (VIU) campuses located in the traditional and unceded lands of the Snuneymuxw, Quw'utsun, Tla'amin, Snaw-naw-as, and Qualicum First Nations, working at VIU takes on a different meaning for everyone depending on the campus location, residence, and from whence one derives gratitude in relationship to the Indigenous communities in whose territories we live, learn, teach, and work. The relationships that the people who work at VIU Library have with Indigenous communities extend into communities within VIU's catchment region. From that awareness, we recognize that our work and how we strive to work with Indigenous communities is deeply personal in relationship to local Indigenous peoples and land.*

Created by:  
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Designed by:  
Danielle Cossey-Sutton

<https://library.viu.ca/IKRecsForVendors>

## Why These Recommendations?

VIU librarians are engaged in efforts to decolonize VIU Library services, guided by our [strategic plan](#), our [pledge](#) to our user communities, the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#), the Canadian Federation of Library Association's [Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations and Position Statement on Indigenous Knowledge in Canada's Copyright Act](#), and the [Ownership, Control, Access & Possession \(OCAP®\) Principles](#). In reviewing product information provided by vendors and publishers, significant concerns have arisen for us over the past several years about vendors' accountabilities in relationship to Indigenous peoples and ethics of care in respect for Indigenous communities' cultural property, in addition to representations of Indigenous peoples and context within metadata and content. Specifically, we have noted that many of the commercial content products marketed to the Library are out of step with local decolonizing efforts, and hence unacceptable for acquisition by VIU Library. As we undertake the ongoing learning necessary to realize our decolonization commitments, we respectfully offer these recommendations as a resource for vendors to consider and apply to their practice. The recommendations are intended to evolve and be adapted over time; we look forward to further conversations through which we will continue to learn together.

Image © Danielle Cossey-Sutton



# Content Warning

The following slides contain examples of harmful representations of Indigenous peoples.

# FRONTIER LIFE

*Borderlands, Settlement & Colonial Encounters*

*Experience life on the frontiers of the Anglophone world.*

*The settling of vast areas of the world by Europeans has left a particular and lasting influence on history. This collection of digitised primary source documents sheds light on the many dynamics of frontier existence and its lasting influence.*



*Frontier Life: Borderlands, Settlement and Colonial Encounters examines settlement, existence and interactions at the edge of the Anglophone world from 1650-1920. These digitised primary source documents cover the frontiers of North America, Africa and Australasia.*



## Source Archives

Material has been carefully selected from archives around the world:

American Philosophical Society, Pennsylvania  
California Historical Society  
Dolph Briscoe Center for American History,  
University of Texas at Austin  
Edmon College, Indiana  
Glenbow Museum  
Guilford College, North Carolina  
Hudson's Bay Company Archives and  
Archives of Manitoba

## Subject Areas

### Overview

*Frontier Life* is an interdisciplinary resource that

This online collection captures the lives of people living on the edge of European settlement across the various frontiers of North America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Through a huge array of digitised primary source materials it documents the creation of new states, trade networks, and movements of people in these regions alongside the marginalisation and decline of indigenous peoples. Material ranges across four centuries, from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century.

*Frontier Life* brings together documents from sixteen archives and libraries around the world. This geographical spread of material allows users to take a comparative approach or focus on a particular region, making it ideal for teaching and student projects, as well as more in-depth scholarly research.

The vast majority of the collection is never-before published, making it a vital resource for scholars and students of colonialism and imperialism, global history, historical geography, indigenous studies, the American West, Africa, Australasia, migration, borderlands and economic history.

"A presumption of innocence and exceptionalism is interwoven with the roots of frontier history, as Americans have understood it...Whatever meanings historians give the term, in popular culture it carries a persistently happy affect, a tone of adventure, heroism, and even fun very much in contrast with the tough, complicated, and sometimes bloody and brutal realities of conquest."

- White et al., *The Frontier in American Culture*, 1994.

## Consultant Editors

**Peter Blodgett**  
Huntington Library,  
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**Lorenzo Veracini**  
Swinburne University of  
Technology, Victoria

**Elliot West**  
University of Arkansas,  
Fayetteville



## 10 rules to survive in the marvelous but sinuous world of academia

A professor shares the (unwritten) rules he wants PhD students to know before embarking on their academic careers

- **People who are always pushing the limits, Pioneers.** ~~A pioneer, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, is a person who is one of the first to do something, who goes to a new area and builds a house, starts a farm, etc. In science, a pioneer is a person who is always trying to push the limits, always seeking new horizons, always opening new lines. Usually, these people fight strongly for the survival of their research group. To be in a place where the boss is like that a pioneer is a guarantee of better survival in this world.~~
- **Those who work in established ways and established areas.** These people are hard workers but not especially imaginative in terms of looking for new idea or business models. To be in a group like this could be fine to survive but never to be outstanding. ~~**Settlers.** This is a person who arrives in a new place in order to live there and use the land, according to the Cambridge dictionary. In science, a settler is usually a hard worker but not especially imaginative in terms of looking for new business models or ideas. To be in a settler group could be fine to survive, but never to be outstanding.~~

***Editor's note:** This post conveys the advice of a professor sharing his own reflections and experiences in academia. In response to your feedback, we have updated some of the language to better reflect our values of inclusivity. In the interest of transparency, we have left the original text so you can see how the article was revised.*



Iris bull  
@ibull

this artifact is not exceptional in its expressed sentiments or attitude towards "academic work." it participates in a sociotechnical imaginary of "academic work as colonial work," which some folks have been literally saying for decades. if the sponsorship is a surprise, ask why.



**DOMINICBOYER** @DominicBoyer · May 30

Elsevier sponsored "rules of academia" subdivides academics into three classes: pioneers, settlers and livestock. #openaccess  
elsevier.com/connect/10-rul...

# ProQuest's Digitization of American Indian Records Opens Paths for Exploring the Impact of Westward Expansion

36 new collections in American Indians and the American West, 1809-1971 join the expansive content in ProQuest® History Vault.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs files document the relationship between the U.S. Federal Government and American Indian tribes, agencies, and reservations. The files focus on several major areas. One group of files covers meetings between Indian delegations and the Office of Indian Affairs in Washington. Other major groupings of files cover Indian customs and social relations, education and schools on the reservations, alcohol use by Indians, and health conditions on the reservations.

**American Indians and the American West, 1809-1971** also includes correspondence of U.S. marshals, U.S. attorneys, state or territorial officials, and individual citizens who moved and settled in the West between 1809 and 1884. These files come from early records of U.S. Attorney General as the U.S. government attempted to impose some form of law and order in the Western States. These files include documentation on notable people such as Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, Jesse James and Frank James, and records on Tombstone, Arizona.

*“Don’t underestimate the power of one-dimensional storytelling and representation and how it can inform your worldview.”*

- Nova Reid, ["No More White Saviours, Thanks"](#)

LIMITER: Collection="Selections from the Javitch Collection" AND Language="Salishan languages"

## Content Types

Monographs (3)

## Analyze Results

Term Frequency

## Limit Search By

Search within results

## Subjects

Jesus Christ (1)  
Missionaries (1)  
Sermon on the mount (1)  
Sukkoth (1)

## Publication Year

1879-1914

## Monographs

Revise Search

Sort By Relevance



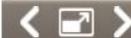
Kaiatonsera Teieriwakwatha Onkweonweneha: Tsini Kahaseres Iokarenre Oni, Nok Tsi Naiontkaristiotasi, Eso Oni...

Monograph

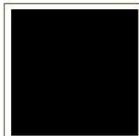


Cuoq, Jean André, 1821-1898

Tiohtiaki: Tebonaristorarakon E. Senekar nok Roienha [Montreal, E. Senécal], 1890. 437 pp.



[Full Citation](#) | [About this collection](#) | [Illustrated Work](#)



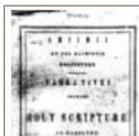
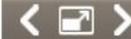
Jesus-Christ-Nim Kinne Uetas-Pa Kut Ka-Kala Time-Nin I-Ues Pilep-Eza-Pa Taz-Pa Tamtai-Pa Numipu-Timt-Ki

Monograph



Portland: [Press of Schwab Printing Co.], 1914, c1915. 406 pp.

[Full Citation](#) | [About this collection](#)



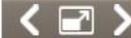
Lu tel Kaimintis Kolinzuten Kuittt Smiimii: Some Narratives, from the Holy Bible, in Kalispel: Compiled by the...

Monograph



Giorda, Joseph, 1823-1882

Montana: [s.n.], 1879 St. Ignatius Print. 161 pp.



[Full Citation](#) | [About this collection](#)

## Indian Legends of Vancouver Island: Illustrated by J. Semeyn

**Author:** Alfred Carmichael

**Publisher:** The Musson Book Company Limited (Toronto)

[c1922] 96 pages

**Collection:** Selections from Javitch Collection

### Selections from Javitch Collection

Selected titles reproduced here are drawn from the Gregory S. Javitch Collection housed at the of the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, University of Alberta, the complete collection of which comprises over 2,500 volumes related to North and South American indigenous peoples and cultures.

The finest private collection of its kind in Canada when it was acquired in 1980 by the University of Alberta, the books, photographs, and pamphlets that comprise the collection offer multiple, in-depth perspectives on indigenous culture, from the so-called "civilizing" of indigenous persons to respectful retellings of indigenous legends. The Javitch Collection includes materials on indigenous customs, dances, music, and traditions; indigenous warfare; European voyages of discovery; peace treaties and removal grants; legends, myths, and tales (including children's stories); and a collection of indigenous-language books. The selections included in *Indigenous Peoples: North America* brings together 465 titles published between the years 1676 and 1929.

### BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

The unsophisticated aboriginal of British Columbia is almost a memory of the past. He leaves no permanent monument, no ruins of former greatness. His original habitation has long given place to the frame house of sawn timber, and with the exception of the carvings in black slate made by the Hydah Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands, and the stone hammers, spear and arrow points, fashioned in the days before the coming of the white man, the mementos of his sojourn in British Columbia are only relics in wood, bark or reeds.

In the making of the stories into English, I have worked in what knowledge I have of the customs and habits of the West Coast Indians of Vancouver Island. In a few instances, due to a lack of refinement of thought in the original stories, I have taken some license in their transcription. The legends indicate the poetry that lies hid-

**Next Steps...**

# Resources

CFLA. (2018). [CFLA Position Statement on IK in Canada's Copyright Act](#).

CFLA (2017). [Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations](#).

First Archivist Circle. (2007). [Protocols for Native American Archival Materials](#).

First Nations Information Governance Centre. (2014). Ownership, Control, Access, Possession (OCAP): [The Path to First Nations Information Governance](#).

Local Contexts. [TK Notices](#).

Local Contexts. [TK Labels](#).

McCracken, K. (2020). [Community Based Access: Preserving and Sharing Indigenous Archival Materials](#).

Robichaud, D. (2020). [Integrating Equity and Reconciliation Work into Archival Descriptive Practice](#).

United Nations. (2008). [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

Vancouver Island University Library. (2020). [A Pledge to our User Communities](#).

Vancouver Island University Library. (2018). [VIU Library Administration Strategic Plan 2018](#).

Younging, Gregory. (2018). *Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples*.  
Edmonton: Brush Education.



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Huy tseep q'u

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