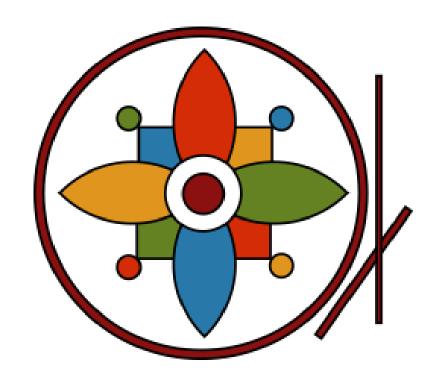
# **Digital** Scholarship Diasporic Collections

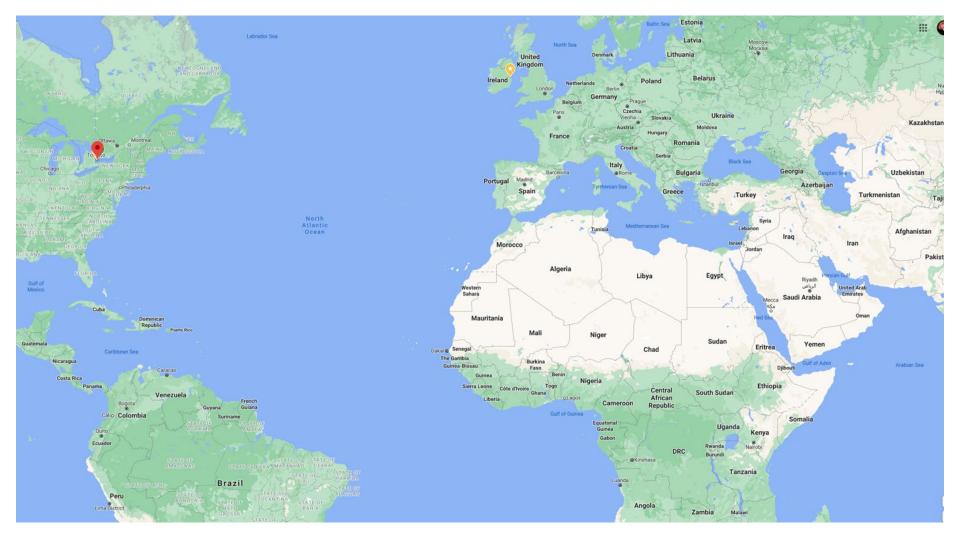
Digital Scholarship Unit UTSC Library

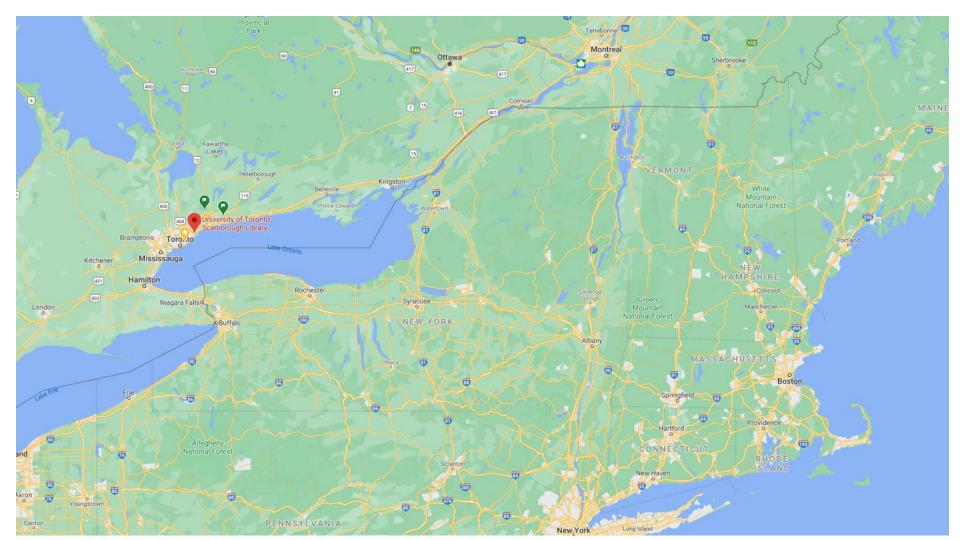


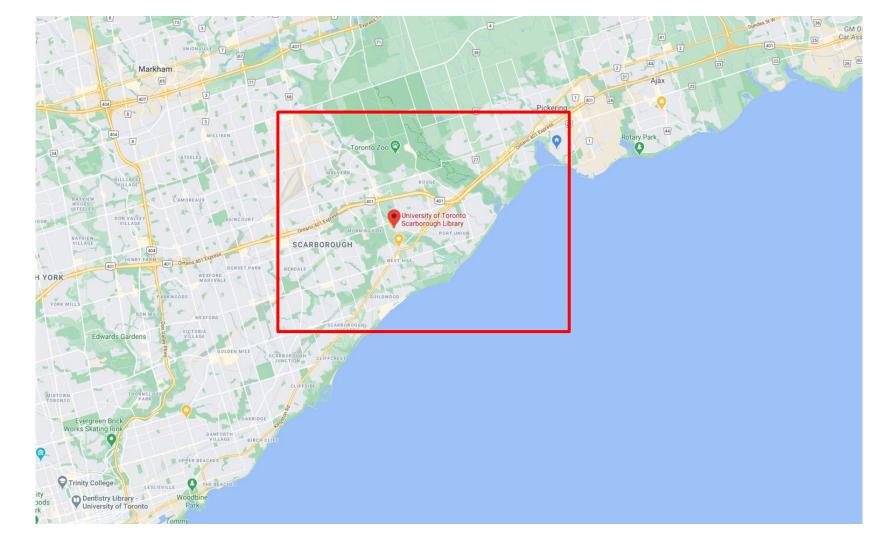




# Where is UTSC?









## Scarborough population in 2016: 631,890

A multicultural and multilingual community.

75% of Scarborough's population is made up of first or second generation immigrants.

45% speak a language other than English at home and 55% do not speak English as their first language.

Scarborough	2016	%
China	59,550	9.6%
Philippines	40,700	6.5%
Sri Lanka	40,090	6.4%
India	29,320	4.7%
Hong Kong	17,105	2.7%
Guyana	16,280	2.6%
Jamaica	15,085	2.4%
Bangladesh	13,960	2.2%
Pakistan	12,225	2.0%
Trinidad and Tobago	7,750	1.2%
All Others	100,585	16.1%
Total Immigrants	352,650	56.6%
Non-immigrants	253,690	40.7%
Non-permanent residents	16,795	2.7%
Total Population	623,135	100.0%

Source: City of Toronto Community Council Area Profiles





The eastern suburban campus of the University of Toronto Enrollment 2019/20 = 13, 829



University of Toronto Scarborough Library





### Digital Scholarship Unit

COLLECTIONS RESEARCH TEACHING & LEARNING SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE STAFF



The University of Toronto Scarborough Library's Digital Scholarship Unit (DSU) provides UTSC-specific support for digital scholarship in the areas of data, the digital humanities, digital collections building, digital archiving, and scholarly communications.

**Our Services** 

Data Acquisition & Normalization











"Canada — specifically, the area around the GTA and eastern Toronto — is home to one of the largest Tamil communities outside of the Indian sub-continent."

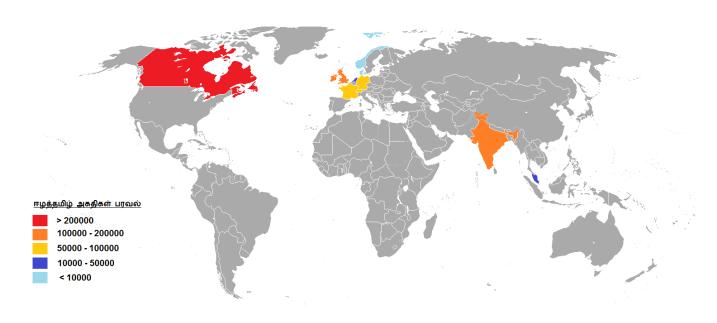
"UTSC Tamil Chair campaign surpasses \$2 million milestone," University of Toronto Scarborough, last modified 13 January 2021, https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/alumni/utsc-tamil-chair-campaign-surpasses-2-million-milestone.





## Sri Lanken Tamil Diaspora

Canada UK India Europe Australia Malaysia



"Sri Lankin Tamil Diaspora - Worldwide." Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora. Last modified 11 September 2021. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri\_Lankan\_Tamil\_diaspora">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri\_Lankan\_Tamil\_diaspora</a>





<sup>\*&</sup>quot;Inclusive Excellence in Action: 2019 Community Partnerships & Engagement Report," University of Toronto Scarborough.

# What are we doing?



- Local Academic Institutions & departments.
- Tamil computing community (Tamil Wikipedia and Mozilla groups)
- Community
   organizations like the
   Kaniyam and
   Noolaham foundation

https://tamil.digital.utsc.utoronto.ca/en/partners

### **Advisory Group**

The Digital Tamil Studies project benefits from the contributions of our Advisory group.

#### Ms. Srikanthaluxmy Arulanantham (Past member)

Chief Librarian - Jaffna University; former President of Sri Lanka Library Association;

#### Mr. Nadarajah Selvarajah

Jaffna Public Library, Evelyn Rutnam Institute for Inter-Cultural Studies, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

#### Dr. G Sundar

Director, Roja Muthiah Research Library; Archivist

#### Arun Mahizhnan

Chief co-ordinator of Singapore Digital Tamil Heritage projects, Researcher

#### Vivekananthan Ponnia

Tamil Language Lecturer @UTSC

#### A. R Venkatachalapathy

Madras Institute of Development Studies

Mariyapillai Jayakananthan

Eastern University, Sri Lanka

#### Shrinivasan T

Systems Analyst

Kaniyam Foundation

#### Srilata Raman

Associate Professor

University of Toronto, Dept of Religion

#### T. Shanaathanan

Professor, Fine Arts Department

University of Jaffna

#### James Nve

Bibliographer for Southern Asia, Emeritus.

University of Chicago

#### Darshan Ambavalanar

Director, Diaconal Ministries for the

Church of American Ceylon Mission

Batticaloa, Sri Lanka

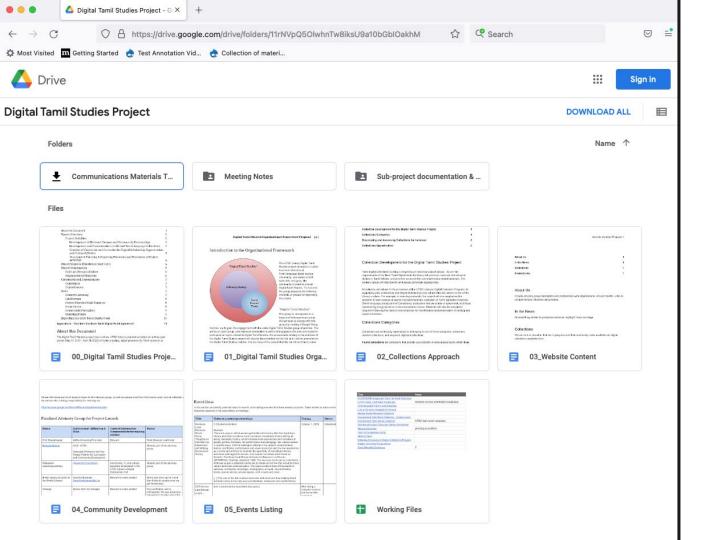
Evolving group of contributors to the projects of the Digital Tamil Studies.

https://tamil.digital.utsc.utoronto.ca/en/node/25



- Tamil Collections including born-digital and digital surrogates.
- Collection of academic and public interest.
- Collection of the project outputs.
- Bilingual data and interfaces for the collections.

https://tamil.digital.utsc.utoronto.ca/en/islandora/object/tamil:collection



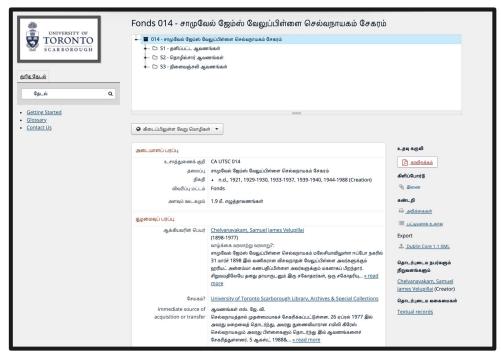
- MetadataDictionary
- Notes and Presentations
- Open collection of outputs (recordings from events, etc.)

https://drive.google.co m/drive/folders/11rNVp Q5OlwhnTw8iksU9a10b GbIOakhM



## **Major Metadata Work**

- Expanding the audience for the collections
- Multilingual
   MODS/MARC/RAD records
- Transliteration conventions
- Multilingual UI & Metadata
  - Extending open source platforms
  - Digital Collections software -Islandora
  - Digital Archive software AtoM (Archivist Tanis Franco)







### **Nationalized Tamil Books Collection**

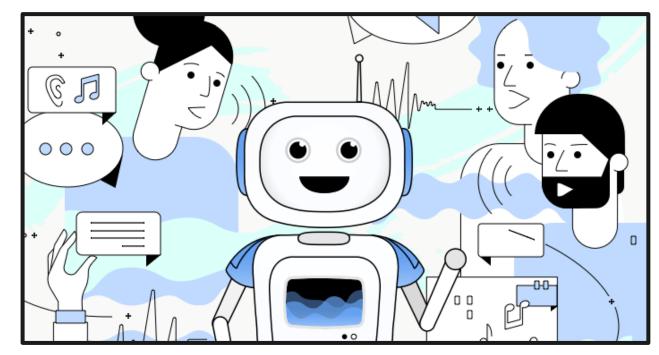
- 650 subvolumes (1100 works 210,000 pages) of seminal Tamil works of the 20th century
- One of few data collections in different formats (PDF, Text, and eBook formats)
  - Having text formats essential for things like screen readers and accessibility.
  - OCR is still not great.
- Partnering with the Kaniyam Foundation
  - Resources from the University of Toronto dramatically increased the speed of accessibility to the work.
  - Publisher has since passed away, so if we hadn't gotten the work now, we wouldn't have gotten these formats.





# Supporting the development of Tamil open language data sets (Mozilla Common Voice)

- Social media campaign and community outreach by partners
- 8x increase in contributions over the course of the initiative.
- Substantial increase in the diversity of voices.







### Digital Tamil Studies

A	COLLECTION	IS PARTNERS	NEWS	INITATIVES	Search the collections	GO
Eng	glish <b>v</b>					

Home / Collections / S. J. V. Chelvanayakam Fonds \* சா. ஜே. வே. செல்வநாயகம் சேகரம்

### S. J. V. Chelvanayakam Fonds \* சா. ஜே. வே. செல்வநாயகம் சேகரம்

The fonds reflects Chelvanayakam's career as a political leader of the Sri Lankan Tamil community, as well as documenting the daily operations of the Federal Party. The fonds documents important political events in Sri Lanka from the 1950s to the 1970s and provides witness to the struggles faced by Sri Lankan Tamils. The fonds also contains records relating to his family, background, and memorial material collected after his death by his wife, Emily Grace Chelvanayakam. The fonds is organized into three series and covers the periods of 1933-1937, 1939-1940, 1944-1988, with the bulk of the material being from the 1960s and 1970s. Personal records include correspondence, personal items, financial and estate documentation, and other material. Professional records include office files, party records, correspondence, and documentation. Memorial material includes posters, newspaper clippings, and a book of condolences. The digitized material is a selection of files from Series 2: Professional material.

இலங்கைத் தமிழ்ச் சமூகத்தின் முக்கியமானதொரு அரசியல் தலைவராக செல்வநாயகம் விளங்கியமையையும் இலங்கை தமிழரசுக் கட்சியின் நாளாந்த நடவடிக்கைகளையும் இச்சேகரம் பிரதிபலிக்கிறது. இச்சேகரம் இலங்கைக்கு அரசியல் நிகழ்வுகளை ஆவணப்படுத்துவதோடு இலங்கைத் தமிழர்கள் எதிர்கொண்ட போராட்டங்களுக்கு சாட்சியமாகன அரசியல் நிகழ்வுகளை ஆவணங்களையும் விளங்குகிறது. இச்சேகரம் செல்வநாயகம் அவர்களின் குடும்பம், பின்புலம் தொடர்பான ஆவணங்களையும் அவரது துணைவியார் எயில் கிரேஸ் செல்வநாயகம் சகரித்த நினைவஞ்சலி ஆவணங்களையும் கொண்டுள்ளது. மூன்று பிரதான வறிசைகாரக ஒழுங்குபடுத்தப்பட்டுள்ள இச்சேகரம் செல்வநாயகம் அவரது வறிசைகாரக ஒழுங்குபடுத்தப்பட்டுள்ள இச்சேகரம் 1933-1937, 1939-1940, 1944-1988 ஆகிய காலப்பகுதிகளுக்கான ஆவணங்களை உள்ளடக்கியுள்ளது. இவற்றுள் பெருமளவிலான ஆவணங்கள் 1960, 1970 காலப்பகுதியைச் சேர்ந்தவை ஆகும். தனிப்பட்ட ஆவணங்கள் கடிதத் தொடர்பு, தனிப்பட்ட பொருட்கள், நிதி மற்றும் தேயிலைத் தோட்டத்துடன் தொடர்புடைய ஆவணங்கள், ஏனைய ஆவணங்களை உள்ளடக்கியுள்ளன. தெருமில்சார் ஆவணங்கள் கடிதத் தொட்புகள், கட்சி ஆவணங்கள், கடிதத் தொடர்பு, ஏனைய ஆவணங்களை உள்ளடக்கியுள்ளன. நினைவஞ்சலிக் குறிப்பேடு ஆகியவற்றை உள்ளடக்கியுள்ளன. எண்ணிமப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ள ஆவணங்கள் வரிசை 2: தெருமில்சார் ஆவணங்களிலிருந்து தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்ட வையாகும்.



Active Members
Application Form from
S. Ponnaiah to ITAK
General Secretary



Letter from K.
Sivanandasundaram
[Administrative
Secretary] to the
Secretary, ITAK
Colombo Branch



All parties public meeting minutes and resolutions



Telegram from Sundaram to the President, ITAK



Letter from K.
Subramaniam
[Treasurer, ITAK
Colombo Branch] to the
Treasurer, ITAK



Letter from K[?]. S. Chandrahasan [Assistant Secretary, ITAK Colombo Branch] to the Administrative Secretary, ITAK





- Widening access to the archival arm of the project.
- Archivist collaborated with cataloguer for bilingual, open finding aids in Tamil/English.
- YCW funded a student who digitized a large section of the archive for inclusion in the digital collections.

https://tamil.digital.utsc.utoronto.ca/islandora/object/tamil:sjvc



Main page
Community portal
Project chat
Create a new Item
Recent changes
Random Item
Query Service
Nearby
Help

Lexicographical data

Create a new Lexeme Recent changes Random Lexeme

Tools

Donate

Atom
User contributions
Logs

View user groups Special pages Printable version Special page

### User contributions for UTSC Library DSU

For UTSC Library DSU (talk | block log | uploads | logs | filter log)

#### ✓ Search for contributions

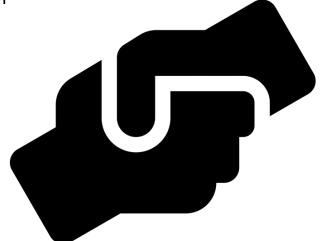
(latest I earliest) View (newer 50 I older 50) (20 I 50 I 100 I 250 I 500)

- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+2,025) . . Sri Lankan Constitution of 1972 (Q16969616) (Changed label, description and/or aliases in ta, and other parts: chelva archive of
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+1,991) . . 1970 Ceylonese parliamentary election (Q5065816) (Changed label, description and/or aliases in en, ta, and other parts: chelv [3.4])
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+1,991) . . 1965 Ceylonese parliamentary election (Q5065815) (Changed label, description and/or aliases in en, ta, and other parts: chelv [3,4])
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+1,991) . . 1956 Ceylonese parliamentary election (Q5065814) (Changed label, description and/or aliases in en, ta, and other parts: chelv [3.4])
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+1,948) . . Sino-Indian War (Q208694) (Changed label, description and/or aliases in ta, and other parts: chelva archive data contribution (
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+2,568) . . Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact (Q4854445) (Changed label, description and/or aliases in en, ta, and other parts: chelva a
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+3,334) . . N 1951 Trincomalee Conference (Q106594848) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current) (Tag
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+2,897) . . N 1963 Vanni Colonisation Schemes (Q106594847) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current) (
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+3,341) . . N 1963 Eechilampattu colonisation (Q106594846) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current) (Ta
- 40.50 CO And COOK (AMILIA) (10.000) NACCO Description (Annual Control of the Cont
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+2,881) . . N 1963 Deegavapi colonisation (Q106594845) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current) (Tag: (
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+3,316) . . M 1963 Kantalai colonisation (Q106594844) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current) (Tag: Op
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+3,278) . . N 1950 Allai Scheme (Q106594843) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current) (Tag: OpenRefin
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+3,293) . . N 1949 Ceylon Gal Oya Scheme (Q106594842) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current) (Tag
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+2.982) . . N 1962 closure of Tamil teacher training colleges (Q106594841) (Created a new Item; chelva archive data contribution (details)
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+2,903) . . N Census of Population & Housing 1963 (Q106594840) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (currently contribution)
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) ... (+2,985) ... N 1963 boycott of the Independance Commemoration Day celebrations (Q106594839) (Created a new Item: chelva archive da
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) ... (+3,340) ... N 1976 assault by the army personnel (Q106594838) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (details)) (current)
- 16:52, 22 April 2021 (diff I hist) . . (+3,406) . . N 1962 shooting of a fishing boat by the Ceylon Navy (Q106594836) (Created a new Item: chelva archive data contribution (de



# Training the next generation

- "Emerging Professionals Program"
  - Tamil work-study students working on metadata enrichment for Tamil language collections
  - Engaging emerging professionals in the practice of community-focused description.
- Tamil Storytelling Fellowship

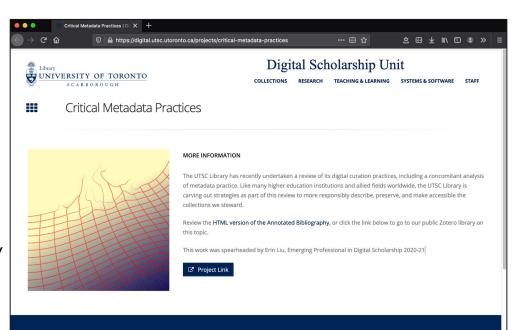






### **Critical Metadata Practices**

- A resource to support decolonial, anti-racist and liberatory metadata practices
- Three components:
  - (1) a Zotero reading list,
  - (2) an annotated bibliography on description
  - (3) a 'Metadata Induction Guide'



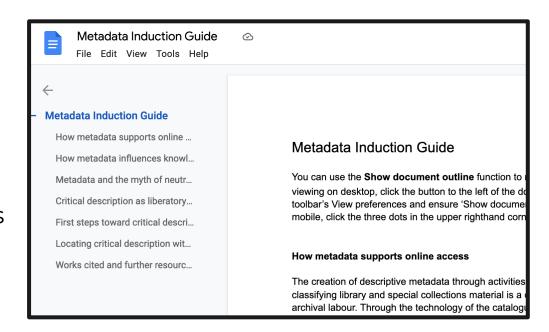
Screenshot of <u>the Critical Metadata Practices</u> <u>research page</u> from the DSU website.





### **Metadata Induction Guide**

- Targeted toward new cataloguers
- Provides background and training on metadata and critical description practices
- Adapts Archives 4 Black
   Lives in Philadelphia's Anti Racist Description
   Resources



Cropped screenshot of the Metadata Induction Guide (a Google Doc), focusing on the document outline.



# Challenges

- Technicalities of producing multilingual metadata.
- Consistent resourcing of staff with language/cultural expertise (funding!)
- Institutional Challenges
  - Building partnerships with institutions that are less known or legible to the parent institution.
- Ethical/copyright issues surrounding access & collections.





### **Attribution**



Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

The University of Toronto Scarborough Library's <u>Digital Scholarship Unit</u> provides UTSC-specific support for things like data, scholarly communications, and the digital humanities. Contact your liaison librarian to learn more. This presentation was created by:

Kirsta Stapelfeldt, Head, Digital Scholarship Unit (DSU)

Natkeeran Ledchumkanthan, Software Developer, DSU

Sonia Dhaliwal, Data & Digital Collections Librarian, DSU

**Erin Liu**, Assistant Archivist, Archives & Special Collections Centre, University of the Arts London

The projects described in this presentation have benefitted from the financial support of the <u>Young Canada Works</u> program and the Brenda Beck Tamil Digital Fund.

