

Partnership in Practice: North/Nord Indigenous Works

PCC at Large Virtual Conference

April 22, 2026



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LIBRARIES



Speakers

**North: the Canadian Shared Print Network/
Nord: Réseau canadien de conservation partagée des documents imprimés**

Sheila Laroque-Bear, Indigenous Knowledges Coordinator
Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries
Chair, Indigenous Works Working Group

Katya Pereyaslavskaya, Coordinator, North/Nord & COPPUL SPAN

University of Toronto Libraries

Juliya Borie, Librarian - Serials Cataloguer, Member, North/Nord Indigenous Works Subgroup
Kaelen Bennett, Systems and E-Resource Access Coordinator
Kyla Overall, Downsview Coordinator & Keep@Downsview Project Manager
Polina Vendrova, Metadata Creation Specialist
Susan Bond, Discovery Systems Librarian



Agenda

- Essential Considerations: Ethics, Reconciliation, Equity, and Sustainability
- Shared Print in Canada
- North/Nord Indigenous Historical Periodical Dataset
- UTL approach to project
- Metadata challenges and opportunities
- Indigenous languages in the MARC Code List for Languages
- ISO 639-3 language codes following PCC Guidelines
- Practices and tools for cataloguing materials written in Aboriginal Syllabics



Essential Considerations: Ethics, Reconciliation, Equity, and Sustainability

Sheila

Ethical considerations: “Position Statement on Ethical Considerations for the Indigenous Historical Periodical Dataset Project”

- 1) Land Acknowledgement
 - Connection to the land and resource-intensive aspect of newspapers
- 2) Indigenous Data Sovereignty
 - CARE Principles and First Nations Principles of OCAP
- 3) Open Data repository goals for metadata maintenance
 - Issue of metadata in proprietary subscription-based platforms
- 4) Respectful Terminology and Inclusive Descriptions
 - Problematic LCSH and OCLC FAST headings
- 5) Environmental and Ethical Aspects of Artificial Intelligence
 - Evaluate use cases. AI does not replace human critical thinking and cataloguing expertise

- Reparative descriptions and metadata refinement: workshops, augmenting metadata
- Connecting with Indigenous communities and established groups
- Preservation and stewardship of these materials compliments these goals. Interconnected themes informs our approach.



Shared print

Katya

“Shared print is the practice whereby a group of libraries share responsibility for managing print materials. This will include a commitment to retaining specific materials for an agreed upon period of time” (Shared Print Toolkit, Shared Print Partnership)



- Agreement between participating institutions as to who will retain what material for a set time period
- Multiple approaches to shared print
- Benefits to cooperative management of print collections:
 - Preserving long-term access to research collections
 - Working collaboratively to develop responses to common local problems
 - Partners able to regain space to respond to changing library priorities and needs

Shared Print in Canada

Katya

- North/Nord is the national shared print program that has a coordinating role
- Work happening at the regional level
 - COPPUL SPAN (Western Canada)
 - Keep@Downsview (Ontario)
 - PBUQ (Quebec)
 - Developments in Atlantic Canada



North: the Canadian Shared Print Network/ Nord: Réseau canadien de conservation partagée des documents imprimés

Established in 2021 and governed by a Steering Committee with representatives from our funding consortia:

Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)
Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)
Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL)
Library & Archives Canada (LAC)
Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL)
Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec (PBUQ)
The Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) [HOSTING ORG](#)

Retentions

Government Documents (monographs) (**17,672 titles**)
Indigenous Works (**~1330**)
Canadian University Presses (exceeded **120,000 titles**)
1:50k Topo Maps (expected to be around **25,000 titles**)

North/Nord Indigenous Historical Periodical Dataset Project

Sheila

1) COPPUL Indigenous Historical Periodicals Working Group

- Curated the dataset and performed metadata matching on library holdings across Canada.
- Developed a [dataset of indigenous periodical publications](#) held across Canadian libraries.
- Chaired by Sheila Laroque-Bear who formed subgroup to work with the metadata in the dataset:
 - What would a scarcity analysis and retention process look like for these types of materials?
 - What special considerations are needed?
 - Who to involve?

2) North/Nord Indigenous Works Subgroup

(indigenous-works-subgroup@coppul.ca)

- Members initially included OCUL members based on their experience working in collaborative systems and reparative descriptions.
- Additional member from U of A recently joined.
- Strategize how to work with the metadata (confirming holdings, analysis, scarcity determinations, etc.).
- Discuss ethical considerations, balancing preservation with responsible stewardship, community consultation.
- Goals of open data, responsible stewardship, equity and sustainability.
More on the website: <https://northnordsharedprint.ca/indigenous-works/>



Project Foundations

Sheila

Borealis > PRISM Data: University of Calgary's Data Repository >

Indigenous Historical Periodicals Dataset

Version 4.0



Ruddock, Kathryn; Reid, Laura; Brigham, Doug; Kaufhold, Matt; Chatterley, Trish; Everall, Kyla; Ford, Lyle; Laroque, Sheila, 2023, "Indigenous Historical Periodicals Dataset", <https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/JGN15S>, Borealis, V4, UNF:6:Ds71NcxFCC9txgfDK/+qeQ== [fileUNF]

Cite Dataset ▾

Learn about [Data Citation Standards](#).



Shared Print at UTL

Kyla

- UTL involved in multiple SP programs and projects
- Our standard approach is not the right fit for this kind of project
- Increase focus on collaboration, consultation
- Relationship with collection emphasized
- Embracing ambiguity



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UTL approach to N/N Indigenous Works

Kyla

North Nord Partner Holdings - Indigenous periodicals

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

75% | £ % .0+ .00 123 | Arial | 10 | B I A

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K |
|----------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|--------|
| Found on shelf | Condition | Location of items | Holdings extent | Indigenous content? | Language | Notes | Title | Title Family | In Scope | Status |
| | | | | | | | (The) Micmac news | NS2 | N | |
| | | | | | | | [Legal Services Society of British BC89 | BC89 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | [Legal Services Society of British BC89 | BC89 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | [Legal Services Society of British BC89 | BC89 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | [Legal Services Society of British BC89 | BC89 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve | ON2 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve | ON2 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve | ON2 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Aboriginal Voice (The) | ON5 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | Aboriginal Voices | ON6 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | Aboriginal Voices | ON6 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | Aboriginal Voices | ON6 | TBD | |
| Yes | Good | Circulating location | 1997 | Entire publication is Indi... | English & French | | Aboriginal women: meeting the ch | ON7 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | Agenutemagen | NB1 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Agenutemagen | NB1 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Algoma Missionary News and Shi | ON13 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Algoma Missionary News and Shi | ON13 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Algoma Missionary News and Shi | ON13 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Algoma Missionary News and Shi | ON13 | N | |
| | | | | | | | Algoma Missionary News and Shi | ON13 | N | |
| Yes | Very good | Special collection/non-cl... | Issue No. 2 Spring 1984 | Entire publication is Indi... | English | Includes laid-in material: a statem | Almighty voice | BC8 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | American Indian art magazine | US6 | TBD | |
| | | | | | | | American Indian art magazine | US6 | TBD | |

Metadata Challenges in Shared Collections Analysis

Juliya

Why Comparing Serial Collections is Hard

- Serials change over time (titles, publishers, identifiers)
- Exist in multiple formats (print, online, microfilm)
- Libraries describe the same journal differently
- Overlap is rarely a simple “yes/no”

American Indian Art - 0362-2630

American Indian Art Magazine - 0192-9968

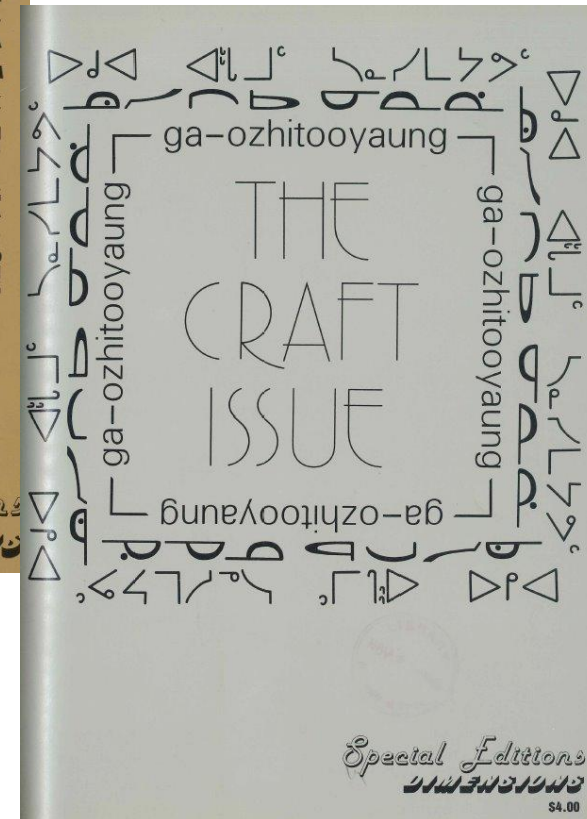
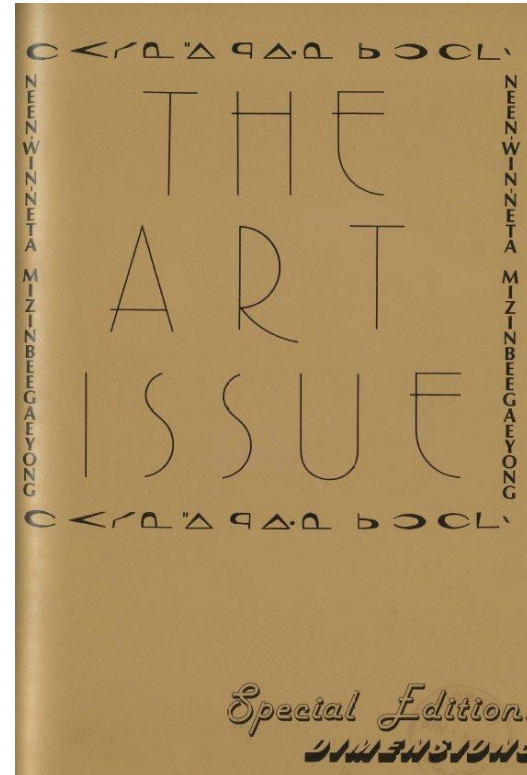
CONSER - A change in title, once determined, always necessitates a new record, regardless of the choice of main entry.



Subject Heading Refinement

Juliya

- Many print periodicals have generic and/or harmful subject headings
- NIKLA-ANCLA National Indigenous Knowledge & Language Alliance / Alliance nationale des connaissances et des langues autochtones
[Respectful Terminology Platform Project \(RTPP\)](#)
- First Nations House of Learning Subject Headings
[Indigenous Knowledge Organization | Xwi7xwa Library](#)
- Proposed changes to LCSH
- Changes to CHS (Canadian Subject Headings)
- Changes to RVM (Répertoire de vedettes-matière)



UTL Context

- UTL joined PCC in 2019 (NACO, EMCO Early adopters)
- UTL is committed to continuously developing Indigenous materials in the collection through relationship building and community care work
- The collection prioritizes works written by Indigenous peoples
- This commitment creates a need for accurate and culturally responsive metadata
- In 2021, UTL struck an *Indigenous Metadata Working Group*, a tri-campus group focused on:
 1. Continue to develop our cultural competencies as they relate to Indigenous Peoples
 1. Note: we use a sharing circle format for part of our learning
 2. Consult with our communities, and participate in whatever capacities are needed (such as collaborators, supporters, or mentors)
 3. Actively participate on national and international initiatives when opportunities are available (such as PCC, NIKLA, CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matters Committee, etc.)
 4. Use normalization rules to change the display of problematic or offensive subject headings in order to support researchers using preferred terminology in their searches
 5. Reclassify existing collections (with particular focus on E class) if preferred by our communities



UTL Context

- Agreements to collect collaboratively in Indigenous languages
- UTL will collect comprehensively in Anishinaabemowin and Mohawk
- Note: Our language collecting commitment is complicated because the US/CAN border splits Haudenosaunee territory
- Rematriating Indigenous materials and Knowledge back to the community - returning a book called *The Sacred Scrolls of the Southern Ojibway* back to the Midewiwin Lodge (Wong, 2024; Wong & Redden, 2026)
- Indigenous language learning opportunity to learn Kanyen'kéha Mohawk Language



The screenshot shows a Canvas LMS interface. On the left is a dark blue navigation sidebar with icons for Home, Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, History, Course Evals, and Help. The main content area has a header 'UTL-MohawkLanguageInstruction' and a title 'Learn Kanyen'kéha: Mohawk Language Instruction for University of Toronto Library Staff'. Below the title is a greeting in Mohawk: 'Shé:kon! Hello! Sateweyénstha ken Kanyen'kéha?'. A central image shows two flags: a red flag with a yellow sun and a blue flag with white geometric patterns. At the bottom, there is a small line of text: 'Welcome to the Learn Kanyen'kéha Course page. Here, you will find information about our instructor, meeting discussions, and supplemental materials.'



Indigenous languages in MARC

| MARC code | MARC name |
|-----------|---|
| alg | Algonquian (Other) |
| ath | Athapascan (Other) |
| bla | Siksika |
| chn | Chinewyan |
| cpf | Creoles and Pidgins, French-based (Other) |
| cre | Cree |
| dak | Dakota |
| den | Slavey |
| dgr | Dogrib |
| gwi | Gwich'in |
| hai | Haida |
| iku | Inuktitut |
| ipk | Inupiaq |
| iro | Iroquoian (Other) |
| kut | Kootenai |
| mic | Micmac |
| moh | Mohawk |
| nai | North American Indian (Other) |
| oji | Ojibwa |
| sal | Salishan languages |
| tli | Tlingit |
| tsi | Tsimshian |
| wak | Wakashan languages |

| 20 most-spoken Indigenous languages in Canada | # speakers |
|---|------------|
| Cree languages | 86,475 |
| Inuktitut | 40,320 |
| Ojibway languages | 25,440 |
| Oji-Cree | 15,210 |
| Innu (Montagnais) and Naskapi languages | 11,605 |
| Dene | 11,375 |
| Mi'kmaq | 9,000 |
| Atikamekw | 6,740 |
| Blackfoot | 6,585 |
| Slavey-Hare languages | 2,215 |
| Tlicho (Dogrib) | 2,115 |
| Anicinabemowin (Algonquin) | 1,925 |
| Michif | 1,845 |
| Dakelh (Carrier) | 1,530 |
| Dakota | 1,505 |
| Mohawk | 1,435 |
| Halkomelem | 1,335 |
| Gitxsan (Gitksan) | 1,110 |
| Nisga'a | 1,080 |

Languages not represented in MARC:

- Dane-zaa (Beaver)
- Gitxsan (Gitksan)
- Inuinnaqtun
- Nisga'a
- Oji-Cree
- Stoney
- Straits
- Wetsuwet'en-Babine

[StatCan Indigenous languages in Canada report \(2023\)](#)

[MARC language codes](#)



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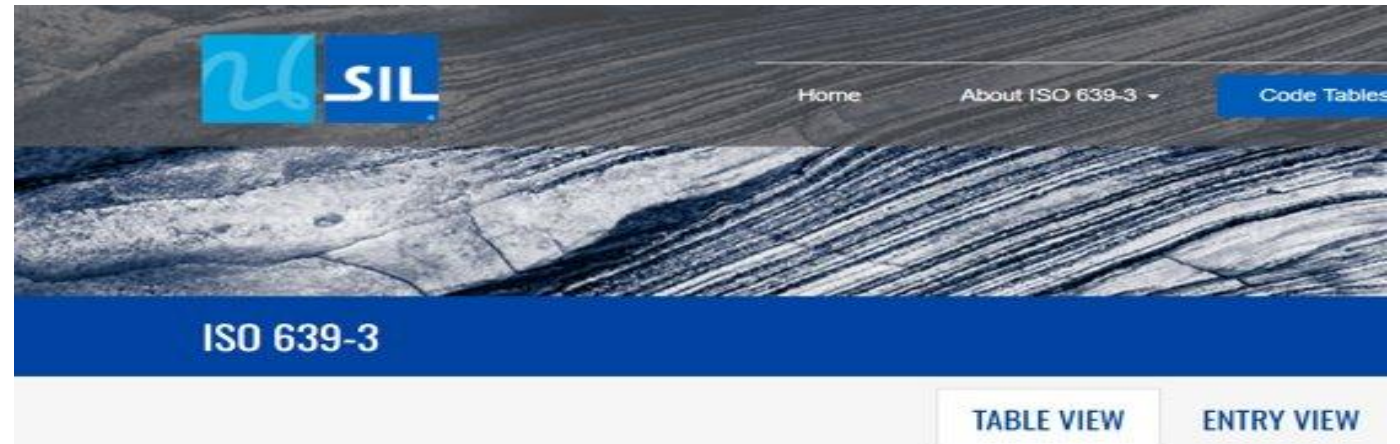
Issues with Indigenous languages in MARC

- Outdated, inappropriate, and ambiguous terminology
 - “North American Indian” (nai) code: outdated & incorrect term
 - “Micmac” (mic) language code: outdated, anglicized term for Mi’kmaw (Goodyear, 2020)
- Not all languages are represented
 - Ex: Oji-Cree has no code, but is the 4th most-spoken language in Canada (spoken by First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario)
- Obscuring of language diversity through collective language codes
 - Over 70 distinct languages in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2023)
 - Similar problem has been documented with Pacific Indigenous languages (Kleiber et al., 2018) and other North American Indigenous languages (Davis, 2025; Hunter, 2021)
- “Materials in the collection with less common Indigenous languages are consequently hidden by inaccurate cataloguing. As a result, Indigenous researchers and those researching Indigenous materials are left without their information needs met” (Hunter, 2021)



ISO 639-3 Language codes

- International standard on language codes
- SIL International, the Language Coding Agency for 639-3
- Provide accurate and granular language information
- Can be particularly useful for Indigenous languages that lack specific MARC language codes



PCC Guidelines for the use of ISO 639-3 language codes in MARC records (2022)

Recommends using ISO 639-3 codes alongside MARC codes in 041

“Non-MARC language codes cannot be input in 008/35-37” & mapping issues

Main recommendations:

1. Code **both the MARC and ISO 639-3 language codes** whenever entering ISO 639-3 code.
2. Encourage **coding ISO 639-3 codes when they are more specific** than the MARC codes and discourage (but not forbid) manual coding of ISO 639-3 codes where we anticipate that they can later be automatically mapped.
3. If any ISO 639-3 code is recorded, **include the ISO 639-3 codes for all other languages** associated with the resource.
4. When working with materials in macrolanguages (groups of related languages where collocation is deemed useful for retrieval), code **the more specific language when known**.

```
008 131017t20132013sncc\\\\\\d\\\\\\000\0\eng\\
```

```
041 0\saeng$acpf
```

```
041 17$saeng$acrg$2iso639-3
```

```
100 1\saFleury, Norman,$sauthor.
```

```
245 10$aMichif dictionary 2013 /$cNorman Fleury.
```

```
264 \1$aSaskatoon, SK :$bGabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research,$sissuing  
body,$c[2013]
```



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What we're doing locally

- Adding ISO 639-3 languages to public display as requested (by cataloguers)
 - also adding them to the options in the 041 dropdown in our Metadata Editor
- Why not just add all language codes to display now?
 - some cleanup may be necessary - thousands of codes that might be there in error
 - not always 1-to-1 (e.g. FRE in LC is FRA in ISO 639-3) and multiple codes can't be merged to one language
 - older records won't have the codes, don't want to create impression that facet/dropdown is comprehensive
- Adding Indigenous languages spoken in Ontario to advanced search **only after work done to update existing records**
 - Michif
 - Oji-Cree
 - Oneida
 - Cayuga
 - Seneca
 - Onondaga
 - Tuscarora
 - Wendat



Handling large numbers of records

- Alma Analytics: searching the 546 allowed us to target languages mentioned in Language notes, compare to 008/041, also need to check 245/500



| MMS Id | Title | Language Code | 041 - Local Param 11 | 546 - Local Param 12 | Num of Loans (In House + Not In House) |
|--------------------|--|---------------|---|---|--|
| 991105871280406196 | The secret of your name : proud to be Métis = Kiimooch ka shinikashooyen : aen kishchitaymook aen li Michif iwik / | eng | \$\$a eng \$\$a cpf \$\$h eng; \$\$a eng \$\$a crg \$\$h eng \$\$2 iso639-3 | \$\$a Text in English and Michif. | 0 |
| 991105888586506196 | Michif dictionary 2013 / | eng | \$\$a eng \$\$a cpf; \$\$a eng \$\$a crg \$\$2 iso639-3 | \$\$a The dictionary presents words in English followed by their Michif equivalent. Following the dictionary is a list presenting common phrases in English followed by their equivalent in Michif. | 1 |
| 991105913007406196 | Manny's memories / | eng | \$\$a eng \$\$a cpf \$\$h cpf; \$\$a eng \$\$a crg \$\$h eng \$\$2 iso639-3 | | 2 |
| 991105993025306196 | Pierriche Falcon, the Michif rhymester : our Métis national anthem : the Michif version / | eng | \$\$a eng \$\$a fre \$\$a cpf \$\$h eng \$\$h fre \$\$h cpf; \$\$a eng \$a fre \$\$a crg \$\$h eng \$\$h fre \$\$h crg \$\$2 iso639-3 | \$\$a Text chiefly in English; lyrics of songs in French, Michif and English. | 0 |
| 991105994983606196 | The Michif dictionary : Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree / | eng | \$\$a crg \$\$2 iso639-3 | | 0 |



Michif available as a filter and in Advanced search

Filter your results ×

Oral Tradition Prairie Provinces (6)

Métis Comic Books Strips Etc (6)

Show More ▾

Publication Date —

From* 1983 - To* 2021

Language —

English (36)

Michif (36)

Creoles and pidgins, French-based (33)

Cree (3)

French (2)

1-10 of 36 Results 10 results ▾

1 BOOK



Stories of Métis women : tales my kookum told me

By Oster, Bailey, author.

Published: Calgary, Alberta : Durvile & UpRoute Books; 2021

A collection of stories about culture, history, and nationhood as told by Métis women.

● Available at Victoria University E.J. Pratt Library Stacks (E99 .M47 S76 2021) and other locations

2 BOOK



Le Wild West show de Gabriel Dumont

By Dalpé, Jean Marc, 1957- author, translator.

Published: Sudbury : Éditions Prise de parole ; Vancouver : Talonbooks; 2021

Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show is a flamboyant epic, constructed as a series of tableaux, about the struggles of the Métis in the Canadian West. It is a multilayered and entertaining saga with a rodeo vibe, loosely based on Buffal...

[Read More](#)

● Available at St. Michael's College Library (John M. Kelly Library) 2nd Floor (PS8557 .A458 W55 2021)

3 BOOK



Chat is offline

Tuscarora language materials



LibrarySearch



QR

NEW SEARCH

DATABASE SEARCH

JOURNAL SEARCH

ILL REQUEST ↗

SEARCH

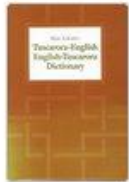
Everything



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BOOK

Tuscarora-English/English-Tuscarora dictionary

By Rudes, Blair A.

Published: Toronto ; Buffalo : University of Toronto Press;©1999

● Available at Robarts Library Stacks (PM2501 .Z5 R83 1999) and other locations

Available Online

☰ Chapters of this book (11)



View Online

Full text availability

Canada Commons: CRKN purchase 2008 ↗

Tools used by Library and Archives Canada

- ALA-LC Romanization Table: [Inuktitut](#)
- [Inuktitut – ALA-LC transliteration system \(transliteration.com\)](#)
- [Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics \(omniglot.com\)](#): including downloadable script chart for Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics, and links to transliteration tools
- [Online Cree Dictionary](#): Maskwacis Plains Cree, Saskatchewan Plains Cree, Wood Cree.
- [Syllabics.net](#): online tool for Cree, Inuktitut, Naskapi, Ojibwe, and others.
- [Algonquian Syllabic Convertors \(atlas-ling.ca\)](#): East Cree, Swampy Cree, Moose Cree, Naskapi and Plains Cree.
- [Eastern James Bay Cree Syllabic Chart](#)
- LAC [Inventory of Romanization Tools](#)
- [Unified Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics](#)
- [OCLC Character Set](#): including problematic characters with instructions on use, options, and preferred alternative characters.
- [What Unicode character is this ?](#) online tool to detect the character encoding scheme. It can be useful to identify problematic characters when they were flagged either in authority record validation, or the code “Zsym” in bibliographic field 066.



Demo

- https://keymanweb.com/#crj.Keyboard_bj_cree_east_james_bay
- [Algonquian Syllabic Convertors](https://atlas-ling.ca) (atlas-ling.ca)
- [Unified Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics](#)



Conclusion & Next Steps

- Distinctive project without a roadmap.
- Continue learning, listening, engaging.
- Connect with other organizations (e.g. NIKLA, COPPUL IKSC).
- Welcoming other perspectives and ideas from all of you!
- Upcoming drop-in workshops

The logo for 'North Nord' is displayed in white text on a dark blue square background. The word 'North' is on the top line and 'Nord' is on the bottom line, separated by a thin white horizontal line. Both words have a small circular icon with a compass rose design inside the letter 'o'.

- Continue to check-in and support libraries as they work through their title-lists.
- Provide support and training opportunities with upcoming holdings and item metadata workshops.
- Learning as we go
 - Unique project for North/Nord with many interconnected pieces
 - Continue to adjust and refine approach
 - Pause and take stock of what we have learned, what we want to do next
 - Importance of library participation for shelf-checks and metadata validation
 - Aim to enhance the Borealis dataset and make it available via COPPUL & to incorporate Local Context Labels.

Thank you!

Q&A and invitation to collaborate



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- Wong, Desmond, and Mikayla Redden. 2026. "In Defense of Imperfection". *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship* 11 (February):1-19. <https://doi.org/10.33137/cjal-rcbu.v11.45490>