



GLOBAL INDIGENOUS DATA ALLIANCE (GIDA) Indigenous Data Governance & Universities COMMUNIQUÉ

GIDA INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY SUMMIT
28TH JUNE 2023
NAARM (MELBOURNE), AUSTRALIA

TO:

All Universities¹ and funders involved in creating, collecting, accessing, analysing, interpreting, managing, disseminating, and reusing data and data infrastructure

FROM:

Participants in the 2023 Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA) Summit in Naarm (Melbourne): Indigenous Peoples from Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand), the United States, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Tonga and Samoa (diaspora Aotearoa)

Universities create, use, and hold enormous amounts of Indigenous data. These data range from old historical records to contemporary large datasets, including Open Data² and the data underpinning emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies. Indigenous Peoples' data include information about individuals, families, and communities, and environments as well as knowledges, cultures, languages and specimens.

All Universities are responsible for managing research data ethically, effectively, and transparently. The issue for Indigenous Peoples is that Universities are failing to affirm and uphold Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) and operationalise Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov), leaving these academic institutions open to claims of complicity in the ongoing structure of colonisation.

The 2023 Summit progressed a shared understanding amongst GIDA members that Universities must work in collaboration with affected Indigenous Peoples to:

- Uphold IDSov and IDGov principles as defined by their respective Indigenous Peoples.
- Recognise that any data concerning Indigenous Peoples is Indigenous Data.
- Identify Indigenous Peoples' data currently held by the institution or its research partners.
- Introduce and strengthen University policies to align with IDSov and IDGov and ensure Indigenous Peoples' governance of, access to, and future use of their data now and into the future.
- Support and grow Indigenous leadership to assess digital research infrastructure needs and enact control over all IDGov processes.
- Train University administration, faculty, staff, and students to implement IDSov & IDGov principles and policies.
- Operationalise Data Management Strategies and Plans with specific IDGov principles and mechanisms embedded throughout.
- Allocate adequate resources for Indigenous Peoples to govern their data on their terms.



Maia māyri Wīngara



TE MANA RARAUNGA
Māori Data Sovereignty Network

DEFINITIONS:

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) supports Indigenous rights over data.³

Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) asserts Indigenous Peoples' rights to govern the creation, collection, ownership, and application of the data about, from, or connected to Intellectual Property (IP).⁴

Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov) is the mechanism for realising IDSov principles.

Indigenous Peoples reserve the right to determine which data held by Universities require IDGov and to abstain from data governance arrangements not adhering to this Communiqué.

1 | While our focus is universities, this extends to any tertiary education provider or research institute.

2 | Walter, M. et al., Indigenous data sovereignty in the era of big data and open data, Australian Journal of Social Issues 56, no. 2 (2021): 143-156.

3 | For further information please see UNDRIP Articles 3, 4, 5, 15(i), 18, 19, 20(i), 23,31, 32, 33, 38, & 42.

4 | Kukutai, T. and Taylor, J. eds. 2016. Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Towards an Agenda (Vol. 38) ANU Press.

5 | Wilkinson, Mark D., et al. "The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship." Scientific data 3.1 (2016): 1-9.

6 | A tangible or intangible item or matter of special cultural significance.

Resources to Assist in Operationalising Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov)

The CARE Principles for IDGov

The CARE Principles are people and purpose-oriented, reflecting the crucial role of data in advancing Indigenous innovation and self-determination. These principles⁵ complement the FAIR principles, encouraging open and other data movements to consider people and purpose in their advocacy and pursuits.

gida-global.org/care

Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Data

Establishing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Data provides a concrete step toward operationalising IDSov and Indigenous Research Sovereignty by articulating a range of specific rights that can be recognised to support Indigenous Peoples' aspirations for control of data and self-determined research activities.

gida-global.org/data-rights

Indigenous Metadata Bundle

Indigenous metadata provides critical organisation and structure for Indigenous Peoples' data to be findable, accessible, interoperable, and with proper attribution, which enables governance, decision-making, and cultural authority by Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous metadata guides the inclusion of cultural context, data protection, and ownership for Indigenous rights holders. This helps recognise, refine, and define Indigenous Peoples' relationships with their data.

indigenoustatalab.org/3006-2

First Nations Information Governance Committee (FNIGC)

Developer of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®) Principles and the First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS). The FNDGS calls for embedding First Nations knowledges and competencies into leading-edge information management and information technology at national and regional levels to support First Nations as rights holders through improved data stewardship across the data lifecycle.

[A First Nations Data Governance Strategy](#)

Māori Data Governance Model

The Māori Data Governance Model is designed by Māori data experts for use across the Aotearoa (New Zealand) public service. Māori data is a taonga⁶ that requires culturally grounded models of protection and care. The Model provides guidance for the system-wide governance of Māori data, consistent with the Government's responsibilities under te Tiriti o Waitangi.

kahuiraraunga.io/tawhitinuku

Maia m nayri Wingara

In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people expect enactment of their IDSov and IDGov principles. Universities can assist this process by providing adequate resourcing and support for Indigenous leadership and control of Indigenous data at each stage of the data lifecycle.

[Indigenous Data Governance Communiqué](#)

Citation

Jacob Prehn, Riley Taitingfong, Robyn K. Rowe, Ibrahim Garba, Cassandra Price, Maui Hudson, Tahu Kukutai, Stephanie Russo Carroll. (2023). "Indigenous Data Governance and Universities Communiqué." Global Indigenous Data Alliance. DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.24201585.