

LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION

Data Sovereignty



Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Indigenous Data Sovereignty is the right of Indigenous nations and peoples to govern the collection, ownership, and application of their own data, including how it's framed and managed. It's rooted in the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to govern themselves, their lands, and resources. Essentially, it's about Indigenous communities having control over data related to them, their culture, and their history. These principles are often designated through the framework of OCAP: Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession.

What is OCAP?

OWNERSHIP: Indigenous communities own the data about their communities.

CONTROL: Indigenous communities decide how data is collected, used, and shared; also have right to review processes and planning.

ACCESS: the right to access information and data about their communities, regardless of where it is held.

POSSESSION: having physical control of data, ensuring the ability to assert and protect ownership.

Why is OCAP important?

ETHICAL RESEARCH: importance of respecting Indigenous communities' rights and needs, and ensuring research is conducted in a manner that prioritizes best interests.

DATA SOVEREIGNTY: the right to OCAP which is essential for self-determination and prevention of appropriation of Indigenous knowledge.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: OCAP promotes meaningful and on-going community involvement in all stages of research process.

PREVENTION OF HARM: helps to prevent perpetuation of stereotypes and deficit-based research that can cause harm to Indigenous communities.

Resources

U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network

Click [HERE](#) for a link to the website where you can find more information and resources. Additionally, click [HERE](#) for a link to a Google drive and excellent Resource Inventory regarding data sovereignty and ethical resources.

First Nations Information Governance Centre

Here is a resource detailing the fundamentals of OCAP as utilized by First Nations communities in Canada.
<https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>

Te Mana Raraunga

Here is another model from New Zealand for Maori Data Sovereignty
<https://www.temanararaunga.maori.nz/>

Memorial University

Policy for Research Impacting Indigenous Groups examples from Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada
<https://www.mun.ca/policy/browse-or-search/browse-policies/university-policy/?policy=794>

Procedure for Obtaining Agreement in Principle (Concept Development Phase)

<https://www.mun.ca/policy/browse-or-search/browse-procedures/university-procedure/?procedure=634>

Process for Revoking Agreement in Principle (Concept Development Phase)

<https://www.mun.ca/policy/browse-or-search/browse-procedures/university-procedure/?procedure=635>

