

Local Contexts is an initiative that supports Indigenous and local communities to manage their intellectual and cultural property, cultural heritage, environmental data, and genetic resources within digital environments.

Local Contexts enhances locally based decision-making and Indigenous governance frameworks for determining ownership, access, and culturally appropriate conditions for sharing historical, contemporary, and future collections of cultural heritage and Indigenous data. Focused on provenance, protocols and permissions, Local Contexts provides legal, extra-legal, and educational strategies that connect people and places to knowledge and data.

Local Contexts offers digital strategies for Indigenous communities, institutions and organizations, and independent researchers with the **Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Biocultural (BC) Labels and Notices**. Together they function to advance aspirations for Indigenous data sovereignty and Indigenous innovation.



From left, examples of the Local Contexts Label icons: Traditional Knowledge Attribution, Biocultural Consent Verified, Traditional Knowledge Seasonal, and Biocultural Outreach.

What can I do with Local Contexts?

Indigenous communities use the **Local Contexts Labels** to define attribution, access, and use rights for their intellectual and cultural property, cultural heritage, environmental data, and genetic resources. The Labels provide a practical application of the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance. By establishing Indigenous cultural authority, the Labels clarify Indigenous and local community rights, interests, and relationships to collections and/or data.

Researchers and institutions use the **Local Contexts Notices** to support the recognition of Indigenous rights and interests in collections and data. The Notices activate researcher and institutional responsibility to identify potential Indigenous rights and interests in historical and future collections. Notices may eventually be replaced with a Label applied by an Indigenous community.

How did Local Contexts start?

The Local Contexts project began in 2010 from the expressed needs of Indigenous and local organizations wanting a practical method to deal with the range of intellectual property issues that arise in relation to managing cultural heritage materials. The TK Labels have been developed over the past decade through sustained partnership and testing within Indigenous communities across multiple countries. The BC Labels have been in development since 2019.

Who is behind Local Contexts?

The Local Contexts team consists of Indigenous, queer and allied-scholars working together internationally. The project's Co-Directors are Jane Anderson (New York University), Kim Christen (Washington State University), Māui Hudson (Whakatōhea, University of Waikato), and James Francis, Sr. (Penobscot Nation, Tribal Historian). Local Contexts is an initiative of the Equity in Indigenous Research Coordinating Hub (ENRICH).

The Local Contexts project team is located at:

- **New York University**, *Lenapehoking (New York City, New York, United States)*
- **Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato**, *Kirikiroa, Aotearoa (Hamilton, New Zealand)*
- **Washington State University**, *Pullman, Washington, United States*
- **IDIA (Indigenous Design and Innovation Aotearoa)**, *Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Aotearoa (Wellington, New Zealand)*

Where can I find more information?

For resources and contact information: www.localcontexts.org

For additional resources and to join the ENRICH working groups: www.enrich-hub.org

For the latest updates, follow: [@LocalContexts](#) (Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn) and [@LocalContextsOrg](#) (Facebook)