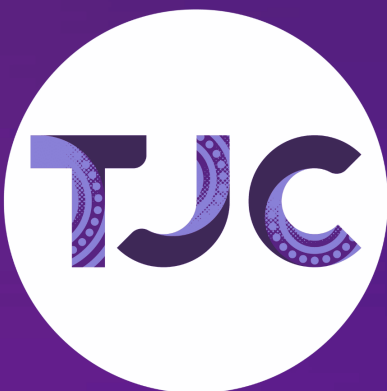




Wikimedia Australia Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) and Indigenous Data Sovereignty Guide

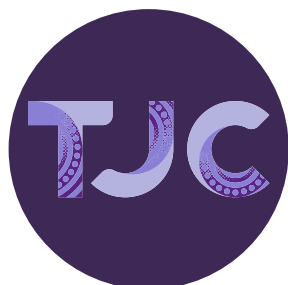


**Terri Janke
and Company**
Lawyers and Consultants

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Terri Janke and Company (TJC) acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live and work. We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia. We recognise their ongoing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their knowledge, and to the Elders past and present.

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We also thank participants at the WikiCon 2026 Workshop on ICIP and other members of the Wikimedia Australia community for their insightful feedback. This includes Marshall Clark, Linda Pascal, Jack Nunn, Ben Eliasaf, Toby Hudson, Mylee Joseph, Pru Mitchell, Alex Lum, Caddie Brain, Sam Wilson, Fiona Romeo, Ann Reynolds and Gngarra.

Date of Currency: 16 July 2026

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CULTURAL WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be advised that this document may contain names or references to people who have since passed away.

A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

The terms 'Indigenous' and 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' are used throughout this Guide to refer to the First Nations peoples of Australia.

SPELLING OF INDIGENOUS WORDS AND NAMES

This Guide contains Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language words, including names of clan groups and communities. The authors recognise that there are often alternative spellings. Respectfully, the authors have used the spelling preferred by the people who are referred to within this Guide, to enable them to describe themselves. Where the names are generally used, commonly used spelling is adopted and, in some cases, alternatives are included.

LEGAL NOTICE

The laws and policies referred to in this publication are current as of 16 July 2026. Any reference to laws and policies are for general use only and should not be relied upon for legal advice for a specific matter. For such matters, it is recommended to obtain professional legal advice from a suitable, qualified legal practitioner.

FOREWORD

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures carry some of the oldest knowledge on earth alongside some of its most vital contemporary voices, and how that knowledge is recorded and shared has never mattered more.

The Wikimedia Australia Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (**ICIP**) and Indigenous Data Guide has been developed to help Wikimedia Australia staff work responsibly, ethically and respectfully with Indigenous content across the Wikimedia platforms, including Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons and Wikidata.

These platforms matter. For many people today, they are the first place they go to find out about something. The Wiki platforms are open, collaborative, and governed by rules about how knowledge is presented, sourced and verified. That reach carries responsibility.

ICIP refers to Indigenous knowledge and cultural expression, and to the cultural rules around Indigenous peoples' rights to control and manage those information sets, those stories, those cultural expressions.

Much of what has been recorded about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is not written by them. A great deal of it was written at a time when we had no say in how we were represented. It carries stereotypes, deficit language, and ways of doing things that were never ours and were never respectful. The voices and perspectives you find on the open internet are often not those of Indigenous people, and this information can be inaccurate. Oral knowledge systems were written down by others, and the person holding the pen held the say over how the culture was told.

For Indigenous peoples, the control and management of knowledge and cultural expression is a way of life. It is how culture is carried, protected and passed on. Some material, such as Secret/Sacred knowledge, should not be shared at all. The fact that something can be found in the public domain does not settle the question. Real thought needs to be given to whether it belongs there.

Harm is done, too, by the quiet repetition of half-truths across the internet, where one error becomes a hundred. The purpose of this Guide is to help turn that around: to support best practice, to create a culturally safe environment, and to make room for more Indigenous Wikimedians to take part in the writing of Indigenous knowledge. There is an absence of Indigenous voices on these platforms, and those voices and perspectives are exactly what is needed to make them accurate, respectful and genuinely inclusive.

What gives me confidence is the good will already there. Wikimedians have put real time into thinking about this. This Guide builds on that work. It offers practical guidance on how to identify good sources, how to recognise what is sensitive, and how to use a matrix to assess risk before material is shared. It points to CultureStrong sources as the ground to stand on. CultureStrong sources are sources that carry cultural authenticity. If we check that what we use and put on Wiki, then we build better knowledge for the whole world to know and share.

This is a pathway, not a final map. It asks you to take it up and journey with it. I hope it guides further thinking and lays a good foundation for Wiki's future generations.

With respect,

Dr Terri Janke



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This Guide contains Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language words, including names of clan groups and communities. The authors recognise that there are often alternative spellings. Respectfully, the authors have used the spelling preferred by the people who are referred to within this Guide, to enable them to describe themselves. Where the names are generally used, commonly used spelling is adopted and, in some cases, alternatives are noted.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Wikimedia Australia Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (**ICIP**) and Indigenous Data Guide (**Guide**) has been developed to support Wikimedia Australia Inc (**Wikimedia Australia**) to work responsibly, ethically and respectfully with Indigenous Content across Wikimedia platforms, including Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons and Wikidata.¹

Indigenous Content

For the purpose of this Guide, Indigenous Content refers to any content that relates to, represents, describes, records, categorises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culture, knowledge or Country, or content that is created by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples or their Country (see [5.1 Indigenous Content](#) for more detail).

The image here depicts a 'Dilly Bag' which is a traditional bag, generally woven from plant fibres and used to gather and transport food or other small objects.*

There are many different names for these bags, but the commonly used word 'dilly' is believed to have originated from the Turrubal language word 'dili'. Most dilly bags come in an oval shape with an attached cord for carrying.

This dilly bag shows the many varied types of materials that fall under 'Indigenous Content'.



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The Guide recognises that Wikimedia platforms play a powerful role in shaping public knowledge and understanding of current and historical political, social and cultural issues,

¹ This work aligns with the vision of empowerment and engagement of people globally, as set out in the Wikimedia Foundation's Terms of Use. Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Terms of Use/Summary* (Web Page, 14 December 2025) https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Terms_of_Use/Summary/en.

* Western Australian Museum, 'Dilly Bags' (Web Page) <https://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/intertwined/basket-types/dilly-bags>. 'Dillybag', *Wikipedia* (Web Page, last edited 9 December 2025) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dillybag>.

events and culture more broadly. When that knowledge concerns Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, histories and knowledge systems, additional care is required to ensure that Wikimedia's commitment to free and open knowledge does not cause harm.

2. GOALS FOR THIS GUIDE

This Guide is grounded in a set of ambitious and positive goals: to support the meaningful inclusion, visibility and integrity of Indigenous knowledge, heritage, culture and expressions across Wikimedia platforms, and to equip contributors with the tools, confidence and cultural understanding needed to engage respectfully and responsibly with this material. All Wikimedia Australia staff must comply with the Guide and is recommended good practice for all Wikimedians when they are editing or contributing to Wikimedia platforms, to work ethically with Indigenous Content.

It is designed to empower users, whether new or experienced, to contribute in ways that are informed, ethical and reflective, encouraging careful consideration of contributors' own positions, perspectives and responsibilities in relation to working with Indigenous Content.

Through practical guidance, case studies and linked footnotes to existing Wikimedia policies, the Guide works alongside established frameworks to help contributors navigate how these policies apply or differ from good practice outlined in this Guide in contexts involving Indigenous Content. It also promotes respectful interactions, including on 'Talk Pages' and in the resolution of disputes regarding Indigenous Content.

At the same time, the Guide recognises some limitations inherent in Wikimedia platforms that require more long-term engagement by contributors to develop strategies in addressing issues of bias and underrepresentation for many minority groups and women,² including notability thresholds, the prioritisation of secondary sources, and citation practices grounded in Western knowledge traditions. Within this context, the Guide seeks to provide constructive pathways for improving the quality, presence and cultural safety of Indigenous Content used in Wikimedia platforms, while also serving as a broader educational resource.

The Guide invites all users to deepen their understanding of best practice and to recognise the enduring vitality and significance of Indigenous knowledge systems, heritage and culture as part of the world's oldest continuous living cultures and as foundational to the social fabric of Australia and beyond.

Indigenous Self Determination

Indigenous Self Determination is the right of Indigenous peoples to make decisions about matters that affect their lives, cultures, communities, lands, knowledge and futures in accordance with their own laws, customs, governance systems and priorities.

3. WHY DO WE NEED A GUIDE?

3.1 Indigenous Content and Open Knowledge Systems

Wikimedia platforms were primarily designed around Western concepts and systems of knowledge production, including individual authorship, neutrality, verifiability via certain types of published sources, and unrestricted reuse.³ Indigenous knowledge systems, by contrast, can rely on oral histories and are often communal and specifically contextual and relational

² 'Wikipedia: Notability', *Wikipedia* (Web Page) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability>.

³ These concepts are the basis for the Wikipedia Five Pillars, the fundamental principles of Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five_pillars.

to a **Nation, Country and Language Group**, and governed by cultural authority and responsibilities that are insufficiently recognised by Western legal frameworks.

As a result, content that is technically compliant with Western legal frameworks and Wikimedia policies may still conflict with Indigenous cultural protocols, reproduce misinformation and cause harm to Indigenous peoples and Indigenous communities. This includes the risk of disclosing Secret/Sacred knowledge, misrepresenting cultural practices, removing knowledge from proper context, undermining the rights of Indigenous people to control and protect their cultural heritage, and contributing to the loss or erosion of cultural practices. Without appropriate safeguards, these tensions can perpetuate ongoing colonial harms, erode trust, and impact the cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of Indigenous peoples and communities.

At the same time, evolving citation practices and the strong commitment within Wikimedia communities to share knowledge openly and responsibly present an opportunity for positive change. Many contributors are motivated by a genuine desire to do the right thing but require clear, culturally informed guidance to navigate the complexities of Indigenous knowledge systems. With such guidance, contributors can better understand these responsibilities and engage in ways that are respectful, accurate, and supportive of Indigenous voices, authority, and cultural protocols.

Illustration:

A Wikipedia page for an Aboriginal community includes citations by an anthropologist from the 1930s who has been widely criticised by the community for spreading misinformation and for its outdated rhetoric. Wikimedians want to update the page to reflect factual and current information. The community has self-published several independent publications that would not ordinarily conform with Wikipedia's Reliable Sources guidelines. These independent publications however contain strong cultural authority and the voices of Elders, who provide corrections and context on the creation of the anthropologist's works, including Secret/Sacred material in his works.

3.2 Gaps in the Law

Wikimedia platforms recognise and respect copyright and related rights under the **Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)**, including requirements for attribution under open licences.⁴ Content that breaches copyright or other legal requirements may be removed through Wikimedia's policies and processes.⁵

However, ICIP is not always fully protected by copyright law in Australia, particularly where cultural knowledge, stories, images or traditions fall outside the scope or duration of copyright protection. While Australia is currently considering standalone legislation for ICIP,⁶

⁴ Wikimedia platforms have copyright policies for editors to abide by, such as the licensing policy on Wikimedia Commons. Wikimedia Commons will only accept content that is free from any licensing restrictions in accordance with intellectual property laws such as the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) and The Copyright Act 1976 (17 U.S.C §§ 101 et seq.) Wikimedia Commons, *Commons: Licensing* <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Licensing>

⁵ Steps for removal of copyright material on Wikipedia pages can be found on the Text Copyright Violations 101 page. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Text Copyright Violations 101* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Text_copyright_violations_101. The Wikipedia Deletion Policy outlines all of the reasons that Wikipedia content may be removed from a page. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Deletion Policy* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Deletion_policy.

⁶ Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, *Stand-Alone Legislation Fact Sheet* (Fact Sheet) <https://www.arts.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Stand-alone-legislation-fact-sheet.pdf>.

there remains a gap in the law. Protocols and guides assist in bridging this gap to support respectful use of ICIP. Creative Commons (CC) licences also present issues for Indigenous knowledge systems. For example, CC licences lack ongoing control and authority regarding re-use of Indigenous content, which can be taken out of context. These licences also remove the power to withdraw Indigenous content from circulation.

Illustration:

An Aboriginal Elder tells a Sacred story which has been a part of their community for generations. A linguist writes this story down. Because this story is oral and the linguist writes it down, the linguist becomes the copyright holder. It has been more than 70 years after the death of the linguist and the publication enters the public domain. Contributors can now use this material free of copyright, however its use will cause great harm to the community and breach cultural protocols.

3.3 Power Imbalances

The majority of Wikimedia contributors are non-Indigenous. This creates structural imbalances in whose voices are heard, whose knowledge is prioritised, and who bears the burden of correction when errors or harm occur.⁷ Recent mixed-methods research has demonstrated that Indigenous contributors experience heightened scrutiny, cultural or 'colonial' load, or conflict when contributing content about their own **Indigenous communities**.⁸

Furthermore, Australia has a harmful history of genocide, dispossession, and mistreatment of Indigenous people and erasure of Indigenous perspectives. These power imbalances continue to shape relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people today. While this history has caused lasting harm, it is important to work towards breaking those cycles.

Cultural competency is part of broader anti-racist and decolonial efforts, with these approaches encouraging reflection and capacity-building to engage with Indigenous peoples and content.⁹ Addressing these issues requires approaches that centre Indigenous voices, and recognise the diversity and living nature of Indigenous cultures.¹⁰

It is also important to recognise that research has often contributed to the erasure of Indigenous voices. Indigenous peoples have long been studied and written about by others, with knowledge interpreted through an ethnographic lens that can privilege outsider perspectives. This has, at times, reinforced stereotypes, removed knowledge from its proper context, and exposed Secret/Sacred or culturally sensitive information. In doing so, research has not only misrepresented Indigenous realities but also displaced Indigenous authority over knowledge, contributing to ongoing harm.

⁷ Generally, the Wikimedia Code of Conduct states that Wiki platforms should 'help create a world in which everyone can freely share in the sum of all knowledge' as well as have contributors be part of a global community that avoids bias and prejudice and strives towards the ideals of accuracy and verifiability. The Code of Conduct is founded on mutual respect, civility and mutual support, no harassment or abuse of power. Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Universal Code of Conduct* (Web Page, 22 April 2026)

https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Universal_Code_of_Conduct.

⁸ Carlson, B., & Rana, L. (2024). "I really like Wikipedia, but I don't trust it": understanding First Nations peoples' experiences using Wikipedia as readers and/or editors. Macquarie University. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25949/76YK-G627>

⁹ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Core Cultural Learning* (Web Page) <https://aiatsis.gov.au/about/what-we-do/core-cultural-learning>.

¹⁰ Bronwyn Fredericks and Debbie Bargallie, 'An Indigenous Australian Cultural Competence Course: Talking Culture, Race and Power' in *Cultural Competence and the Higher Education Sector* (Springer, 2020) https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-5362-2_16.

When conversations centre Indigenous voices, respect cultural context, and recognise Indigenous peoples as knowledge holders rather than subjects, they create stronger opportunities for understanding, connection, and healing.

3.4 Lack of Cultural Safety

Research has also indicated that Wikimedia platforms may not always provide culturally safe environments for Indigenous users. Factors such as the absence of clear warnings around culturally sensitive materials, together with open editing models, can contribute to the presence of culturally inappropriate content, inaccuracies, and barriers to participation for some Indigenous contributors and users.¹¹

What is Cultural Safety?

Cultural safety means that people feel their identity, culture and knowledge are respected and not harmed. In the context of open-source online platforms, cultural safety means recognising and addressing power imbalances between the majority non-Indigenous contributor base and Indigenous peoples whose knowledge and identities are represented. It requires ensuring that Indigenous Content is not presented, edited or reused in ways that misrepresent, undermine or harm cultural identity or authority. Cultural safety is determined by Indigenous peoples themselves.

3.5 Emerging Risks: AI

AI tools and bots increasingly generate, aggregate, categorise and reproduce content at scale. These systems can amplify existing biases, strip cultural context, and enable downstream uses of Indigenous knowledge without consent or accountability. They pose a unique risk on open-sourced platforms such as those hosted by Wikimedia.¹² Now is a critical time to establish practical, human-centred and culturally grounded guidelines for working with Indigenous Content. Because AI-generated summaries often draw on Wikimedia content, it is important that information on these platforms is accurately classified and appropriately presented as they represent a powerful tool for positive change when these systems, AI or otherwise, ensure culturally appropriate processes.¹³

¹¹ The Wikimedia Foundation has a Non-Discrimination Policy for staff. Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Wikimedia Foundation Non-Discrimination Policy* https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Wikimedia_Foundation_Non-Discrimination_Policy, as well as a Human Rights Policy, which notably includes several United Nations declarations, such as *the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)*, *the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (1966)*, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)*, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)*, and so on, but does not mention the *Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2007)*.

¹² Wikimedia platforms do have AI policies in place, such as on Wikipedia, where editing with AI is generally prohibited, with minor exceptions, and writing articles with large language models is entirely prohibited. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Editing Policy* (Web Page), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Editing_policy#Artificial_intelligence_additions. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Writing Articles with Large Language Models* (Web Page), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Writing_articles_with_large_language_models.

¹³ Jessica Russ-Smith & Michelle D. Lazarus (2024). *The AI (R)evolution: Valuing country, culture and community in a world of algorithms*. Monash University Publishing.

3.6 The Importance of Metadata

Metadata is not neutral. Titles, categories, subject headings, tags, identifiers and structured data (such as Wikidata statements) shape how Indigenous Content is found, interpreted, reused, presented, structured, and republished.¹⁴

On Wikimedia platforms, metadata determines visibility. It influences search results, automated summaries, machine-readable outputs, and downstream reuse by AI systems and other platforms. Poor classification can therefore amplify harm at scale, by increasing the visibility of inaccurate or culturally inappropriate material and embedding those errors into systems that further disseminate and legitimise them.

Research¹⁵ has indicated that there are opportunities for Wikimedia Australia to strengthen its approaches to Indigenous Content by developing culturally informed guidelines, supporting Indigenous participation and leadership, improving descriptive and metadata practices, and adopting collaborative and decolonial frameworks that better recognise and respect Indigenous knowledge, sovereignty and cultural protocols.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Wikimedia Australia commits to the following Guiding Principles which underpin this Guide and support its **Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Policy**:

- Avoiding harm;
- Valuing relationships and accuracy over quantity;
- Respecting cultural authority and protocols;
- Transparency on Wikimedia platforms; and
- Supporting Indigenous Agency and authorship.

This Guide is grounded in the following Guiding Principles and seeks to balance:

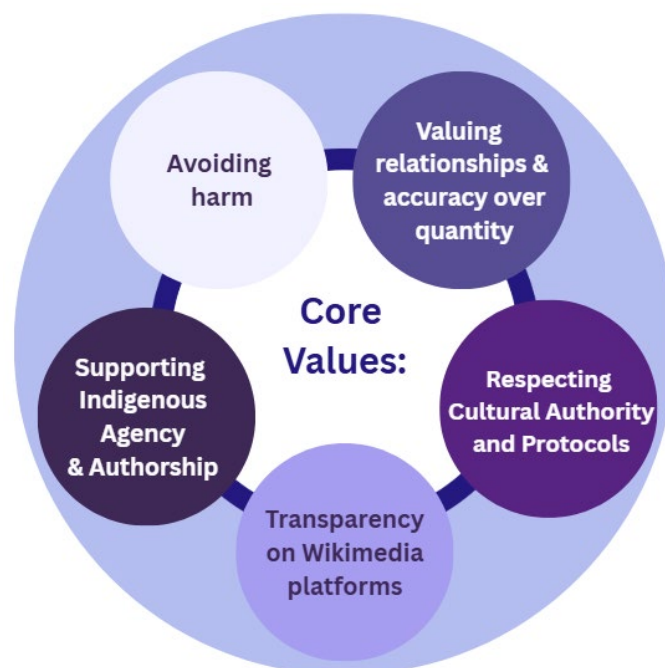
- **Wikimedia Foundation's mission** of free and open knowledge, and
- respecting the rights, dignity and self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Guiding Principles are intended to support thoughtful, ethical decision-making in complex situations. They acknowledge that working with Indigenous Content on open, collaborative platforms involves balancing openness, access and participation with care, authority and accountability. They provide a shared foundation to navigate those tensions in good faith; minimising harm and building trust with Indigenous peoples over time both on and off Wikimedia platforms.

¹⁴ The Wikipedia page detailing the process of selecting the appropriate categorisation can be found at Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Categorization* (Web Page) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Categorization>. Wiki Commons page on categories can be found at Wikimedia Commons, *Commons: Categories* (Web Page) <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Categories>.

¹⁵ Kirsten Thorpe, Nathan Sentance and Lauren Booker, *Wikimedia Australia and First Nations Metadata: ATILIRN Protocols for Description and Access* (Discussion Paper, Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, University of Technology Sydney, 22 March 2023) <https://doi.org/10.57956/b05f-cf08>.

For the purpose of this Guide, ‘Indigenous Agency’ refers to the ability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to exercise decision-making authority and control over how their cultural knowledge, data and intellectual property are accessed, used, represented and shared on Wikimedia platforms, in accordance with their own laws, protocols and priorities.



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4.1 Alignment with Wikimedia Values

Although there is some divergence in Wikimedia policies and some elements of this Guide, Wikimedia has an established framework of policies that fundamentally aligns with the goals and Guiding Principles of this Guide. These structures value respectful behaviour, non-discrimination, and safe participation across both Wikimedia Foundation governance and the wider contributor community.¹⁶

The Universal Code of Conduct states that its purpose is to “empower[] as many people as possible to actively participate in Projects and spaces.” It further states that it:

believe[s] our communities of contributors should be as diverse, inclusive, and accessible as possible. We want these communities to be positive, safe and healthy environments for anyone who joins (and wants to join) them.

This framework is reflected in the following key documents:

¹⁶ Key Wikimedia policies that align with the Core values of the Guiding Principles in this Guide are the Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Terms of Use* (Web Page) https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Terms_of_Use, the Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Universal Code of Conduct* (Web Page) https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Universal_Code_of_Conduct, the Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Wikimedia Human Rights Policy* (Web Page) https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Wikimedia_Human_Rights_Policy and the Wikimedia Foundation, *Terms of Use* (Web Page) https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Terms_of_Use. A core requirement for editors to ‘treat each other with respect and civility’ is present within the Five Pillars of Wikipedia. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Five Pillars* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five_pillars.

- [Wikimedia Foundation Code of Conduct](#)
- [Universal Code of Conduct](#)
- [Human Rights Policy](#)
- [Wikimedia Foundation “Open the Knowledge”](#)
- [Code of Conduct for the Foundation Board of Trustees](#)
- [Wikimedia Foundation Non-Discrimination Policy](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Movement Strategy Recommendation: Provide for Safety and Inclusion](#)

Together, these documents embed principles of respect, inclusion, and harm prevention. The Terms of Use and Universal Code of Conduct establish behavioural expectations for all users, including prohibitions on harassment, hate speech, discriminatory language, and harmful conduct. The Movement Strategy Recommendation further supports the need for a safe, inclusive, and harassment-free environment, including standards that are responsive to different contexts and communities.

The Human Rights Policy reinforces Wikimedia’s commitment to international human rights standards and notes that Wikimedia will uphold higher standards where national laws are weaker, where it has the ability to do so. It is important to note however, that the Human Rights Policy currently does not expressly include the *United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)*, highlighting the need for clearer Indigenous-specific guidance within Wikimedia’s existing framework.

This framework creates scope for Wikimedia to adopt ICIP and IDSov guidance that supports Wikimedia’s commitments to these values.

4.2 Indigenous Rights Frameworks

This Guide is informed by:

- [Dr Terri Janke’s True Tracks® framework](#); a set of ethical guidelines for working with Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), emphasising respect for Indigenous self-determination and ongoing cultural integrity. They promote proper attribution, consent, benefit sharing, and culturally appropriate use of Indigenous knowledge and materials;¹⁷
- [UNDRIP](#), particularly rights to self-determination, culture, heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression, languages, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent ([FPIC](#));
- IDSov principles including the [Maiam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles](#) and [the FAIR and CARE Principles](#), which affirms Indigenous peoples’ rights to govern data about themselves; and
- Indigenous-led citation and resource guides,¹⁸ including the [Caval Indigenous](#)

¹⁷ Terri Janke, *True Tracks: Respecting Indigenous Knowledge and Culture* (NewSouth Publishing, 2021).

¹⁸ See also James Cook University Library. (n.d.). *APA (7th Edition) Referencing Guide: First Nations Works* <https://libguides.jcu.edu.au/apa/First-Nations>

Referencing Guidance,¹⁹ the Creative Australia Protocols for using First Nations cultural and intellectual property in the arts, Local Contexts Traditional Knowledge Labels, documents created by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) including the *AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research* (AIATSIS Code of Ethics) 2020, *AIATSIS Guide to Evaluating and Selecting Educational Resources 2022* (AIATSIS Educational Resources Guide) Austlang Code and AIATSIS Pathways Thesauri 1997.²⁰



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4.3 Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property

Indigenous peoples have the inherent right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression, and to provide FPIC for its use which is enshrined by UNDRIP.²¹

ICIP refers to the rights that Indigenous peoples have in relation to all aspects of their cultural heritage, including:

- Cultural knowledge (including knowledge of Country, ecological knowledge, management techniques, scientific, agricultural, technical knowledge, ritual knowledge),
- Traditional cultural expressions (traditional land management practices, stories of Country, art, designs, symbols and literature),
- Languages (including oral expressions or written language words),

¹⁹ Indigenous Archives Collective, Shannon Faulkhead, Kirsten Thorpe, Nathan Sentance, Lauren Booker and Rose Barrowcliffe, *Indigenous Referencing Guidance for Indigenous Knowledges* (Guide, Indigenous Archives Collective and Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, University of Technology Sydney, 2023).

²⁰ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Ethical Research (Web Page, 2024) <https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research>. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Guide to Evaluating and Selecting Education Resources* (Web Page, 29 August 2023) <https://aiatsis.gov.au/education/guide-evaluating-and-selecting-education-resources..>

²¹ Currently, the Wikimedia Commons licensing policy covers only the Western definition of ownership of content, stating that the only media to be accepted is that which is 'explicitly freely licensed or in the public domain'. Wikimedia Commons, *Commons: Licensing* (Web Page) <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Licensing>.

- Performances (traditional ceremonies, dance and song),
- Cultural objects (including, but not limited to artworks, crafts, ceramics, jewellery, weapons, tools, photographs, textiles, contemporary art practices),
- Ancestral remains and human DNA and tissues,
- Places, sacred and historically significant sites and burial grounds, and
- Documentation of Indigenous peoples' heritage in all forms of media such as films, photographs, artistic works, books, reports, research and records taken by others, sound recordings and digital databases.



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ICIP encompasses both the tangible (sites, objects) and intangible Indigenous Knowledge of Indigenous peoples (knowledge, stories, language, performance). Indigenous Knowledge is the intangible cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples. It should be emphasised that Indigenous peoples see their knowledge as intrinsically linked to the tangible heritage of Indigenous peoples.

ICIP is linked to people, land and identity, and is communally owned by the Indigenous communities which the ICIP comes from and is governed in accordance with Indigenous community protocols. Attached to ICIP are obligations to protect ICIP so that it can be passed on to future generations.

While all Indigenous peoples have a role to care for ICIP, certain persons of authority within each Indigenous community (referred to here as ICIP Rights Holders, but also known as Traditional Custodians, Traditional Owners or Traditional Knowledge Holders in other contexts), may have specific rights to know and share knowledge, and to give or deny permission to use and share certain ICIP. Indigenous cultures are not fixed – they are constantly evolving, with ongoing obligations for maintenance. This means that the nature of ICIP may also evolve.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Australia is home to over 250 distinct Indigenous communities, each with their own laws, cultural protocols, governance structures, and knowledge systems. Cultural authority, permissions, and restrictions may differ not only between communities, but also between clans, Nation/Country/Language groups and family groups within an Indigenous community. It should never be assumed that cultural protocols applying to one Indigenous community will apply to another, or that material associated with a particular community is governed by uniform rules across all of its members.

4.4 Indigenous Data

Indigenous Data is any information or knowledge that is about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, collected from them, or likely to affect them, whether individually or collectively. It can exist in any form, including text, images, audio, video, datasets, metadata, and structured information (including Wikidata entries).²²

Indigenous Data is a broader category of information than ICIP and may include ICIP. To determine if data is Indigenous Data, Wikimedians must ask:

- Is this information directly or indirectly about Indigenous peoples, Nations/Countries/Language Groups, protocols and cultures?
- Was it collected from Indigenous peoples?
- Does it impact Indigenous peoples?²³

If the answer to any of the above is “Yes”, then the information is Indigenous Data.

4.5 Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Indigenous Data Sovereignty (**IDSov**) recognises that Indigenous peoples have the right to control, protect, and govern data about them and their Country, including how it is collected, interpreted, stored, shared, reused, and republished. These rights are grounded in the right to self-determination and are reflected in the UNDRIP, including the right to FPIC²⁴

MaiaM nayri Wingara, the Australian Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective, provides five core principles that are regarded as best practice in Australia for supporting Indigenous peoples’ self-determination for use of their data.²⁵

These approaches are reinforced by the CARE Principles developed by the Indigenous Data Sovereignty Interest Group within the Research Data Alliance in 2019 and hosted by the

²² The guidelines for sourcing information that is uploaded to Wikidata can be found at Wikidata, *Help: Sources* (Web Page) <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Help:Sources>.

²³ Noting that not all Indigenous Data upholds the Wikipedia Notability Requirements as outlined in ‘Wikipedia: Notability’, *Wikipedia* (Web Page) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability>.

²⁴ Lowitja Institute, *Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property* (Information Sheet, 2021) [328551_indigenous-cultural-and-intellectual-property.pdf](#)

²⁵ MaiaM nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective and Australian Indigenous Governance Institute, *Indigenous Data Sovereignty Communique: Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit, Canberra, 20 June 2018* (Communique, 20 June 2018) <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b3043afb40b9d20411f3512/t/63ed934fe861fa061ebb9202/1676514134724/Communique-Indigenous-Data-Sovereignty-Summit.pdf>. For more information about IDSov and Indigenous Data Governance (the housing of Indigenous Data is such a way as to reflect IDSov principles), see MaiaM nayri Wingara (Web Page) <https://www.maiamnayriwingara.org/>; Lowitja Institute and MaiaM nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective, *Taking Control of Our Data: A Discussion Paper on Indigenous Data Governance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Communities* (Discussion Paper, January 2024).

Global Indigenous Data Alliance, that include collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics. These principles provide an international framework for respectful use and governance of Indigenous Data.²⁶

IDSov extends beyond Australian privacy law,²⁷ which focuses on the responsible handling of personal information. IDSov reflects the broader reality that data can shape public perception, decision-making, funding, and services, and can be reused in ways that may create new risks, even where information is publicly available or legally reusable. In this context, users should consider IDSov principles alongside privacy law when sharing or using Indigenous Data.

Indigenous Data Governance is about putting these principles into practice. It means making decisions about Indigenous content in ways that reflect the CARE Principles. This includes thinking carefully about what information should be shared, how it is presented, who should be involved, and the impacts on both individuals and communities. Following these principles helps ensure content is respectful, accurate, and does not cause harm.

4.6 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

A key principle in Indigenous self-determination is FPIC.

FPIC means Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right to decide whether and how their cultural knowledge and heritage (ICIP) and data (**Indigenous Data**) are used or shared. FPIC means consent should be:

- **Free** – given without pressure, manipulation, intimidation, or coercion, and with enough time for proper discussion.
- **Prior** – sought before content is published, reused, or included in a project.
- **Informed** – based on clear information about what will be used, how it will be used, and any risks or impacts.
- **Consent** – meaning Indigenous peoples can say yes or no, and can set conditions.

4.7 Indigenous-Led Frameworks and Standards for Information Management

Indigenous-led standards ensure the accuracy, trustworthiness and cultural integrity of Indigenous Content, ICIP, and Indigenous Data used on Wikimedia platforms.

Trustworthiness in this context extends beyond factual correctness. It includes cultural authority, ethical provenance, appropriate attribution, and respect for Indigenous governance over knowledge and data.²⁸ To support this, the Guide draws on:

²⁶ The CARE Principles were developed by the Indigenous Data Sovereignty Interest Group within the Research Data Alliance in 2019 and are hosted by the Global Indigenous Data Alliance to address some of the shortcomings of the FAIR Principles regarding the free and open access and reuse of scientific data, to reflect the concerns of Indigenous peoples. Global Indigenous Data Alliance, *CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance* (Web Page) <https://www.gida-global.org/care>.

²⁷ *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

²⁸ Wikipedia's guidance for selecting 'reliable sources' prioritises published sources that reflect Western indicators of reliability including high citation counts for scholarship, legacy media and written publications over oral history, self-publishing and more localised sourced information. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Reliable Sources* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Reliable_sources.

- **Caval and Indigenous Archives Collective Indigenous Referencing Guidance for Indigenous Knowledges (2023)**: provides guidance for respectfully citing Indigenous knowledges by recognising cultural authority, Indigenous communities, and appropriate attribution beyond dominant Western referencing practices.
- **AIATSIS Guide to Evaluating and Selecting Educational Resources (2022)**: offering criteria to assess authenticity, representation, authorship and cultural integrity.
- **AIATSIS Pathways Thesauri (1997)**: supporting culturally appropriate terminology and classification, reducing the risk of misrepresentation or harmful categorisation.
- **Macquarie University Guide to Writing and Speaking About Indigenous People in Australia (2021)**: offers guidance on selecting the most appropriate and respectful language when writing or speaking about Indigenous people, such as when capital letters are important and unlearning 'possessive' language.

Together, these frameworks help ensure that Indigenous Content is:

- derived from Indigenous-led or Indigenous community-endorsed sources where possible,
- contextually accurate and does not mislead through omission or lack of context,
- presented in ways that respect and do not distort its cultural meaning,
- appropriately attributed and respectful of ICIP, and
- contain culturally appropriate metadata that reflects Indigenous-led guidance such as the AIATSIS Pathways Thesauri, for appropriate terminology and classification.

What is CultureStrong?

CultureStrong Sources are those that prioritise Indigenous creators and Indigenous-led collaborations and productions. These sources reflect Indigenous leadership, self-determination, cultural authority, the observance of cultural protocols, Indigenous knowledge systems and FPIC, by Indigenous contributors. Indigenous voices guide the narrative, hold cultural authority and shape the interpretation and use of Indigenous knowledge in CultureStrong sources.

These frameworks also provide contributors and users with practical tools to conduct risk assessments (see **5. Risk Matrix**) before contributing, reusing or editing material that is related to Indigenous content on Wikimedia platforms. This includes assessing whether:

- the source is **CultureStrong**,
- publication or reuse may raise ICIP, cultural sensitivity or Indigenous Data governance concerns,
- terminology and categorisation align with recognised Indigenous standards for citation and resource use, and
- the material could cause harm through misrepresentation, extraction or inappropriate disclosure.

Illustration

A contributor is trying to add more information about their local area onto Wikipedia. They want to add in the name of the local Aboriginal community, and the traditional language names of landmarks in the region. They have found two possible sources, but the sources conflict. One source is a newspaper article by a non-Indigenous person that does not reference any interviews or consultation with the local Aboriginal community. The other source is the official webpage of the Local Aboriginal Land Council. The contributor decides to use the information in the Local Aboriginal Land Council's webpage as it is a CultureStrong Source.

By embedding Indigenous-led citation and classification standards, this Guide supports responsible information stewardship and reduces legal, cultural safety and reputational risks associated with Indigenous Content online.

Indigenous Nation/Country/Language Groups

Indigenous Nation/Country/Language Group are terms representing Indigenous peoples who share a common Indigenous language, nation and Country. There are more than 250 Indigenous languages including approximately 800 dialects, and each is tied to a specific place and Indigenous community.²⁹ Indigenous peoples will primarily identify themselves based on the Nation/Country/Language Group to whom they belong.

4.8 Rights Frameworks and Open-Source Platforms

Open-source platforms, such as Wikimedia projects, are built on principles of free knowledge, open access, collaborative editing, and broad reuse.³⁰ Content is designed to be shared, remixed, translated, and republished globally, often under irrevocable open licences (refer to platform case studies below for more detail on licensing).³¹

Indigenous rights-based frameworks including ICIP, IDSov, and FPIC are grounded in different, but not always incompatible, principles. These frameworks prioritise Indigenous self-determination, Indigenous community governance, cultural authority, attribution, and ongoing control over how knowledge and data are used.

There may be tension between open licensing models that permit unrestricted downstream reuse, and Indigenous rights frameworks that require ongoing consent, cultural integrity, conditions of use, cultural authority, attribution and the ability to withdraw or limit use in certain circumstances.

Applying ICIP, IDSov and FPIC on open sources platforms requires flexible, context-specific approaches. This is particularly the case where:

- content is already widely circulated and publicly available,
- material was shared or published in the past without Indigenous consent or regard for cultural protocols,

²⁹ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Languages Alive* (Web Page) <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/languages-alive>.

³⁰ Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Five Pillars* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five_pillars.

³¹ Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Copyrights* (Web Page) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Copyrights>.

- material does not include details of the source Indigenous communities, the Indigenous peoples are not identifiable, and platform licensing structures do not reflect culturally specific restrictions,³² or
- content is reused beyond the control of the original uploader or Indigenous community.

However, these practical constraints do not remove ethical obligations. Open platforms must still take reasonable and proportionate steps to minimise harm, respect Indigenous governance, and prioritise culturally appropriate decision-making.

This Guide adopts a risk-based and rights-informed approach to navigating these complexities to support Wikimedia platforms to become culturally safer spaces.

5. KEY TERMS

IMPORTANT NOTE

Definitions throughout this Guide are intended to be broad and inclusive, recognising the diversity of Indigenous knowledge systems, cultures, nations, language groups and Indigenous communities across Australia, and the many ways Indigenous peoples and Country may be represented across Wikimedia platforms.

Wikimedia platforms may include Indigenous Content in many forms, including material that involves ICIP and Indigenous Data. Understanding these key terms and concepts is essential to support respectful practice and culturally safe contributions.

5.1 Indigenous Content

Indigenous Content refers to any content that relates to, represents, describes, records, categorises, or is created by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples or their Country. It can include **ICIP** and **Indigenous Data** as well as **culturally sensitive**, Secret/Sacred, and/or offensive materials.

Indigenous Content includes, but is not limited to:

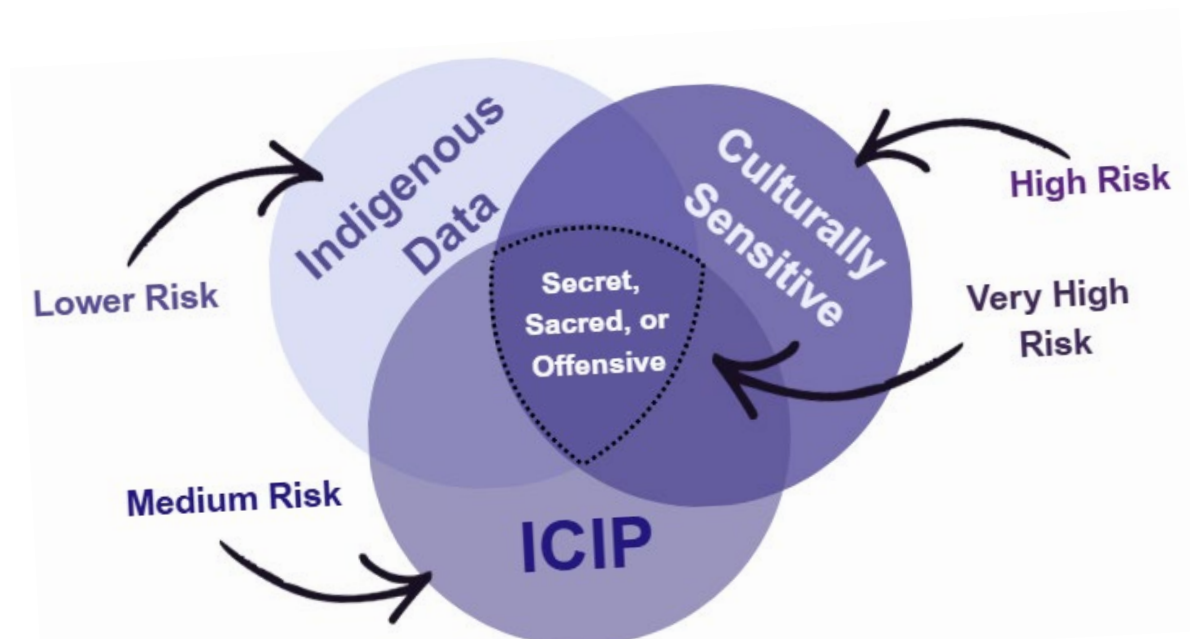
- content created by Indigenous peoples, Indigenous communities or organisations, including text, images, photographs, audio, video, data and metadata,
- content about Indigenous peoples,³³ Indigenous communities, cultures, histories, identities, governance, law, kinship systems, languages, or contemporary issues,
- content relating to Country, including land, waters, seas, skies, sites, places, species, and environments that hold cultural, spiritual, historical or relational significance,
- cultural expressions, such as stories, songs, art, performances, ceremonies, designs, symbols, and traditional knowledge,
- biographical information about Indigenous individuals, including living persons, deceased people and ancestors, and

³² For information on sourcing requirements for Wikidata, see Wikidata, *Help: Sources* (Web Page) <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Help:Sources>.

³³ For biographies of living people on Wikipedia, a high degree of sensitivity and respect for privacy is required. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Biographies of Living Persons* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Biographies_of_living_persons.

- data and structured information about Indigenous peoples or Country, including classifications, identifiers, relationships, and linked datasets (particularly within Wikidata).³⁴

Indigenous Content may be historical or contemporary, widely known or highly specific to particular Indigenous communities. It may be publicly available or sourced from published materials, either historical or contemporary. The fact that content is publicly accessible, legally reusable in terms of copyright, or previously published does not remove the need for culturally respectful and ethical engagement.



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5.2 Culturally Sensitive Materials

Indigenous Content may include material that is significant, challenging, harmful or potentially distressing for Indigenous peoples, collectively referred to as Culturally Sensitive Materials, including:

- content that relates to harm, violence, or traumatic histories (such as the Stolen Generations), whether created by Indigenous or non-Indigenous sources,
- knowledge originating from Indigenous communities that is not Secret/Sacred, but governed by cultural protocols, including rules regarding access, use or sharing (such as [Sorry Business](#) regarding the use of a deceased Indigenous person's name or image),
- material derived from non-Indigenous sources that may be harmful due to the way it has been collected, described, classified or presented, including through omission of cultural context, misrepresentation or inappropriate framing,

³⁴ For information on sourcing requirements for Wikidata, see Wikidata, *Help: Sources* (Web Page) <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Help:Sources>.

- data and content reflecting deficit-based or demeaning narratives, including what Professor Maggie Walter describes as BADDR Data (Blaming, Aggregate, Decontextualised, Deficit-focused, or Restricted),³⁵ and
- content that may misrepresent, oversimplify or distort Indigenous knowledge, cultural meaning or lived experiences,
- any content that poses psychological risks or harms for Indigenous peoples, including distress, anxiety, trauma, embarrassment, or re-traumatisation.³⁶

Sorry Business Protocols

In many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, mourning protocols, ‘Sorry Business’, may restrict the use of a deceased person’s name, image, voice or likeness. These protocols vary between Indigenous communities. Content should only be used where CultureStrong sources demonstrate that appropriate consent has been obtained or that cultural protocols have been respected, with warnings included where appropriate.

Culturally Sensitive Materials may arise from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous sources, and not all Indigenous Content is appropriate for open publication or unrestricted reuse.

5.3 Secret/Sacred Materials

Secret/Sacred material refers to cultural knowledge, expressions, sites, images, objects or information in any form that are restricted under Indigenous cultural protocols and customary law. Whether material is considered Secret/Sacred is determined by the relevant Indigenous community, Traditional Custodians, or Knowledge Holders, not by institutions (although trusted Indigenous-led or informed institutions such as AIATSIS may indicate where restrictions may apply). The Secret/Sacred status of material is not necessarily reflected by the fact that it may be published or publicly available.

Men’s and Women’s Business

Certain knowledge, responsibilities and practices in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are gender specific, and gender restricted. These are referred to as ‘men’s business’ and ‘women’s business’. Some traditional knowledge may be men’s or women’s business. Protocols regarding gender responsibilities and other cultural rules must be respected. This material should not be used and should be removed if found on Wiki platforms.³⁷

Secret/Sacred Material may relate to any aspect of ICIP, including languages, ecological or plant knowledge, ceremonial knowledge, stories of Country, recordings, performances, sacred sites, cultural objects, and men’s or women’s business. Restrictions may apply based

³⁵ Maggie Walter, ‘The Voice of Indigenous Data: Beyond the Markers of Disadvantage’, *Griffith Review* (online, 2018) <https://www.griffithreview.com/articles/voice-indigenous-data-beyond-disadvantage/>, also cited in Maïam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective, *Taking Control of Our Data: A Discussion Paper on Indigenous Data Governance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Communities* (Discussion Paper, Lowitja Institute, January 2024) <https://www.lowitja.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Taking-Control-of-Our-Data-Discussion-Paper.pdf>

³⁶ National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia, *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2025)* (Guideline, National Health and Medical Research Council, 2025) <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2025> definition of ‘psychological harm’: including feelings of worthlessness, distress, guilt, anger, fear or anxiety related, for example, to disclosure of sensitive information, an experience of re-traumatisation, or learning about a genetic possibility of developing an untreatable disease.

³⁷ We note Wikipedia’s policy regarding ‘editing wars’ Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Edit Warring* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Edit_warring.

on gender, age, initiation status, kinship, Indigenous community membership, or other cultural governance rules.

Material may be considered Secret/Sacred where its disclosure, reproduction, or circulation would:

- breach cultural protocols or customary law,
- cause spiritual, cultural or communal harm,
- undermine the authority of Traditional Custodians or Knowledge Holders, or
- disrupt the intergenerational transmission of knowledge.

The fact that material has previously been published, archived, or made publicly accessible does not necessarily remove its Secret/Sacred status. Historical publication such as in anthropological reports may have occurred without FPIC, under circumstances of exploitation or misrepresentation, or without regard to cultural restrictions. Prior publication may reduce legal risk, but it does not eliminate cultural risk.

The following indicators may assist in identifying potentially Secret/Sacred material:

- descriptions of Indigenous cultural practices, ceremonies, rituals or initiation practices,
- images of Indigenous peoples engaged in sacred or restricted cultural ceremony,
- images of Indigenous peoples who are depicted naked, bound, restrained, or otherwise represented in exploitative, degrading or dehumanising contexts (particularly historical images)
- images of, or content about, Indigenous ceremonial objects or sites of great cultural importance, or
- images or descriptions of ancestral remains, burial grounds, or human tissues.

Where there is uncertainty about whether material may be Secret/Sacred, a precautionary approach should be adopted and consultation with relevant Indigenous communities should be prioritised before publication, reuse, continued sharing or further dissemination.

CASE STUDY: *Nomads of the Australian Desert*

The book *Nomads of the Australian Desert* (1976) by Charles Mountford is widely known to contain Secret/Sacred knowledge of the Pitjantjatjara people, including men's business, shared with Mountford in confidence during fieldwork in the 1940s. Its publication in the 1970s was strongly opposed by Pitjantjatjara men, leading to a court-imposed restriction in the Northern Territory. Whilst no longer in print, copies may still be found available for sale and in libraries. Many of the libraries that currently hold this book in their collections also include cultural sensitivity warnings and notices to acknowledge the sensitive and offensive nature of the book. This case highlights the risks of publishing Indigenous knowledge without consent and the importance of respecting cultural authority and restrictions.

5.4 Offensive Materials

Offensive materials include content that portrays Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, either directly or indirectly, in ways that are racist, derogatory, abusive, or harmful in both written and visual form. These materials are often found in older sources, meaning works that were created in the past during periods where more overtly racist attitudes, stereotypes and discriminatory view about Indigenous peoples were widely accepted and reflected in mainstream society. Many of these materials were created by non-Indigenous authors and may embed bias, misinformation or dehumanising representations that continue to cause harm today.

While these harms have historical roots, they are not confined to the past. Because many of these older works are in the public domain and accessible, they are increasingly used to train or inform contemporary technologies. At the same time, contemporary racism and bias continues to shape how Indigenous people are represented. AI systems have largely developed by non-Indigenous institutions and may rely on datasets that are not culturally vetted or governed by Indigenous peoples. As a result, offensive materials can also be generated and amplified at scale by AI models via outputs from generative imaging technologies such as ChatGPT, Adobe Firefly, Google Gemini, Stable Diffusion and Midjourney.

These materials reflect outdated attitudes, language, or beliefs that are recognised as offensive.

Examples may include:

- terms such as “full-blood”, “half-caste” or other derogatory labels,
- racial caricatures or negatively stereotyped representations,
- photographs that are staged, manipulated or taken out of context, including images that were posed to depict Indigenous peoples in inaccurate or stereotypical ways, or contemporary images (such as digitally altered or AI-generated content) that misrepresent, distort or otherwise do not authentically represent identity, culture or circumstances of the Indigenous persons, Indigenous communities or groups depicted,
- language or descriptions that demean or dehumanise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,
- colonial slurs, which are often used to justify colonial control and reinforce ideas of racial superiority. While they may still appear in historical materials, they carry ongoing harm because they reflect and perpetuate racist attitudes, and their use today can cause offence, reinforce discrimination and contribute to the marginalisation of Indigenous communities.

Even where historical materials are publicly available, care should be taken when reproducing, describing or contextualising them.

Staged Historical Images

Staged Historical Images refers to photographs or depictions of Indigenous peoples, commonly from the early colonial period in Australia, that were directed by non-Indigenous peoples that misrepresent cultural practices, reinforce stereotypes and were created without informed consent.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

This Guide adopts a risk-based and rights-informed approach to support culturally safer engagement with Indigenous Content across Wikimedia platforms. The implications of these risks are significant as they impact upon the health, safety, identity and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples, Indigenous communities and broader Australian society as users of Wikimedia platforms. Because Indigenous Content varies in sensitivity, authority and potential impact, a structured assessment process is necessary to navigate these complexities responsibly.

The Risk Matrix below provides a practical decision-making tool to guide you when publishing, editing, categorising, structuring or otherwise engaging with Indigenous Content. It supports consistent and culturally informed decision-making.

By categorising content as Lower, Medium, High or Very High risk, and outlining key indicators for each level, the Risk Matrix helps you determine what safeguards, consent processes, cultural warnings, additional context, or further consultation may be required before using or sharing the material.

6.1 Key Questions for Contributors

Before creating, editing or uploading Indigenous Content, consider:

- Is this a trustworthy and accurate source with cultural integrity? (See [6.2 CultureStrong Sources](#)). Have you carried out research to ascertain whether any objections or disputes have been raised publicly in relation to this content from Indigenous peoples or Indigenous communities?
- If the source is CultureStrong, is it reasonable to believe the creators intended for it to be uploaded or used in a global platform?
 - Has it been published previously online or only in print or limited formats?
 - What was the intended audience and purpose of the publication? Was it created for cultural maintenance only, or a specific group of Indigenous people, community or organisation rather than for broad public access?
- How are you intending to use this material? Are you using it to describe:
 - facts **about** the material only (for example, date of publication, author/s, title, topics covered by the content, statistics) and/or,
 - claims **asserted by** the material (for example, opinions, analysis, conclusions and perspectives expressed in the content)?
- Do you have the appropriate knowledge, context and sources to contribute to this content responsibly? Are you relying on CultureStrong Sources that can guide your use of the content?
- Do you have sufficient cultural understanding to write about this topic, and are you using CultureStrong Sources from people with appropriate cultural authority?
- Could the content be considered **Medium to Very High Risk**? Could its publication or reuse cause cultural harm or distress, or result in misrepresentation and/or exploitation. See the diagram below for guidance around conducting a risk assessment.
- Can appropriate attribution, warnings, Indigenous community context, or restrictions be applied?

When editing or adding Indigenous Content:

- Are you approaching this content responsibly? Do you have enough understanding to avoid misinterpretation or harm?
- Who has cultural authority for this content? Are Indigenous voices and perspective reflected appropriately in your sources?
- Is the source trustworthy, accurate and does it have cultural integrity? Does it contain outdated, biased, or derogatory perspectives that need context? Are there any concerns or disputes raised publicly?
- Is it appropriate to include this content, even if it is publicly available? Could it involve Secret/Sacred or culturally sensitive material?
- Could this cause harm? Might it lead to offence, misrepresentation, perpetuating harmful stereotypes or exploitation?

When reviewing Indigenous Content already on Wikimedia platforms:

- Is the content accurate, respectful and free from cultural stereotypes or biased assumptions?
- Has appropriate metadata been included that aligns with the CultureStrong Sources and accurate Indigenous-led citation, appropriate [warnings and attribution](#), and culturally appropriate categorisation (for example, [correct Nation/Country/Language Group identifiers](#)) been used in accordance with this Guide.
- Has appropriate permission been given where required and relevant cultural protocols followed by the source material (this will be reflected by a [CultureStrong Source](#))?
- Does the content reflect the diversity of Indigenous peoples and avoid presenting a single or generalised perspective?
- Have you prioritised Indigenous voices rather than speaking about them?
- Have you considered whether the content could cause harm, misrepresentation or unintended impacts now or in the future?
- If dealing with images, is their use:
 - relevant and necessary to the topic being discussed, and
 - unlikely to cause harm to Indigenous peoples or communities, including where permission from those depicted has not been obtained, or where use may be inconsistent with cultural protocols.

6.2 CultureStrong Sources for Indigenous Content

An important part of undertaking a risk assessment of any Indigenous Content is evaluating the trustworthiness, accuracy and cultural integrity of sources from an Indigenous rights-based framework set out in this Guide.

Wikipedia currently has a [Reliable sources project page](#) that requires reliance on published sources and tends to prioritise Western hierarchies of knowledge, including academic presses and citation counts.

When working with Indigenous Content, sources regarded as trustworthy by Indigenous communities or individuals may or may not satisfy the criteria set out in Wikipedia's Reliable Sources project page. Some older academic sources that may be considered 'reliable' by Wikipedia, may even run counter to the definition of trustworthiness, accuracy and cultural integrity given the absence of FPIC by Indigenous peoples involved and often biased views of researchers regarding Indigenous peoples, cultures and gender roles more generally.

For the purpose of this Guide, CultureStrong Sources are those that prioritise Indigenous creators and Indigenous-led collaborations and productions. These sources reflect Indigenous leadership, self-determination, cultural authority, the observance of cultural protocols, Indigenous knowledge systems and informed consent by Indigenous contributors. Indigenous voices guide the narrative, hold cultural authority and shape the interpretation and use of Indigenous knowledge in CultureStrong sources.

Illustration

A contributor comes across a video posted to social media by the niece of a notable Aboriginal activist. In the video, the niece is interviewing the activist about their experiences in a protest movement from the 1970s. While this video is 'by mob' and also a CultureStrong Source, it does not comply with Wikipedia's Reliable Sources guidelines because it has not been published in a reliable book, journal or newspaper. However, the contributor is still able to use it to find a report by a reputable news site that aligns with what is said in the video and does comply with the Reliable Source guidelines as well as CultureStrong Sources as the newspaper states that it has been prepared with the permission of the Aboriginal activist.

Because Wikimedia contributors may edit anonymously, the authority of content cannot be assumed based on who uploaded it. Risk assessment must focus on the provenance, framing and cultural integrity of the source cited. Indigenous knowledge systems are often grounded in oral histories, lived experience, Indigenous community custodianship and cultural protocols that may not be captured within conventional academic publishing structures.

Key questions to ask regarding the appropriateness of using a source have been developed by the **CAVAL Referencing Guide** and include:

- Does the resource use **outdated or racist terminology**?³⁸
- Is it a contemporary source? Or could it be?
- Does the source contain content that was collected without ifpuc?
- Does the source centre Indigenous ways of being, doing and knowing?

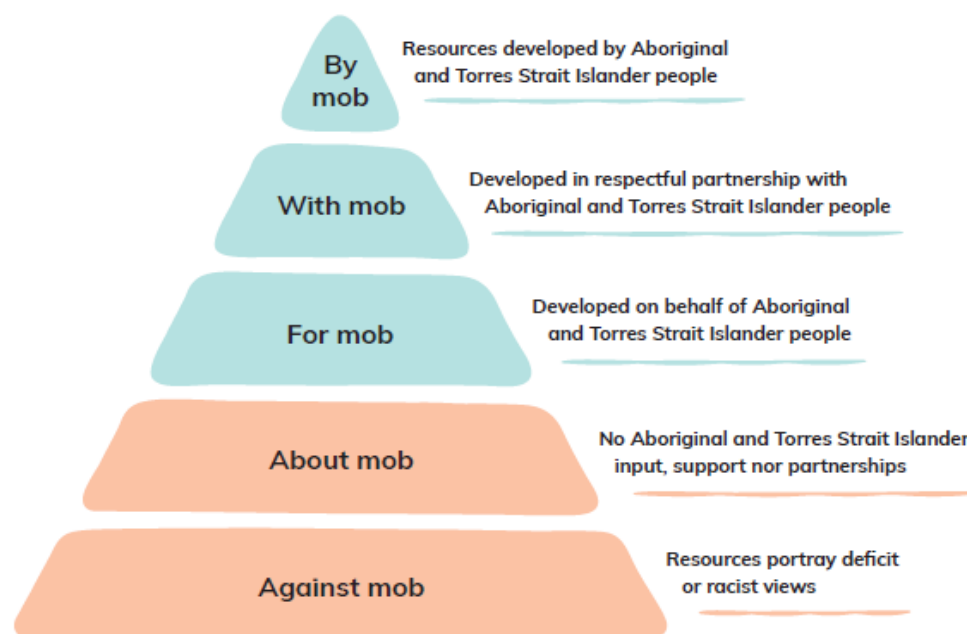
It is also important to ensure that where materials relate to a specific Nation/Country/Language Group, they are sourced from, or informed by, Indigenous peoples from that Nation/Country/Language Group where appropriate.

Older or outdated sources, developed by non-Indigenous peoples should be treated as higher risk. They may carry elevated cultural risk due to extractive research practices, deficit framing or publication without FPIC, ICIP or IDSov awareness. Materials created about Indigenous peoples without Indigenous input require careful scrutiny, and platforms that

³⁸ National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia, *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2025)* (Guideline, National Health and Medical Research Council, 2025) <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2025>

appear Indigenous-led but lack meaningful Indigenous involvement should be assessed cautiously and, where possible, verified.

The pyramid below was developed by AIATSIS as part of their Educational Resources Guide. It outlines key integrity-based considerations for assessing the cultural appropriateness and quality of resources relating to Indigenous peoples. It presents evaluation as a spectrum, prioritising Indigenous authorship, perspectives and partnerships. The first three blue tiers “By mob, With mob and For mob”³⁹ may be considered CultureStrong Sources for Indigenous Content.



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Sources that are lower risk are generally those developed by Indigenous peoples or organisations, or created in respectful partnership with relevant Indigenous communities. These sources are more likely to reflect cultural authority, adherence to cultural protocols, accurate representation and alignment with ICIP and IDSov principles.

Older Materials and their Risks

Older materials (typically created prior to the 1970s) are not inherently offensive simply because of their age. However, they may present a higher level of risk, particularly in relation to Indigenous Content. This is because such materials were often created in historical contexts where FPIC was not considered and Indigenous perspectives were excluded or misunderstood. As a result, they may contain offensive language or depictions (such as racial classifications, slurs, or stereotypes), reflect harmful or outdated worldviews (for example, portraying Indigenous peoples as ‘primitive’ or on the verge of ‘extinction’ or inferior or less human), present one-sided or inaccurate accounts that exclude Indigenous voices, or include culturally sensitive or restricted knowledge that may have been recorded or shared without appropriate consent. Use the table below to identify the relevant risk category for Indigenous Content and appropriate steps to take before use.

³⁹ ‘Mob’ is a term used by Indigenous peoples to refer to each other. ‘Mob’ can be used to identify a specific Indigenous community group, (for example “My mob is Gumbaynggirr”,) or to a group of Indigenous peoples as a form of greeting, for example “hey you mob!”. The term ‘mob’ is inherently linked to Indigenous community and family, encompassing shared experiences, responsibilities, and cultural practices.

6.3 Risk Matrix Assessment Table

Risk Level	Content Type	Key Indicators
<u>Lower Risk</u>	Indigenous Content (that does not include ICIP, Culturally Sensitive Materials, Secret and Sacred Content or Offensive Materials)	• Widely published content with no published or reported disputes or complaints from Indigenous communities. • Not culturally restricted by any protocols, for example Sorry Business around publishing of names of recently deceased persons (NOTE: this example would make the content Culturally Sensitive Materials). • Content derived from a <u>CultureStrong Source</u>. • Does not contain culturally offensive language. • Images that contain clear consent for use that does not contain ICIP, Culturally Sensitive Materials, Secret/Sacred Materials or Offensive Materials.
<u>Medium Risk</u>	ICIP	• Any form of ICIP that does not include Culturally Sensitive Materials, Secret/Sacred Materials or Offensive Materials.
<u>High Risk</u>	Culturally Sensitive Materials	• Material which may be significant, challenging, disputed or uncomfortable to Indigenous peoples but not Secret/Sacred Materials or Offensive Materials. • Images or references to deceased Indigenous persons. • Materials related to harm, violence or accounts of traumatic lived experiences like the Stolen Generations, including images.
<u>Very High Risk</u>	Secret/Sacred Materials	• Secret/Sacred or restricted knowledge. • Gender-specific knowledge (<u>Men's and Women's Business</u>). • Information and/or images regarding sacred sites or sacred ceremonial material. • Content that is unprovenanced, making it likely to have unknown specific Indigenous community protocols governing the sharing of that material
<u>Very High Risk</u>	Offensive Materials	• <u>Older materials</u> including anthropological reports or government reports. • Racist/derogatory portrayals including colonial slurs. • Caricatures, deepfakes or <u>Historical Staged Images</u>. • Content that may retraumatise or endanger Indigenous peoples such as actual depictions or reproductions of violence, racism or traumatic events. • Hate speech.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ *Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Criminal and Migration Laws) Act 2026* (Cth) and the *Online Safety Act 2021* (Cth) provide obligations under the Australian law that can affect Wikimedia platforms. These obligations include responding to eSafety takedown notices and taking reasonable steps to prevent exposure to harmful content.

6.4 Ongoing Responsibilities for Indigenous Content

As a collaborative platform, contributors may encounter substantial amounts of Indigenous Content previously contributed by other Wikimedians across Wikimedia platforms.

Embedding ICIP and IDSov principles is not limited to assessing new content before you publish or upload it. These responsibilities also apply when you are editing, reviewing, categorising, structuring or otherwise engaging with Indigenous Content already available on Wikimedia platforms. You share responsibility for identifying Indigenous Content that may require review, correction, additional context, cultural warnings or further consideration of consent and cultural authority.

When you encounter existing Indigenous Content, apply the Risk Matrix above in the same way you would for new contributions. The process of culturally informed risk assessment is ongoing and applies to all forms of participation on Wikimedia platforms.

Illustration:

A contributor is uploading images that they took from a football match onto Wikimedia Commons. They assess each picture using the Risk Matrix, finding that most of the pictures fall into the 'Lower Risk' category because they simply depict Indigenous persons at the event participating in the game. Some images however are from the Welcome to Country ceremony or include traditional artworks on team uniforms and fall into the Medium Risk category. Following this Guide, they decide not to use any images that would fall into the Medium Risk category or above.

7. WHAT TO DO? RESPONSIBLE CONTENT DECISIONS

Once you have identified the risk level of Indigenous Content using the Risk Matrix, below are some steps that can guide decisions regarding use of that content.

7.1. Lower Risk: Indigenous Content (non-ICIP, non-sensitive)

If the Indigenous Content is assessed as Lower Risk:

1. Assess whether the material is derived from a CultureStrong Source that is intended for sharing online. If it is a CultureStrong Source, preference should be given where possible to using that material. If it is not from a CultureStrong Source, ensure the material is accurate according to other CultureStrong Sources.
2. If the source is not a CultureStrong Source and has not previously been published by a CultureStrong Source online, pause and consider how you are using the material. Consider whether the use is describing:
 - a) facts **about** the material only (for example, date of publication, author/s, title, topics covered by the content, statistics) and/or,
 - b) claims **asserted by** the material (for example, opinions, analysis, conclusions and perspectives expressed in the content).

If you are using the material to describe facts about the material only, then proceed to step 3. If you are using the material to describe claims asserted by the material, ensure that the facts and their presentation accord with IDSov and ICIP principles of self-determination, empowerment, respect and does not cause harm to Indigenous peoples.

3. If material is used or edited, ensure metadata aligns with CultureStrong Source(s) (where available) and accurate Indigenous-led citation, appropriate warnings and attribution, and culturally appropriate categorisation (for example, correct Nation/Country/Language Group identifiers) in accordance with this Guide.
4. Provide sufficient context in alignment with CultureStrong Source(s) (where available) to avoid misrepresentation or decontextualisation (for example, if a CultureStrong Source states that a report is based on a study of a certain Indigenous community, stakeholders or participants, reflecting this to ensure it is not used to generalise all Indigenous peoples). If no CultureStrong Source(s) are available to guide contextualisation, tag this content as requiring additional citations.
5. Monitor the content over time by adding edited pages to 'Watchlists' and take responsibility for responding to community concerns, or objections or discussions through use of 'Talk Pages'. Clear 'Edit Summaries' should always be provided to communicate editing decisions.

Even Lower Risk content should be monitored for accuracy and respectful representation over time.

Illustration:

A contributor is editing the Wikipedia page for an Indigenous athlete. They find an article by a well-known Indigenous news source which includes an extensive interview with the athlete. The Wikimedian determines that this is a CultureStrong Source and can be used to reference key dates and events. They ensure correct attribution, appropriate contextualisation and add the page to a 'Watchlist' to monitor it over time.

7.2. Medium Risk: ICIP (non-sensitive)

If Indigenous Content includes ICIP but does not contain Culturally Sensitive, Secret/Sacred Materials or Offensive Materials:

1. Assess whether the material is derived from a CultureStrong Source that is intended for sharing online. If it is a CultureStrong Source, preference should be given where possible to using that material. If it is not from a CultureStrong Source, ensure the material is accurate according to other CultureStrong Sources.
2. If the source is not a CultureStrong Source and has not previously been published by a CultureStrong Source online, pause and consider how you are using the material. Consider whether the use is describing:
 - a) facts about the material only (for example, date of publication, author/s, title, topics covered by the content, statistics) and/or,
 - b) claims asserted by the material (for example, opinions, analysis, conclusions and perspectives expressed in the content).

If you are using the material to describe facts about the material only, then proceed to step 3. If you are using the material to describe claims asserted by the material then **stop, do not use this material.**

3. If material is used or edited, ensure metadata aligns with CultureStrong Source(s) (where available) and accurate Indigenous-led citation, appropriate warnings and attribution, and culturally appropriate categorisation (for example, correct Nation/Country/Language Group identifiers) in accordance with this Guide.

4. Provide sufficient context in alignment with CultureStrong Source(s) (where available) to avoid misrepresentation or decontextualisation (for example, if a CultureStrong Source states that a community publication reflects cultural heritage of a certain Indigenous community, and that research might be ongoing, reflecting this to ensure it is not used to overstate the findings of the publication). If no CultureStrong Source(s) are available to guide contextualisation, tag this content as requiring additional citations.
5. Monitor the content over time by adding edited pages to 'Watchlists' and take responsibility for responding to community concerns, or objections or discussions through use of 'Talk Pages'. Clear 'Edit Summaries' should always be provided to communicate editing decisions.

Illustration:

When editing a page about native plants in Australia, a contributor comes across a well-known book by an Indigenous professor with expertise in Indigenous agriculture. The book includes traditional ecological and plant knowledges and practises, with evidence that this information has been included in the book with consent from the relevant community. The Wikimedian uses this Guide to determine that the book is a CultureStrong Source and that the information has been published online before. They make sure to include proper attribution, contextualisation and categorisation for plant knowledge. They add the page to a 'Watchlist' to monitor over time.

At the same time, the contributor finds a self-published pamphlet uploaded onto the website of a local Meriam community group in the Torres Strait that details medicinal plant knowledge. The pamphlet states that it is written to support local knowledge and to keep their culture alive. It appears to the contributor that the information, although accessible through some digging online, was not intended for a global audience. Although it is a CultureStrong Source, the contributor does not believe that they are the right person to decide whether to permanently share it online and decides not to include it on the page.

7.3. High Risk: Culturally Sensitive Materials

If the Indigenous Content contains Culturally Sensitive Materials but not Secret/Sacred Materials or Offensive Materials:

1. Assess whether the material is derived from a CultureStrong Source that is intended for sharing online. If it is a CultureStrong Source, preference should be given where possible to using that material. If it is not from a CultureStrong Source, ensure the material is accurate according to other CultureStrong Sources.
2. Carefully assess the potential harm, including cultural, spiritual or Indigenous community impact of publishing the material online.
3. If the source is a CultureStrong Source, ensure that detailed accounts of violence, traumatic histories and/or harm are not reproduced in detail when using the source.
4. If the source is not a CultureStrong Source and has not previously been published by a CultureStrong Source online, pause and consider how you are using the material. Consider whether the use is describing:
 - a) facts **about** the material only (for example, date of publication, author/s, title, topics covered by the content, statistics) and/or,

- b) claims **asserted by** the material (for example, opinions, analysis, conclusions and perspectives expressed in the content).

If you are using the material to describe facts about the material only, then proceed to step 5. If you are using the material to describe claims asserted by the material then **stop, do not use this material.**

5. If material is used or edited, ensure metadata aligns with CultureStrong Source(s) (where available) and accurate Indigenous-led citation, appropriate **warnings and attribution**, and culturally appropriate categorisation (for example, **correct Nation/Country/Language Group identifiers**) in accordance with this Guide.
6. Provide sufficient context in alignment with CultureStrong Source(s) (where available) to avoid misrepresentation or decontextualisation (for example, if a CultureStrong Source states that findings from a study are based on a certain number of interviews developed in response to a lack of recognition or funding by government or structural issues, reflecting this to ensure socio-historical context is accurately conveyed). If no CultureStrong Source(s) are available to guide contextualisation, tag this content as requiring additional citations.
6. If material that is not from a CultureStrong Source and has not been published online outside of Wikimedia platforms is encountered on Wikimedia platforms, **remove, tag and raise an issue in 'Talk Pages'.**
7. Monitor the content over time by adding edited pages to 'Watchlists' and take responsibility for responding to community concerns, objections, or discussions through use of 'Talk Pages'. Clear 'Edit Summaries' should always be provided to communicate editing decisions.
8. If removed content keeps being restored by other users, provide an **appropriate warning** for Indigenous users who may see the material.

Illustration:

A government report created and led by a team of Indigenous researchers and Indigenous cultural consultants has been published that details the lived experiences of Indigenous people who are survivors of the Stolen Generations. A contributor wishes to use this report but they have identified that it contains significant amounts of Culturally Sensitive Materials. Using this Guide, they assess the potential harm of using this report and decide that it is important for the information in this report to be shared to ensure people can access Indigenous-led information about the Stolen Generations. Following the Guide, they refrain from sharing detailed accounts of trauma, harm and violence and ensure that appropriate context is provided as well as any wording that can be included to prepare Indigenous readers about the nature of the topic. The contributor describes facts broadly instead such as 'the report detailed accounts from 100 Indigenous survivors and their families who suffered trauma and abuse after being removed from their families' and suggests a content warning on the 'Talk Page.' They also add the page to a 'Watchlist' and monitor any updates.

7.4. Very High Risk: Secret/Sacred Materials

If the Indigenous Content is Secret/Sacred:

1. **Do not upload, publish or edit the material.**
2. If the material is already published, **remove** the material from the platform and detail your reasons in 'Talk Pages.'

3. Notify an appropriate Indigenous organisation or authority on appropriate next steps.
4. Apply interim safeguards where removal is not immediate. This includes raising concerns on chat pages in a culturally respectful way, avoiding repeating or further circulating the material in chats.
5. If removed content keeps being restored by other users, escalate to an administrator and apply cultural warnings in the interim.

Secret/Sacred knowledge **should not** be shared or displayed online.

Illustration

When looking through Wikipedia pages about their local area, a contributor finds information about a Sacred Indigenous women's site and descriptions of the secret ceremonial practices that take place there. Using this Guide, the contributor removes the material and details their reason for doing so in the 'Talk Page' and notifies the Local Aboriginal Lands Council about the information being uploaded. They also add the page to a 'Watchlist' and closely monitor to make sure the Secret/Sacred information is not reuploaded.

7.5. Very High Risk: Offensive Materials

If the Indigenous Content comprises Offensive Materials:

1. Assess whether the material is derived from a CultureStrong Source. If it is not derived from a CultureStrong Source, conduct research to ascertain whether other CultureStrong Sources address the materials.
2. Carefully assess the potential harm of publishing the material, including whether it contains derogatory, discriminatory or dehumanising content, reinforces racist stereotypes, or may cause cultural, spiritual or distress to Indigenous peoples.
3. If the source is not a CultureStrong Source and has not previously been published by a CultureStrong Source online, pause and consider how you are using the material. Consider whether the use is describing:
 - a) facts **about** the material only (for example, date of publication, author/s, title, topics covered by the content, statistics) and/or,
 - b) claims **asserted by** the material (for example, opinions, analysis, conclusions and perspectives expressed in the content).

If you are using the material to describe claims about the material only, then proceed to step 4. If you are using the material to describe facts asserted by the material then **stop, do not use this material.**

4. If the material is part of a CultureStrong Source or has been addressed by other CultureStrong Sources, provide the same critical context as the CultureStrong Source, using where appropriate, attribution and citation for that critical context adopted (for example, if an Indigenous scholar or Indigenous community member provides detail regarding a report's errors, exploitation of Indigenous peoples involved, or theft of artefacts).

5. **Do not** reproduce hate speech, racial vilifying or other unlawful content (including copyright violations, in contravention of existing Wikimedia policies on Child Protection, Copyright and Libel).⁴¹
6. **Do not** reproduce caricatures, racist imagery, Staged Historical Photographs or deepfakes (**Offensive Images**). For the purpose of this Guide, Staged Historical Photographs refers to photographs of Indigenous peoples, commonly from the early colonial period in Australia that were directed by non-Indigenous peoples that misrepresent cultural practices, reinforce stereotypes and were created without meaningful consent. For guidance on the use of images, please refer to [7.6 Images](#) section below.
7. Any descriptions of Offensive Images must accord with the critical context provided by the CultureStrong Source, using where appropriate, attribution and citation for that critical context (for example, where an Indigenous scholar or Indigenous community member provides detail regarding a report's errors, exploitation of Indigenous peoples, or theft of artefacts).
8. Minimise quotation of derogatory language and clearly identify and critique harmful framing in accordance with the critical context provided by CultureStrong Sources on this material.
9. Apply appropriate [cultural warnings](#) to ensure materials do not retraumatise Indigenous peoples.
10. If harm cannot be adequately mitigated through context and safeguards, **do not** publish and remove if already published.
11. Monitor the content over time by adding edited pages to 'Watchlists' and take responsibility for responding to community concerns, or objections or discussions through use of 'Talk Pages'. Clear 'Edit Summaries' should always be provided to communicate editing decisions.

⁴¹ 'Wikipedia: Copyright Violations' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* (Web Page, last updated 2026) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Copyright_violations.

'Wikipedia: Libel' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* (Web Page, last updated 2026) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Libel>.

'Wikipedia: Image Use Policy' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* (Web Page, last updated 2026) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Image_use_policy.

'Wikipedia: Child Protection' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* (Web Page, last updated 2026) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Child_protection.

Illustration:

A contributor is editing the page of a significant figure in Indigenous history, an Indigenous warrior and activist. When looking for resources they come across an old caricature of the person. The image likens the person to an animal and exaggerates their features in a clearly offensive way. Following the Guide, they identify this photo as Offensive Materials and they do not upload this image onto the Wikipedia page. They do, however, find a published academic article by an Indigenous researcher about the impacts of caricatures such as these on Indigenous communities which includes a discussion of this particular caricature. The contributor assesses the article as a CultureStrong Source that includes both Culturally Sensitive and Offensive Materials. Adopting terminology and contextualisation used in the article, they share it to discuss the harms of racism in broad terms, careful to minimise quotation of derogatory language or any harmful accounts in detail. They also seek to include where possible warnings about the content for Indigenous readers as well as proper attribution and citations such as the academic researcher's Language Group, and any communities who participated in the research. The page is added to a monitored 'Watchlist' by the contributor for any feedback.

7.6. Images

Images are powerful and visceral forms of knowledge and representation. They can support visibility, education and cultural understanding, but they can also misrepresent, harm or perpetuate injustice, stereotypes and trauma if used without care.

This Guide encourages contributors to approach the use of images of Indigenous peoples, cultures, Country and expressions with a higher degree of caution than written content given their visual and potentially emotive impact.

In addition to observing any copyright obligations,⁴² the following general principles underpin the use of images:

- Images must only be used where they are relevant and necessary to support the written Indigenous Content on Wikipedia pages and other Wiki platforms.
- Images that fall into Lower to Medium Risk categories **should not** be used unless:
 - it is derived from a CultureStrong source that has been published online,
 - its use is relevant and necessary to the written Indigenous Content,
 - it will not potentially cause harm to Indigenous communities or peoples, either due to a lack of permission from persons depicted, or in accordance with any cultural protocols, and
 - if used, it contains metadata and appropriate context that aligns with the CultureStrong Source and accurate Indigenous-led citation, appropriate **warnings and attribution**, and culturally appropriate categorisation in accordance with this Guide, for example:
 - Named the creator/artist/photographer?
 - Given proper credit and attribution?
 - Described what the image shows?

⁴² Wikipedia: Copyright Violations' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* (Web Page, last updated 2026) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Copyright_violations.

- Identified the correct **Nation/Country/Language Group identifiers?**
- Named any people shown in the image (if appropriate)?
- Included any cultural sensitivity warnings (like for deceased persons)?
- Provided context about when and why it was created or shared?
- Images that fall into High to Very High Risk categories **should not** be used even if derived from a CultureStrong Source unless the contributor is the appropriate ICIP rights holder and/or family, community member or individual who has authority to speak for the use of that image.

8. METADATA AND DESCRIPTIVE PRACTICES

Once the above risk assessment has been carried out and the decision to publish or edit materials has been made, it is important that decisions affecting metadata are guided by Indigenous-led citation and resource guides including:

- **Guidelines for First Nations Collection Description, 2023).**
- **AIATSIS Pathways Thesauri 1997,**⁴³
- **AIATSIS Austlang Code,**
- **ATSILIRN Protocols, 2012,** and
- **Local Contexts Traditional Knowledge Labels.**

Descriptive practices are not neutral. They can:

- reinforce colonial narratives or make Indigenous peoples and culture less visible or ignore them,
- reduce complex cultural identities to simplistic or homogenising labels,
- misrepresent language groups, Country, kinship or cultural authority,
- enable large-scale reuse of Indigenous Data without appropriate context, and
- perpetuate racist, outdated or anthropological terminology and methodologies.

Because Wikimedia content feeds into AI systems and search engines, classification errors may be replicated across the digital ecosystem.

8.1. Key Questions to Ask

Before publishing or editing metadata relating to Indigenous Content, ask:

- Are the words respectful, accurate and current?
- Have you named the right Nation, Country or Language Group where possible?
- Does this classification respect IDSov principles?
- Could this metadata create risk through aggregation or automated reuse?
- Would Indigenous people, Indigenous communities or organisations consider this description accurate and respectful?

⁴³ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Pathways Thesauri* (Web Page) <https://aiatsis.gov.au/publication/35114>.

If uncertain, pause and seek guidance from CultureStrong Sources where possible, and if not, undertake appropriate consultation.

8.2. Good Practice

When adding, editing or creating metadata:

Use culturally appropriate terminology:

- Refer to recognised Indigenous-led tools such as the [AIATSIS Pathways Thesauri](#) and AustLang (for language identifiers).
- Avoid outdated, anthropological or deficit-based terms such as “Aborigine”.⁴⁴
- Where terminology is contested, reflect different Indigenous preferences and explain historical usage where necessary. There will often be different spellings for language words, refer to AIATSIS Pathways Thesauri for guidance.

Be specific, not generic:

- Use specific [Nation/Country/Language Group](#), rather than broad terms like “Indigenous” or “Aboriginal”, where this information has been provided to describe a person or material by a CultureStrong Source.
- Classify by Nation/Country/Language Group and in accordance with CultureStrong Source/s. If referring to an Indigenous person, prioritise how the Indigenous person describes their identity publicly.
- Recognise the diversity, identity and continuing survival of Indigenous cultures by including as much information as possible to reflect descriptions by CultureStrong Source/s, including variations in spelling and use of Indigenous language word characters and orthography as appropriate.

Enable Indigenous voices:

- Incorporate Indigenous-authored descriptions or Indigenous community-endorsed terminology alongside prioritising CultureStrong Source/s descriptions.

8.3. ICIP and High-Risk Materials in Metadata

Metadata can itself contain ICIP, Culturally Sensitive, Secret/Sacred and Offensive Materials. Care should be taken not to include or share sensitive details, particularly where this may expose restricted knowledge or places.

For example:

- Language identifiers.
- Cultural group names.
- Sacred site locations (avoid including precise geographic coordinates or detailed mapping information)
- Gender-specific knowledge categories.
- Links between individuals, kinship groups or cultural practices.

⁴⁴ Zac Roberts, Summer May Finlay, Karen Soldatic and Bronwyn Carlson, *A Guide to Writing and Speaking about Indigenous People in Australia* (Macquarie University, 2021) <https://doi.org/10.25949/5TFK-5113>.

- Derogatory or outdated terminology in titles of reports, identifiers for cultural groups.

The Risk Matrix must be applied to any metadata as well as information that is published or edited on Wikimedia platforms. This includes not categorising or publishing any metadata that contains Secret/Sacred Material, and when editing, removing this metadata where possible.

Historical records may contain racist or offensive terminology for example in archival labels. They should not be reproduced uncritically in categories or descriptions and if included must:

- be clearly contextualised,
- use culturally respectful contemporary terms endorsed through appropriate consultation and/or CultureStrong Sources in primary metadata fields.
- Where appropriate, apply cultural warnings.

8.4. Ongoing Responsibilities

Indigenous cultures, protocols and Indigenous communities are living and continually evolving. Indigenous self-determination requires that descriptive systems remain responsive and open to revision. Wikimedia contributors share responsibility for:

- Updating outdated terminology.
- Responding respectfully to feedback from Indigenous communities.
- Supporting Indigenous-led review processes.
- Recognising that classification is a governance act, not a neutral technical task.

Embedding culturally informed metadata practices strengthens accuracy, reduces harm, and aligns Wikimedia's open knowledge mission with ICIP, IDSov and the principles outlined in this Guide.

9. CONSULTATION AND CONSENT

Consent is central to respectful engagement with Indigenous Content. In the absence of direct consent, contributors should adopt a precautionary approach. This includes relying on CultureStrong Sources, respecting ICIP, and avoiding the use of material where consent, cultural authority, or the appropriateness of its use is unclear. Where there is doubt, it is preferable **not to upload or use** the material.

Because Wikimedia platforms are open, decentralised and often anonymous, direct consultation with Indigenous peoples and communities to obtain consent is **not recommended** by individual contributors outside of Wikimedia Australia supported projects.

Contributors are not expected to resolve complex cultural authority questions alone, nor should they place undue burden on Indigenous individuals, families or communities to approve or validate content.

Contributors should not initiate direct or unsolicited contact ('cold calling') with Indigenous individuals, families or communities for the purpose of consultation. Engagement should only occur where there is an existing, trusted relationship, or where it is facilitated through Wikimedia Australia projects or another appropriate organisation with relevant cultural authority and community connections.

If consultation is deemed necessary and appropriate, this section provides some high-level guidance on how to approach it carefully and respectfully.

9.1 Weighing Benefits and Harms

When consulting with Indigenous peoples, communities and organisations, contributors should carefully weigh the potential benefits of making the material visible and amplifying Indigenous voices, against the cultural load and possible harm that may arise for Indigenous persons, families or communities in being asked to engage with or respond to the material.

In doing so, contributors should adhere to [True Tracks® Principles](#) and the standard of [Free, Prior and Informed Consent \(FPIC\)](#), ensuring that Indigenous peoples, organisations and communities are provided with sufficient information and adequate time to make informed decisions about their participation, and that appropriate compensation is provided for their time and contributions.

9.2 Who to Approach

Where consultation is warranted and the identity of the appropriate cultural authority to consult with is unclear, contributors should prioritise:

- Introductions through Wikimedia Australia.
- Recognised peak Indigenous organisations (for example, AIATSIS or relevant state-based bodies).
- Aboriginal Land Councils or Prescribed Body Corporates connected to Country.
- Indigenous language centres or cultural heritage organisations relevant to the material.
- Established Indigenous-led institutions or representative bodies.

Where possible, first contact, on behalf of a contributor, should be made by Wikimedia Australia, with trusted Indigenous organisations rather than individual community members. Contributors should avoid approaching families, Elders or individuals directly unless there is a clear and appropriate channel to do so.

10. RESOLVING DISPUTES

Wikimedia platforms operate through community-based processes for resolving disputes, grounded in open discussion, consensus-building and, where necessary, structured escalation pathways such as Requests for Comment, noticeboards and administrator oversight.⁴⁵

Contributors are expected to follow established content policies and behavioural standards, including civility, assuming good faith and adherence to the Universal Code of Conduct, with 'Talk Pages' serving as the primary forum for raising and resolving concerns about content.⁴⁶

This Guide should be read as complementary to those frameworks. Endorsed by Wikimedia Australia, it suggests additional, culturally informed guidance to support responsible engagement with Indigenous Content, particularly in situations of disagreement or uncertainty.

⁴⁵ Wikimedia has a variety of dispute resolution processes across platforms, including 'Talk Pages,' Requests for Comment, noticeboards and administrator actions on Wikipedia, the community discussion and deletion processes on Wikimedia Commons, and consensus-based discussion on Wikidata. Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Dispute Resolution* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Dispute_resolution.

⁴⁶ Wikimedia Foundation, *Universal Code of Conduct* (Web Page) https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Universal_Code_of_Conduct.

Contributors are encouraged not only to comply with Wikimedia's procedural and behavioural requirements, but also to act in a culturally respectful and reflective manner, recognising the sensitivities that may arise and the potential impacts on Indigenous peoples and communities. This is especially important in 'Talk Page' discussions relating to the use, interpretation or removal of Indigenous Content which may include high levels of risk, where contributors should prioritise culturally safe engagement, careful listening, and a willingness to reconsider positions in light of Indigenous perspectives and protocols.

11. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ONGOING LEARNING

This Guide is a living document and will continue to evolve. Wikimedia Australia commits to regularly reviewing and updating this guidance, listening and responding meaningfully to Indigenous community feedback, and supporting Indigenous self-determination. Where there is a tension between existing Wikimedia policies and the practices recommended in this Guide, contributors should not act inconsistently with current platform rules. Rather, these recommendations are intended to build awareness, inform respectful practice within existing frameworks, and, where appropriate, support future policy development through community consensus.

Wikimedia's mission to share knowledge freely must be pursued in a way that respects Indigenous rights, dignity and cultural protocols. Open platforms require not only openness, but care, humility and accountability. This includes recognising structural power imbalances within online knowledge systems and taking active steps to foster culturally safer environments for Indigenous peoples.

Wikimedia Australia commits to supporting and strengthening Indigenous participation across Wikimedia platforms. This includes encouraging Indigenous-led initiatives, creating pathways for Indigenous contributors, valuing Indigenous knowledge systems, and ensuring that Indigenous voices are not only represented in content but respected in governance, moderation and decision-making spaces. Sustainable change requires supporting Indigenous agency, authority and leadership within the Wikimedia community.

This Guide reflects an ongoing commitment to learning, listening and doing better together, in partnership with Indigenous peoples and Indigenous communities.

APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY

Administrator	An administrator (often shortened to “admin” or “sysop”) is an experienced contributor on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia platforms who has been granted additional technical permissions. These tools allow them to carry out maintenance tasks such as deleting and restoring pages, protecting articles, and blocking users, in line with community policies and consensus.
Country	Refers to the lands, waterways and seas to which Indigenous peoples are connected, and describes Indigenous peoples’ ideas and understanding of law, spirituality, cultural practices, place, customs, family and identity. ⁴⁷
Cultural Safety	In online spaces means creating digital environments where Indigenous peoples can share, represent, and manage their knowledge and identity without facing misrepresentation, exclusion, or harm. It involves recognising power dynamics, ensuring Indigenous governance over their cultural content, and implementing protections against appropriation, discrimination, and misuse.
Culturally Sensitive Material	Is material which may be significant, challenging, disputed or uncomfortable to Indigenous peoples but not Secret/Sacred Materials. It can also include materials related to harm, violence or topics like the Stolen Generations.
ICIP Rights Holder	Refers to an Indigenous person who holds ICIP on behalf of their family and Indigenous community. An ICIP Rights Holder may or may not be a knowledge holder, an Elder or Traditional Custodian, but they will have cultural connections to the relevant ICIP.
Edit Summary	An edit summary is a short description that a contributor adds when saving changes on Wikipedia or other Wikimedia platforms. It briefly explains what was changed and why, helping other editors quickly understand the purpose of the edit without reviewing the full revision history.
Elder	The true meaning of the term Elder changes between communities, however, it is generally used to describe a person who has earned deep respect within their community, and as a result may act as a

⁴⁷ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Welcome to Country* (Web Page, May 2022) <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/welcome-country>.

	cultural authority on certain knowledges they carry. ⁴⁸
Intellectual Property or IP	Refers to Australian western legal system of laws protecting intellectual creations (of the mind) and includes copyright, trade marks, patents, designs and plant breeder's rights. IP is an umbrella term to cover all these laws.
Indigenous Content	Refers to content pertaining to Indigenous peoples. Key indicators of this content include it being widely published data with no disputes or complaints from Indigenous communities, not including any information that is culturally restricted by any protocols, being content created or endorsed by culturally authoritative sources and content that does not contain culturally offensive language.
Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property or ICIP	Refers to the rights of Indigenous peoples to their heritage, including cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions in accordance with Article 31 of the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> .
Indigenous Data or ID	Includes any data, facts, information or statistics about Indigenous people, from Indigenous people, or about their culture or their Country.
Indigenous Data Governance or IDGov	Refers to the right of Indigenous peoples to manage what, how and why Indigenous Data is collected, accessed, stored, interpreted and used.
Nation/Country/Language Groups	An Indigenous Nation/Country/Language Group is a group of Indigenous peoples from a specific geographic area who share a common traditional Language.
Men's and Women's Business	Certain knowledge, responsibilities and practices in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are gender specific, and gender restricted. These are referred to as 'men's business' and 'women's business'. Some traditional knowledge may be men's or women's business.
Offensive Images	Caricatures, racist imagery, Staged Historical Photographs or deepfakes.
Offensive Material	Is material that contains racist/derogatory portrayals of Indigenous people, colonial slurs and hate speech, caricatures, deepfakes or staged imagery,

⁴⁸ SBS News, 'This Year's NAIDOC Theme Is "For Our Elders" — but What Is an Elder?' (Web Page) <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/this-years-naidoc-theme-is-for-our-elders-but-what-is-an-elder/9rdvv9q9b>.

	content that may retraumatise or endanger Indigenous peoples.
Sorry Business	In many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, mourning protocols, often referred to as 'Sorry Business', may restrict the use of a deceased person's name, image, voice or likeness. These protocols vary between Indigenous communities
Staged Historical Images	Staged Historical Images refers to photographs or depictions of Indigenous peoples, commonly from the early colonial period in Australia that were directed by non-Indigenous peoples that misrepresent cultural practices, reinforce stereotypes and were created without informed consent.
Talk Page	A 'Talk Page' is a discussion space attached to every page and user on Wikipedia or entry on other Wikimedia projects, where contributors communicate about editing decisions, how that page should be written or improved. Instead of adding content directly to the article, editors use the 'Talk Page' to ask questions, suggest changes, resolve disagreements, and reach consensus, making it a key part of how Wikimedians collaborate and maintain quality.
Watchlist	A watchlist is a personalised tool on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia platforms that allows users to track changes to specific pages they are interested in. By adding pages to their 'Watchlist,' users can easily monitor edits, updates, or discussions, helping them stay informed and respond quickly to changes.
Wikimedia Contributor	A Wikimedia Contributor is anyone who contributes to or participates in Wikimedia platforms, such as editing articles on Wikipedia, uploading media to Wikimedia Commons, improving data on Wikidata, or organising community activities. The term includes both online contributors (editors, photographers) and offline participants (event organisers, volunteers, and affiliate members) who help grow and sustain the Wikimedia ecosystem.

APPENDIX B – TRUE TRACKS® PRINCIPLES

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1. Respect

Indigenous peoples have the right to own and control their cultural heritage.

2. Self-determination

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination in their cultural heritage. Indigenous peoples should be encouraged and empowered in decision-making processes about projects that affect their cultural heritage.

3. Prior informed consent and consultation

Prior informed consent for use of Indigenous knowledge should be sought from Indigenous people. This involves ongoing negotiation and informing custodians about the implications of consent. Consultation with the owners of the traditional cultural expression should take place.

4. Interpretation

Indigenous peoples are responsible for maintaining their culture and the interpretation of their cultural heritage.

5. Integrity

Maintaining the integrity of cultural heritage information or knowledge is important to Indigenous people.

6. Secret/Sacred and Privacy

Indigenous peoples have the right to keep secret their sacred and ritual knowledge in accordance with their customary laws. Privacy and confidentiality concerning aspects of Indigenous people's personal and cultural affairs should be respected.

7. Attribution

It is respectful to acknowledge Indigenous peoples as custodians of Indigenous cultural knowledge by giving them attribution.

8. Sharing benefits

Indigenous peoples have the right to share in the benefits from the use of their culture, especially if it is being commercially applied. The economic benefits from use of their cultural heritage should also flow back to the source Indigenous communities.

9. Maintaining Indigenous culture

In maintaining Indigenous cultures, it is important to consider how a proposed use might affect future use by others who are entitled to inherit the cultural heritage. Importance and respect should be given to Indigenous cultural practices such as dealing with deceased people and sensitive information.

10. Recognition and protection

Australian policy and law should be used to recognise and protect Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights. Using copyright laws for example but also new laws and policies should protect these rights. These issues can be covered in contracts, protocols, and policies for better recognition.

APPENDIX C – CULTURAL WARNINGS, ATTRIBUTION & CONSULTATION

Wikimedia platforms such as Wikipedia do not currently provide warnings or disclaimers that support this Guide. Wikipedia's current position in relation to 'trigger warnings' and 'objectionable' content as outlined in its 'Content disclaimer' page states that articles which 'contain audio, visual, or written representations of people or events which may be protected by some cultures' should be included provided it does not breach any other policy or the laws of the United States where Wikipedia is hosted.⁴⁹

The Guide is not intended to encourage contributors to act inconsistently with current platform policies. However, where recommended steps are not possible at present, the approaches outlined in this Guide are designed for future consideration and illustration of good practice. Readers seeking further context should refer to the accompanying White Paper, which explores the broader questions and challenges surrounding Indigenous knowledge on open platforms. The White Paper also highlights Indigenous scholarship, editor experiences and best practice policies and protocols from Australia and internationally. It provides a set of key questions to facilitate discussion and gather diverse perspectives from across the global Wikimedia community, encouraging ongoing dialogue about how Wikimedia platforms can better respect Indigenous Content and support culturally safer practices. Contributors may wish to support policy development or advocate for change to promote cultural safety. In the interim, contributors may consider whether existing platform mechanisms, such as templates, metadata, or hidden categories, can be used to document cultural considerations in a manner that is consistent with current policies, while allowing for more visible and appropriate approaches to be adopted over time.

Below are examples of warnings, attribution and consultation notices for consideration by contributors.

Deceased Person's Notice

Warning: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this page may contain images, voices and names of people who are deceased.*

Sensitive or Harmful Content Notice

Warning: *Users are advised that this page may include words, descriptions and perspectives that depict outdated or potential harmful content. Some materials may be culturally sensitive, inappropriate or offensive. Any such content has been included with care and respect of the people impacted, for historical and informational purposes only.*

⁴⁹ 'Wikipedia: Trigger warnings', *Wikipedia* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Trigger_warnings.
'Wikipedia: Content disclaimer', *Wikipedia* (Web Page) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Content_disclaimer.

Example ICIP Notice

Note: *Wikimedia Australia and the Wikimedia community acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right to maintain, control and protect their cultural heritage, including traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. Contributors and users are encouraged to approach this content with respect and to consider Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) principles when using or sharing material, especially as some content may be subject to cultural restrictions or Indigenous community protocols.*

Noting also that Wikimedia platforms are collaboratively edited and rely on publicly available sources. As a result, some content relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples may not fully reflect Indigenous community perspectives, cultural authority or current understandings.

Consultation Notice

Note: *This page has been developed in consultation with, and with the consent of, the [Name] community/individual/family of [Name if individual].*

APPENDIX D – RESOURCES

Protocols, Codes and Guidelines

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services* 1995 ([ATSILIRN Protocols](#))
- *AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research* ([AIATSIS Code of Ethics](#)) 2020,
- *AIATSIS Guide to Evaluating and Selecting Educational Resources* 2022 ([AIATSIS Educational Resources Guide](#)),
- Creative Australia, [Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#).
- National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia, [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2025\)](#) (Guideline, National Health and Medical Research Council, 2025)

International Declarations

- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979)
- *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1990)
- *International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights* (1966)
- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948)
- *Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* (2007)

Legislation

- *Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Criminal and Migration Laws) Act* 2026 (Cth)
- *Copyright Act* 1968 (Cth)
- *Online Safety Act* 2021 (Cth)
- *Privacy Act* 1988 (Cth)

Citations Resources

- Indigenous Archives Collective, Shannon Faulkhead, Kirsten Thorpe, Nathan Sentance, Lauren Booker and R Barrowcliffe, *Indigenous Referencing Guidance for Indigenous Knowledges* (Guide, Indigenous Archives Collective and Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, University of Technology Sydney, 2023).
- James Cook University Library. (n.d.). *APA (7th Edition) Referencing Guide: First Nations Works* <https://libguides.jcu.edu.au/apa/First-Nations>
- Zac Roberts, Summer May Finlay, Karen Soldatic and Bronwyn Carlson, *A Guide to Writing and Speaking about Indigenous People in Australia* (Macquarie University, 2021) <https://doi.org/10.25949/5TFK-5113>.

Wikimedia Pages References

- 'Wikipedia: Child Protection' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Child_protection.
- 'Wikipedia: Copyright Violations' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Copyright_violations.
- 'Wikipedia: Libel' in *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Libel>.
- Wiki Commons page on categories can be found at Wikimedia Commons, *Commons: Categories* <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Categories>.
- Wikidata, *Help: Sources* (Web Page) <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Help:Sources>.
- Wikimedia Commons, *Commons: Categories* <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Categories>.
- Wikimedia Commons, *Commons: Licensing* (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Licensing>)
- Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Terms of Use* https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Terms_of_Use,
- Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Universal Code of Conduct* https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Universal_Code_of_Conduct.
- Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Wikimedia Foundation Non-Discrimination Policy* https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Wikimedia_Foundation_Non-Discrimination_Policy
- Wikimedia Foundation, *Policy: Wikimedia Human Rights Policy* (Web Page) https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Wikimedia_Human_Rights_Policy
- Wikimedia Foundation, *Terms of Use* https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Policy:Terms_of_Use
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Biographies of Living Persons* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Biographies_of_living_persons.
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Categorization* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Categorization>.
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Copyrights* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Copyrights>.
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Deletion Policy* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Deletion_policy.
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Dispute Resolution* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Dispute_resolution.
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Edit Warring* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Edit_warring.

- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Editing Policy*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Editing_policy#Artificial_intelligence_additions.
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Reliable Sources*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Reliable_sources.
- Wikipedia, *Wikipedia: Writing Articles with Large Language Models*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Writing_articles_with_large_language_models.
- Wikipedia: Notability', *Wikipedia* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Notability>.
- *Wikipedia: Text Copyright Violations 101*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Text_copyright_violations_101.

Further Educational Resources

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Core Cultural Learning* <https://aiatsis.gov.au/about/what-we-do/core-cultural-learning>.
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Ethical Research* <https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research>.
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Languages Alive* <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/languages-alive>
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Welcome to Country* <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/welcome-country>.
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, *Stand-Alone Legislation Fact Sheet* (Fact Sheet)
<https://www.arts.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Standalone-legislation-fact-sheet.pdf>.
- Global Indigenous Data Alliance, *CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance* <https://www.gida-global.org/care>.
- Jessica Russ-Smith & Michelle D. Lazarus (2024). *The AI (R)evolution: Valuing country, culture and community in a world of algorithms*. Monash University Publishing.
- Kirsten Thorpe, Nathan Sentance and Lauren Booker, *Wikimedia Australia and First Nations Metadata: ATSLIRN Protocols for Description and Access* (Discussion Paper, Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, University of Technology Sydney, 22 March 2023) <https://doi.org/10.57956/b05f-cf08>.
- Lowitja Institute, *Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property* (Information Sheet, 2021) [328551 indigenous-cultural-and-intellectual-property.pdf](https://www.lowitja.org.au/328551-indigenous-cultural-and-intellectual-property.pdf)
- Maggie Walter, 'The Voice of Indigenous Data: Beyond the Markers of Disadvantage', *Griffith Review* (online, 2018)
<https://www.griffithreview.com/articles/voice-indigenous-data-beyond-disadvantage/>,
- Maïam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective and Australian Indigenous Governance Institute, *Indigenous Data Sovereignty Communique: Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit, Canberra, 20 June 2018* (Communique, 20 June 2018)
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b3043afb40b9d20411f3512/t/63ed934fe861fa061ebb9202/1676514134724/Communique-Indigenous-Data-Sovereignty-Summit.pdf>.
- Terri Janke, *True Tracks: Respecting Indigenous Knowledge and Culture* (NewSouth Publishing, 2021).
- Carlson, B., & Rana, L. (2024). "I really like Wikipedia, but I don't trust it": understanding First Nations peoples' experiences using Wikipedia as readers and/or editors. Macquarie University. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25949/76YK-G627>