

# April 28, 2026: AiDiEx Summary

Featured topic:

- Indigenous Data Sovereignty

The session began with a brief overview (see slide deck) of the key issues related to the impact of artificial intelligence (generative or otherwise) on the featured topic, followed by specific questions. The following notes are brief recaps of the discussion.

## Discussion Notes:

Case Study 1: A photograph of Inuit women is inaccurately described in an archive's online collection. An AI image generator subsequently scrapes this photograph for training.

### 1. What are the consequences of having this data scraped by LLMs?

- Misinformation, incorrect representations, and colonial bias becomes entrenched in generative AI training and output
  - i. Risk of users trusting GenAI to be an authoritative source leads to reinforcement of stereotypical and harmful concepts
- Damage to the relationship between the archive and the affected community
- Perpetuation of colonial ideals and points of view, both in the representation of Indigenous people and in how Indigenous Knowledge is treated
- Further loss of sovereignty over Indigenous data, knowledge, history
- Loss of historical context and nuance
- Lack of accountability and responsibility to make meaningful change
- Further distrust of expertise
- Hyper-relational
- Notions of authority, authoritative output

### 2. What went wrong, if anything?

- Lack of involvement by the represented community
- Incomplete metadata
- Tension between free access and the unregulated online world
  - i. Possible values shift in archives/libraries from prioritizing accessibility to responsible/ethical dissemination of information and knowledge in the age of GenAI

- Legal vs. ethical considerations for online collections (especially if Canada decides AI training is fair dealing)

### **3. Who had responsibility at each step?**

- Information professionals as leaders
- Input of community members/cultural knowers should be first step
- Commenting researchers
- Archive itself
- The public should be informed
- Those responsible for GenAI tech should be doing more to ensure respectful use of data

## Case study 2: AI-generated song and video of Inuit man circulating on TikTok

### **1. What do you think about this video?**

- Another example of the exploitation of Indigenous people
- Offensive and damaging to community
- Perpetuates stereotypes and creates false narrative of reality that might not be challenged by those who are uninformed
- Possible learning tool for people to look deeper and learn more, instead of accepting what is presented
- “Just because you CAN, doesn’t mean you SHOULD”

### **2. What are some of the harms this type of AI content can cause?**

- Erasing the reality of Indigenous people
- Take attention and platform away from legitimate accounts
- Re-victimizing the community
- Reputational risk for anyone who shares/likes
- Further complicating information literacy for younger generations, especially regarding authority and credibility

## General discussion

### **1. What is one practice in your role that might expose Indigenous knowledge to AI reuse?**

- Institutional repositories, including images in repositories
- Digital collections

- Open access digital libraries with Indigenous content
- Indigenous language labelling on public material that may be ingested by GenAI and subsequently lead to incorrectly generated outputs

## **2. What will you change in your practice immediately?**

- Incorporating examples like the ones from this discussion in AI and critical thinking sessions
- Taking a conscientious objector stance on AI use
- Reconsidering formerly held assumptions and values around open access publishing
- Build stronger relationships with community members
- More and more careful metadata
- Engage more with UNDRIP principles
- Encourage students and researchers to think critically about the consequences of uploading culturally sensitive information into public LLMs and the harms that can result from training these systems on these materials
- Advocate for Indigenous inclusion in AI governance discussions at the institution

## **Follow-up survey:**

Please answer this one-question [survey](#) to share your thoughts on how these discussions could evolve.