

DIGITAL CONTENT AND CONNECTIVITY  
WITH GWICH'IN CONTEXTS  
-FACILITATOR'S HANDBOOK-



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This workshop is a joint pilot project between the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension to explore digital literacy in the North. The partners and workshop participants will be discussing concepts related to digital content (digitization, archiving and preservation) and connectivity, in relation to the GTC's work in the Northwest Territories.

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First implementation of workshop was conducted **June 12, 2017** in Inuvik.

Workbook and workshop materials were jointly developed by the project team:

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## FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

This instructor's manual is intended to work hand-in-hand with the participant workbook as a guide for directing the discussions and activities of the workshop. Each section of the workshop is broken down in this handbook explaining the intent of each part of the workshop. It also suggests discussion points and important things to note when teaching this workshop.

### **Sign-in and Set-up** - 8:30 am – 9am

People arrive and sign-in, set-up

### **Introductions** – 9am – 9:30am

Introductions to workshop facilitators and participants

- Review of research materials and consent to record workshop discussions

### **Why are we here?**

- Digital literacy, sharing knowledge about new technologies
- Exploring links between 'content/connectivity' in context of digitalization, MVFL
- Goal: Piloting workshop to see if it is useful – how can we work together to develop and expand? What is helpful for you? What would you like to see moving forward?

Opening discussion questions:

- Experience with digital technologies (content/connectivity)
- Hopes, desires, interests, benefits
- Concerns, fears
- What would you like to get out of workshop?

## PART I: CONTENT 9:30AM - 12:30PM

### **What is digital content?**

INTENT: This section is intended to familiarize participants with digital content and to understand what is meant by digital content. Read out the definition.

### **Making content digital**

INTENT: This section is intended to get participants thinking about how content becomes digital.

You can mention the differences between content that is BORN DIGITAL versus content that is DIGITIZED. Encourage participants to discuss.

Encourage comparisons between digital and analog content. What are the differences between:

- a printed photo and a digital photo?
- a story told by a friend, a recording of a friend telling a story?
- a print book or an e-book?

**What's happening in GTC:** Introduce website & digital images:

<http://gwichin.ca/images>

## Mass digitizing techniques

INTENT: The short video from Stanford Libraries shows technicians engaged in careful digitization of books, maps and other treasures. It shows the pinnacle of expense and organization a digitization operation can take, with special scanners. The idea is to show what is being done in large libraries around the world and to bring it down to the community through discussion.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/RdLcrNeWjls>

Preface the video by introducing the idea of mass digitization.

Encourage participants to think about how we get all the old content into digital format? Why might we want mass digitize?

After the video discuss some of the technology seen in the video.

Ask the class: How might someone take on a smaller scale digitization effort at home or at work?

## Digital Libraries

INTENT: This section aims at introducing participants to the idea of a digital library and how they differ from other websites such as sales catalogues etc. It starts by asking participants about traditional libraries and what their purpose was.

Activity: Participants should pair up and explore one of the digital libraries listed in their workbook. They can either look-up the library or type in the links.

- Encourage them to share what they found.
- Ask: how are digital libraries different than other websites?

**What's happening in GTC:** Introduce web-based exhibits: <http://gwichin.ca/web-based-exhibits>

## Making digital content accessible

INTENT: This section introduces the concept of metadata and the organization needed to create a digital collection.

### What is Metadata?

Discuss what metadata is with the class and lead the discussion questions.

#### **Activity: What is the image about?**

*Participants should write down what they think the images in their workbook are about (important: this is to be done alone). Then ask them to find a partner and share what they wrote down. This activity demonstrates how everyone describes and finds meaning differently.*

- How might we properly categorize content if everyone has a different idea what it is about?
- Discuss standards. What about community standards? Hashtags? How can the two work together?

Introduce different types of metadata: subject metadata vs format metadata

**What's happening in GTC:** Introduce ethnobotany database: <http://gwichin.ca/plants>

## Who owns digital content?

INTENT: This section introduces the idea of content ownership and copyright.

- Present the basic concepts of copyright, fair-dealing and public domain.
- Discuss the symbols within the participant workbooks.
- Where might they see these symbols?

Emphasize there are exceptions to copyright: when you create while at work (employer holds the copyright), performances of public domain material (copyrighted to the performer).

Introduce Creative Commons

#### **Activity: Can you use it?**

*You will need a small store of objects and physical artefacts. They should clearly be marked with either copyright dates, the dates of an author's death or CC markings. Allow participants to form groups and explore the artefacts - deciding where they fall within copyright, fair-dealing and creative commons.*

## **Copyright and culture-rights**

INTENT: This section introduces the concept of Indigenous culture in relation to copyright.

Read the information in the workbooks with the participants

Lead a discussion of the questions on page 12

### **What is happening in GTC:**

Research licenses: <http://gwichin.ca/researcher-information>

## **Preserving Digital Content**

INTENT: This section aims at introducing how digital content is must be preserved and cared for to ensure it survives. It discusses different formats of the same content.

## **LUNCH BREAK (12:30pm – 1pm)**

## **PART II: CONNECTIVITY 1PM - 3PM**

### **What is Broadband ?**

INTENT: This section introduces the definition of broadband internet and familiarizes participants with the technology and its associated benefits and challenges.

Discuss the following developments with participants:

- Uses: health, education, economic development, public safety, social, culture/ language
- Future developments: the 'Internet of Things' – everything will be connected
- Barriers: access, cost, 'effective use'
- Dangers: cyber-bullying, high cost of service, inappropriate content, language/ culture

Discussion: what does broadband mean to you?

- Ask about uses: at work? At home?
- Benefits / challenges
- What supports are required?

**What is happening in GTC:** How does the GTC use broadband in its work? (Think of examples / applications both to connect with communities and to connect with the south / other regions).

## Types of Broadband Connection Technology

This section is, to a certain degree, somewhat technical, so take some time to go over the different types of broadband technologies.

Lead the discussion of questions on page 16-17.

## Last/First Mile Connections

INTENT: This section discusses the two different types of connection needed for broadband infrastructure in a community. Present the two concepts on page 17 and ask participants if there are any questions.

## Regional and Local Broadband Projects in the Gwich'in Territories

Provide information and open a discussion about the two projects.

- Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link (MVFL)
- Dempster Highway Fibre Link – update status, on hold

**What is happening in GTC:** Local services in Inuvik – residential and organizational (ex. education, health, businesses). What is the situation now in your community?

Discussion about MVFL and the potential benefits / challenges it brings.

- Opportunities and potential uses in Gwich'in communities (only Inuvik benefits 'again')
- Ensuring appropriate / effective uses
- Challenges, barriers or problems (excludes Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic)

**What is happening in GTC:** Consultations about broadband. What should government know?

## Building for Broadband in your Community

INTENT: This section introduces the ways a community could build, manage and/or operate a broadband network.

K'atl'odeeche First Nation fibre optic network

This is primarily an information section but discussing this project and how it might be useful/beneficial in relating it to the Gwich'in Communities. What can be learned from the K'atl'odeeche First Nation?

## **Conclusion Wrap-Up Discussion (3pm – 4pm)**

This section wraps up the workshop with questions:

- How can we ensure digital content and connectivity meets the needs of Gwich'in people?
- Advice for developing future workshops?
- Best way to explain / show digital technologies to every-day local people?
- What would help interest friends / family / colleagues get interested in these issues?
- What other technology learning project / training opportunities would you like to see?
- Where (on-line learning, college, university, institute) can Northerners interested in this field apply for degree programs?
- What supports are required for northern communities?
- Anything that we missed / that you would like to add?