

**Nunavut Experience, 2008-2020:**  
**Best Practices for Incorporating Indigenous Languages into Library Catalogues**

- Make sure your ILS supports Unicode coding for the Indigenous language and any of its special characters, if it does not use roman alphabet.
  - Ensure you have cataloguing expertise sufficient to develop easily understood policies, procedures and workforms for data input, as original cataloguing will likely be required, as will training people in data entry.
  - Determine which aspects of the catalogue record are most critical to represent items in Indigenous language for your users; some may feel, for example, that transcription of the title and statement of responsibility as found on an item may be sufficient, while others could opt for full cataloguing in Indigenous language as is the case in Nunavut.
  - For full description, develop a basic cataloguing vocabulary in the Indigenous language. This may require consultation with linguists, translators and elders. If you are aware of other library systems interested in incorporating the same language, work collaboratively with them to develop this vocabulary.
  - Ensure you have staff able, or willing to learn, how to read and transcribe the Indigenous language and its script. Fluency and understanding is desirable but not essential, although if the cataloguer is not fluent, a translating resource person needs to be available for clarification, especially with unilingual documents.
  - Allow sufficient budget and staff time for original cataloguing. It will be slow at first, but as cataloguers gain proficiency and as records are built up that can be copied as models, work will speed up. It will definitely be slower than copy cataloguing; on the other hand, there are significantly fewer materials in Indigenous language.
  - Where necessary and possible, create local parallel authority records for alternate expressions of Indigenous names
  - Develop a subject thesaurus in the Indigenous language for controlled subject access, if desired and possible, or at least implement alternative subject heading thesauri that include respectful description of the Indigenous culture and language.
  - Ideally, develop an interface for the catalogue in the Indigenous language.
- ▶ If you are interested in examining specific Nunavut library catalogues to see more examples of Inuktitut records, the catalogues are available online at the following

websites; a recommended English-language starting point that will retrieve Inuktitut records is also provided:

- Legislative Library of Nunavut
  - <https://nll.bywatersolutions.com>
  - Recommended search term: Select “Inuktitut” from the language option in the search bar and use the term “Nunavut”
- Nunavut Arctic College Library
  - <http://nuvt.vtls.com/cgi-bin/nuvt/chameleon>
  - Recommended keyword search term: “Inuktitut”
- Nunavut Public Library Services
  - <https://catalogue.publiclibraries.nu.ca/>
  - Recommended keyword search term: “Teaching and Learning Centre”

The proportion of Inuktitut materials in these catalogues is variable. For those who do not type in syllabics, I have provided a recommended English search term that will retrieve a good number of Inuktitut or bilingual records in each system. These catalogues contain lots of links that can then take you exploring through titles and authors, and you can copy and paste syllabic phrases just to see what they bring up.

Should you have any interest in copying records in Inuktitut from any of these library systems, contact me and I can put you in touch with the respective system managers. I have no personal authority or responsibility for them, other than the work of creating them for some of these libraries.

More technical details about cataloguing practice and related coding issues in Nunavut have been described in an available additional reading list

Also feel free to contact me:

Carol Rigby, Inuktitut cataloguing specialist  
Carol Rigby Cataloguing and Editing Services  
cerigby@xplornet.com