Can-Peat - Local Contexts Guide - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Page

For additional FAQs, please see [Local Contexts' FAQ](#) webpage.

Q: Is Local Contexts a data repository?

The Local Contexts Hub is <u>not</u> a data repository. Through the creation of a Project or Sub Project, the Local Contexts Hub provides a means of generating and distributing Notices that can be used in metadata files attached to data or a dataset that identify Indigenous interests in the data, and allow Indigenous Nations and Communities to apply Labels to their data.

Q: How can Local Contexts Notices be used in my research?

The Local Contexts Notices are specifically for archives, museums, libraries, universities, and data repositories that are engaging in processes of collaboration and trust building with Indigenous and other marginalized communities who have been excluded and written out of the record through colonial processes of documentation and record keeping. These Notices are useful to communities because they communicate in what capacity institutions are willing to work with Indigenous and local communities. The Notices also can be added to collections or data where there may be Indigenous Rights and interests, making it easier to identify these materials.

In the context of Can-Peat research activities, all historical peatland datasets that you own and control should use the Local Contexts Notices (most likely the Biocultural (BC) and Attribution Incomplete Notices). Once you have registered for the Local Contexts Hub, and generated a Sub Project underneath the Can-Peat Source Project using the instructions above, you will be able to generate and share Notices. These Notices can then be linked on a project-specific website, in publications and publications using the data, and in the metadata files of a data repository entry, including the Canadian Peatland Data Portal.

Outside of the Can-Peat project, you are welcome to explore using the Local Contexts Hub to generate other Notices to acknowledge that there may be Indigenous interests in the datasets.

Q: At what stage of my research should I be applying Local Contexts Notices?

The Local Contexts Notices can be applied at any stage of your research project. Further guidance is forthcoming in a companion guide that offers instructions on how to apply the Local Contexts Notices when you are working directly with a particular Indigenous Nation or Community who would like to use the Labels to assert their sovereignty over the data.

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Q: What are the differences between a Notice and a Label?

Labels are for use by Indigenous Nations, Communities and local organizations to clarify their rights and the nature of their relationship to collections or data. Label text can be customized by the Nation or Community and translated.

Notices are for use by researchers and institutions to identify Indigenous Rights and interests. Notices are not customizable.

In many cases, Notices can be a placeholder until a Nation or Community/Communities apply their Labels.

Q: Can Disclosure Notices (the BC, TK, and Attribution Incomplete Notices) be used without community approval?

Yes. The Notices work to activate researcher and institutional responsibility to identify potential Indigenous Rights and interests.

Decolonial research methodologies insist that Indigenous interests should be addressed and included in any research at the first instance. This means that Indigenous Peoples are more likely to be connected to the research and its results and derive benefits from it in the future. Adding the Notice, as a first step, opens the space for those Rights and interests to be clarified and expanded on by Indigenous Communities over time.

Q: Once my research Project is linked to the Local Contexts Hub, can I edit the information?

Yes, projects can be edited by the Project creator. While the complete information about a Project will not be available, a record of when edits were made can be found on the Project page under Project Activity. If you wish to retain a record of a Project before editing, you can download the Project PDF under Project Actions.

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Q: Where can I learn more about Indigenous Data Sovereignty and best practices?

There are many resources on Indigenous Data Sovereignty. We recommend reviewing the publications list of the Collaboratory for Indigenous Data Sovereignty for books, policy briefs, and articles.

You are also welcome to book a consultation with the Indigenous Research team at Indigenous.Research@uwaterloo.ca (even if you belong to another institution).

Q: Where can I find more information about the Canadian Peatland Data Portal?

The Canadian Peatland Data Portal is a metadata repository aimed at improving the findability and accessibility of data about Canadian peatlands. Through this activity, the Can-Peat project is also working to advance Indigenous Data Sovereignty. Development of the Canadian Peatland Data portal will continue throughout the Can-Peat project.

You can find this metadata repository through the Can-Peat website on the Canadian Peatland Data Portal webpage. Feel free to contact the Can-Peat Team at canpeat@uwaterloo.ca for assistance submitting metadata once the repository is active.

Q: Where can I learn more about depositing my data in a data repository?

The Can-Peat project encourages all those who manage data collected on peatlands in Canada to make their data available in order to advance our collective knowledge of these ecosystems. We recommend submitting data to the Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR) as it is a curated, general purpose repository open to Canadian researchers in any discipline. However, researchers may choose to submit their data to any open access data repository that best fits their research area.

FRDR has instructions for preparing and uploading your data that can be accessed from the FRDR Help menu.

The Can-Peat project team has also prepared a tutorial, available on the Canadian Peatland Data Portal webpage to guide you through uploading data to FRDR, including suggested standard variable names.

Many institutions support Open Access data by hosting institutional repositories. Your institution's research office or library may be able to provide further support.