Universities create, use, and hold enormous amounts of Indigenous data. These data range from old historical records to contemporary large datasets, including Open Data and the data underpinning emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies. Indigenous Peoples’ data include information about individuals, families, and communities, and environments as well as knowledges, cultures, languages and specimens.

All Universities are responsible for managing research data ethically, effectively, and transparently. The issue for Indigenous Peoples is that Universities are failing to affirm and uphold Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) and operationalise Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov), leaving these academic institutions open to claims of complicity in the ongoing structure of colonisation.

The 2023 Summit progressed a shared understanding amongst GIDA members that Universities must work in collaboration with affected Indigenous Peoples to:

- Uphold IDSov and IDGov principles as defined by their respective Indigenous Peoples.
- Recognise that any data concerning Indigenous Peoples is Indigenous Data.
- Identify Indigenous Peoples’ data currently held by the institution or its research partners.
- Introduce and strengthen University policies to align with IDSov and IDGov and ensure Indigenous Peoples’ governance of, access to, and future use of their data now and into the future.
- Support and grow Indigenous leadership to assess digital research infrastructure needs and enact control over all IDGov processes.
- Train University administration, faculty, staff, and students to implement IDSov & IDGov principles and policies.
- Operationalise Data Management Strategies and Plans with specific IDGov principles and mechanisms embedded throughout.
- Allocate adequate resources for Indigenous Peoples to govern their data on their terms.
The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) supports Indigenous rights over data. Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) asserts Indigenous Peoples’ rights to govern the creation, collection, ownership, and application of the data about, from, or connected to Intellectual Property (IP).

Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov) is the mechanism for realising IDSov principles.

### Definitions:
- **The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** supports Indigenous rights over data.
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### Resources to Assist in Operationalising Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov)

**The CARE Principles for IDGov**

The CARE Principles are people and purpose-oriented, reflecting the crucial role of data in advancing Indigenous innovation and self-determination. These principles complement the FAIR principles, encouraging open and other data movements to consider people and purpose in their advocacy and pursuits. [gida-global.org/care](http://gida-global.org/care)

**Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in Data**

Establishing Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in Data provides a concrete step toward operationalising IDSov and Indigenous Research Sovereignty by articulating a range of specific rights that can be recognised to support Indigenous Peoples’ aspirations for control of data and self-determined research activities. [gida-global.org/data-rights](http://gida-global.org/data-rights)

**Indigenous Metadata Bundle**

Indigenous metadata provides critical organisation and structure for Indigenous Peoples’ data to be findable, accessible, interoperable, and with proper attribution, which enables governance, decision-making, and cultural authority by Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous metadata guides the inclusion of cultural context, data protection, and ownership for Indigenous rights holders. This helps recognise, refine, and define Indigenous Peoples’ relationships with their data. [indigenousdatalab.org/3006-2](http://indigenousdatalab.org/3006-2)

**First Nations Information Governance Committee (FNIGC)**

Developer of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®) Principles and the First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS). The FNDGS calls for embedding First Nations knowledges and competencies into leading-edge information management and information technology at national and regional levels to support First Nations as rights holders through improved data stewardship across the data lifecycle. [A First Nations Data Governance Strategy](https://www.fnigc.ca/en/publications)

**Māori Data Governance Model**

The Māori Data Governance Model is designed by Māori data experts for use across the Aotearoa (New Zealand) public service. Māori data is a taonga that requires culturally grounded models of protection and care. The Model provides guidance for the system-wide governance of Māori data, consistent with the Government’s responsibilities under te Tiriti o Waitangi. [kahuiraraunga.io/tawhitinuku](http://kahuiraraunga.io/tawhitinuku)

**Maiam nayri Wingara**

In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people expect enactment of their IDSov and IDGov principles. Universities can assist this process by providing adequate resourcing and support for Indigenous leadership and control of Indigenous data at each stage of the data lifecycle. [Indigenous Data Governance Communique](https://globalindigenousdataalliance.org)

### Citation