

## Representing indigenous knowledge products in ISO 19115

Archiving and distributing products of research that involve traditional or indigenous ecological knowledge are best suited to an environment wholly configured for indigenous communities (Christen 2012). One of the dangers of placing indigenous knowledge products in a science data repository is the danger of “scientizing the indigenous,” especially when the knowledge product is derived from the use of methods from the social sciences and humanities (Agarwal 2002; Raymond et al 2010). However, many repositories of ecologically-oriented knowledge products for federal agencies require descriptive metadata that are founded on western scientific epistemological principles, such as FGDC-CSDGM and ISO 19115.

Our goal in this project was to describe a product – the Sqigwts 3D Landscape – using the ISO 19115 schema. We used ISO 19115 – a technical schema designed to describe datasets whose primary characteristic is geospatial – because it is one of the preferred schemas of the destination repository for this project, USGS ScienceBase (USGS 2015). Yet, we sought to “indigenize” the schema as much as possible, recognizing that the cost either of changing a repository infrastructure or of creating official schema extensions is less practicable than critically using the existing schema. We have added recommendations on appropriate language codes, using the schema’s capability to document use cases, and using traditional knowledge labels and licenses to communicate limitations and appropriate future use. Further, we recommend not sharing through this channel any data that is considered by Tribal authorities to be sensitive, i.e., information that is inappropriate for the public domain should not be revealed in the metadata or in the data.

View the metadata record at <http://www.sqigwts.org/md>.

### References:

Agarwal, A. 2002. *Indigenous knowledge and the politics of classification*. UNESCO, Oxford UK.

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