

## PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

# A Digital Publishing Platform for Indigenous Studies

UBC Press and the University of Washington Press are pleased to announce the launch of a new initiative in Indigenous studies publishing. We are developing an online platform for media-rich books in Indigenous studies where communities and scholars can work together to share and create knowledge in a respectful digital environment.

### WHY IS IT NEEDED?

Scholars increasingly want to engage in collaborative research, writing, and publishing with Indigenous communities and to present their research – and the multimedia files they collect or produce – in innovative, accessible, and culturally sensitive ways. This new platform, once built, will allow them to do that.

### WHAT WILL IT OFFER?

The publishing platform will offer a suite of tools that will enable scholars and their partners to

- co-create and collaboratively author and publish their work
- incorporate primary sources, research data, and media (audio, video, 3D animation, etc.)
- gather and present material scattered in museums and libraries around the world
- easily create and use data visualization tools
- apply and learn about cultural protocols governing the use, access, and protection of Indigenous intellectual and cultural heritage.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

- Scholars of Indigenous studies
- Community-based groups and organizations with a stake in Indigenous languages and culture
- Instructors and their students

### WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE?

Over the next three years, we will develop the publishing platform infrastructure and build two digital multi-path book prototypes:

- 1) *Musqueam Stories Transformed*, a collaboration between Patricia A. Shaw and members of the Musqueam Indian Band.
- 2) *Kwakiutl Dance and Movement: Studies by Franz Boas*, edited by Kathryn Bunn-Marcuse with contributions by Coreen Child, Kaleb Child, and Thomas Child of the Kwakiutl First Nation.

Once this foundation is created, we plan to publish an expanding collection of interactive books, creating a hub for the reciprocal exchange of knowledge and ideas.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Join our mailing list to receive updates and information about the project. Sign up at the booth in the Book Exhibits or through our websites: [www.ubcpress.ca](http://www.ubcpress.ca) | [www.uw.edu/uwpress](http://www.uw.edu/uwpress)

**For more information, please contact:**

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## MEDIA RELEASE | APRIL 2016

**VANCOUVER, BC**—UBC Press and the University of Washington Press will develop a digital publishing platform in Indigenous studies thanks to a three-year US\$509,000 (CAD\$679,970) grant awarded to the University of British Columbia by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Scholars and Indigenous communities will be able to work together in this space to co-create and share content, and they will be able to present their findings in innovative ways that break free of the limitations of the printed book and that both respect and combine mainstream academic and Indigenous frameworks and protocols. In turn, readers will be able to review, comment on, repurpose, or annotate that content.

Based on Scalar, an authoring and publishing platform, the hub will offer a suite of tools for linking data and analyses to digital content from around the world and for interacting in culturally sensitive ways with heritage materials, ranging from clothing, beadwork, weapons, and tools to songs, stories, and dances. It will provide authoring teams with customizable methods to label content and inform readers about Indigenous cultural protocols for access and use of specific content.

The multimedia books will incorporate, and offer seamless navigation through, textual, audio, and visual materials and will organize content in different ways for different purposes. Authors will be able to tailor navigational paths for distinct audiences: scholars, community-based groups and organizations with a stake in Indigenous languages and cultural heritage, and instructors and their students. The project contributes to the digital revolution in scholarly publishing by harnessing technologies to shape content in new ways and disseminate the fruits of research widely and effectively, catering to the specific needs of both academic and public audiences.

*“Our project is designed to provide solutions to existing barriers to full participation in the exchange of ideas and knowledge,”* said Darcy Cullen, project lead and UBC Press editor. *“We will create a digital hub in which Indigenous communities and scholars can work together to create, share, and preserve content and present their findings in ways that combine mainstream academic frameworks and Indigenous protocols.”*

As the leading publishers of Indigenous studies scholarship in the Northwest, UBC Press and University of Washington Press are spearheading this initiative. Nicole Mitchell, director at University of Washington Press, said: *“As publishers with a deep history of supporting knowledge production by and with Indigenous, First Nations, and Native American people and communities, we are grateful for the support of the Mellon Foundation to take this work forward into the digital and multimedia future.”*

### Partners include:

- Alliance for Networking Visual Culture
- Bill Holm Center for the Study of Northwest Native Art, Burke Museum
- Burke Museum
- First Nations Technology Council
- Mukurtu and Local Contexts
- Museum of Anthropology, UBC
- Musqueam Indian Band
- Reciprocal Research Network
- UBC Library