

Clemson University

**TigerPrints**

---

Presentations

University Libraries

---

1-2021

## **Decolonization in the Libraries II**

Clemson Libraries

Follow this and additional works at: [https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib\\_pres](https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pres)



Part of the [Indigenous Studies Commons](#), and the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

---

# **Decolonization in the Libraries**

## **II**

Decolonize Clemson  
&  
Clemson Libraries Diversity Committee

---

# Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the main campus of Clemson University occupies the traditional and ancestral land of the Cherokee People. Clemson's main campus is built on land seized through US military and diplomatic incursions culminating in the Treaty of Dewitt's Corner in 1777. This is also land on which people enslaved by the Pickens, Clemson, and Calhoun families lived and worked, and that was transformed into the campus of Clemson University through convict labor.

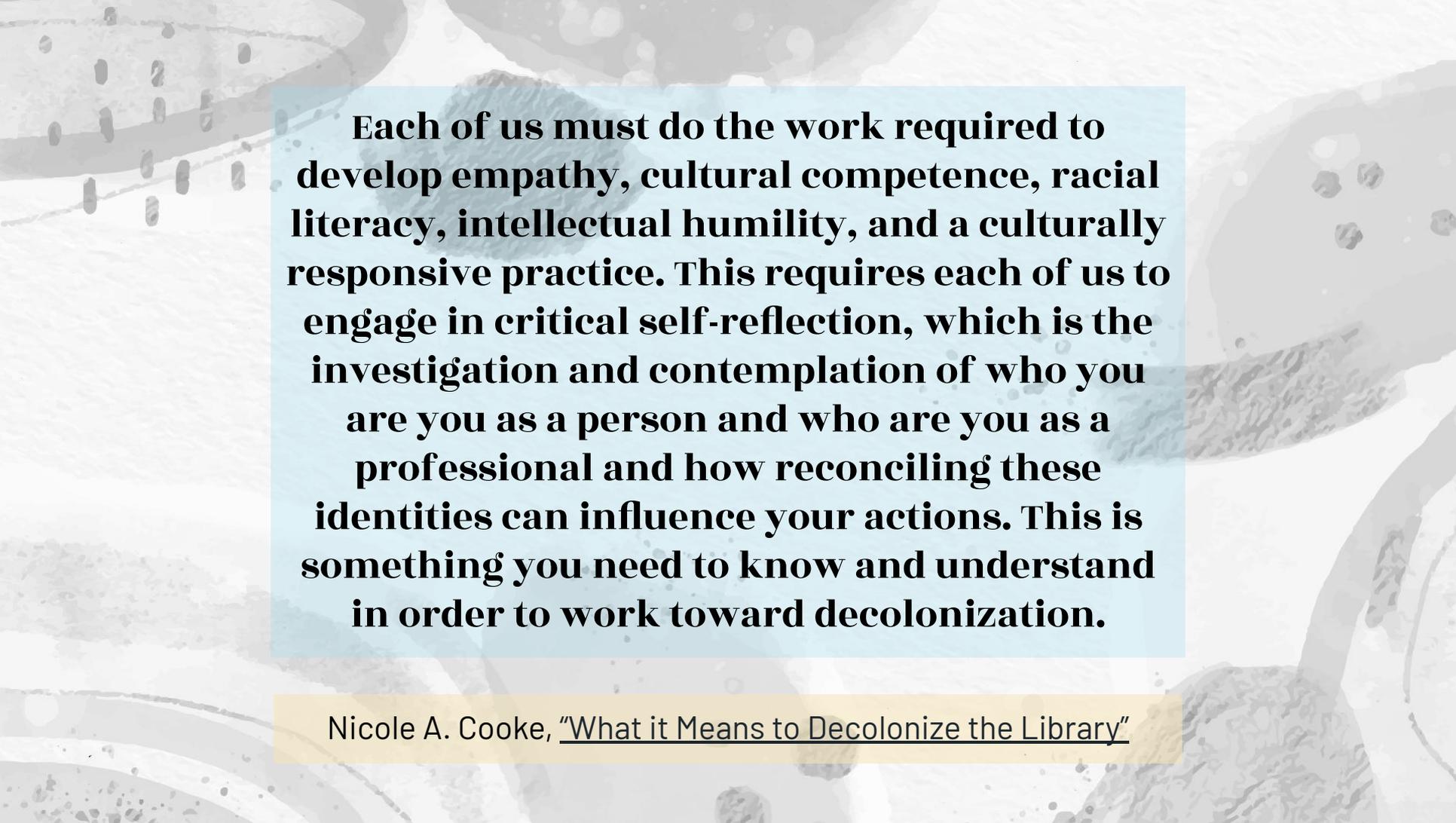
# Terminology & Basic Info

- Indigenous - most inclusive as there are Indigenous peoples on every continent
- Native American (or Native) / American Indian - refers to people living in what is now the United States prior to European contact
- Terminology may be personal - if you are corrected by a Native person, use the term they prefer
  
- Native people are frequently classified as a minority group, but "Native American" isn't a strict racial category; being a member of a state or federally recognized tribe depends on the membership rules of each individual tribe
- Anyone with a tribal family history is Indigenous - tribal membership is **not** required
  
- Privilege - an advantage granted or available only to a particular person or group

# Reflecting on the Decolonize CU Workshop

## What is decolonization?

- Deconstructing colonial ideologies of Western superiority and privilege
- How might we work towards decolonization in the Libraries?
  - Personal and Internal Commitment
  - Collections
  - Professional Development & Service



**Each of us must do the work required to develop empathy, cultural competence, racial literacy, intellectual humility, and a culturally responsive practice. This requires each of us to engage in critical self-reflection, which is the investigation and contemplation of who you are you as a person and who are you as a professional and how reconciling these identities can influence your actions. This is something you need to know and understand in order to work toward decolonization.**

Nicole A. Cooke, [“What it Means to Decolonize the Library”](#)

# Where is society today?

## Current Events

Cleveland Indians to Change Name

Deb Haaland's Cabinet Nomination is a Triumph for Native Americans

UC Berkeley removes Kroeber Hall name, citing namesake's 'immoral' work with Native Americans

CDC data show disproportionate COVID-19 impact in American Indian/Alaska Native populations

## Legislative Action

Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships (1/27/2021)

- Federal agencies have 90 days to come up with a plan of action to consult tribal nations on issues that involve them.

# What can we do as library employees, and as a library system?

Ideas from Workshop 1:

- Being cognizant of language
- Parsing out colonizer values (of institution and library) and naming them for transparency with patrons
- Conscientious book buying
- Incorporating indigeneity into teaching
- Land acknowledgement in presentations

*“Still do not feel confident enough to take action without inadvertently causing offense, misrepresentation, or committing some other gaffe.”*

---

# Avoid these Words (and ask others to stop using them)

## **Spirit Animal**

Native American

Relationships to Animals:

Not Your "Spirit Animal"

## **Tribe**

Finding Your Tribe:

Language and the Context  
of Bloodshed

## **Eskimo**

Inuit or Eskimo: Which name  
to use?

## **Indian**

Native American name  
controversy

More from Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples

---

# Recruitment & Retention

Are we currently prepared to recruit and supportively retain a diverse workforce, particularly from native and indigenous groups?

- Inclusive language in job postings
- Targeted marketing of job ads, and the profession (it might take a few years)
- Comfort discussing Native issues that might impact access to information, outreach, or other library-related duties
- Sponsoring scholarships and research that benefit indigenous populations
- When a candidate visits our library and website, what do they see and what does it say about our priorities?

# How do we communicate our commitment to promoting indigeneity?

1. Land acknowledgement - where is it going?
  - Front doors of Cooper? Website? Employee signatures?
2. Displays, digital and physical
  - Monographs, Special collections, Databases and Journals
3. Special events
  - Guest speakers, art displays, documentary screenings, etc.
4. Advocacy
  - Recommending resources to faculty that prioritize diverse voices
  - Incorporating native issues into instruction: "It's Time to Decolonize that Syllabus"
  - Engaging in professional development tied to indigeneity to ensure that all aspects of our work reflect cultural competency: stay engaged and stay informed.

# Collection Development

- Awards Lists
  - [American Indian Youth Literature Award](#)
  - [Red Nation International Film Festival](#)
  - [American Indian Film Institute](#)
- Publishers & Distributors
  - [Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums](#)
- Academic Library Resources
  - [American Indian Library Association](#)
- Leverage your Contacts
  - Andrea Feeser (Modern & Contemporary Art History, Theory, & Criticism)
  - Matt Hooley (Environmental Humanities, Native Studies, US Colonialism Studies)
  - Jim Jeffries (Native American History, Religion)
  - Decolonize CU
  - Libraries Diversity Committee

# Collection Development

- Brainstorming
  - Food Science → Indigenous ingredients, traditional recipes
  - Education → forced assimilation at boarding schools, Indigeneity in higher education
  - Geography → changes to Native tribal lands over time
  - Leisure Studies → casinos, Indigenous travel destinations
  - Military Science → Native service members, Code Talkers
  - Sociology → Native community practices
  - Animal Science → Native American animal husbandry
  - What else?

# Programming and Advocacy

- Take a moment for land acknowledgement and remember how we got here
- Internal training
  - Ongoing training to bring awareness to decolonization and DEI
- University and community programming
  - Sponsor Indigenous speakers
  - Sponsor documentaries about Indigenous populations and Decolonization issues
  - Volunteer for Native American Heritage Month planning committee
- Professional associations
  - Share what you've learned and implemented with others
- Impact on Native Alaskans and Hawaiians

# Professional Development Opportunities

## Associations and Conferences

- [American Indian Library Association](#)
- [Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums](#)
- [Indigenous Conference Services](#)
- [Canadian Federation of Library Associations](#)

# Professional Development Opportunities

## Selected Webinars

- [Decolonization in education: role of the academic library](#)
- [Decolonizing Descriptions: Finding, Naming and Changing the Relationship between Indigenous People, Libraries and Archives](#)
- [Decolonizing the Literature Curriculum: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Literary Studies](#)
- [US Department of the Interior Training Opportunities](#)
- [Hope From our Grandmothers: Decolonizing Data through Stories of Resilience](#)
- [Indigenous Literatures, Social Justice, and the Decolonial Library](#)
- [Foundations of Indigenous Pedagogies](#)
- [Decolonization and Indigenization: Finding our Way Along the Path](#)

# Professional Development Opportunities

## Selected Courses

- [Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education](#)
- [Good Ancestor Academy with Layla F. Saad](#)
- [The Great Unlearn with Rachel Cargle](#)

# Next Steps

- Physical land acknowledgement signage
- LibGuide

# Thanks!

Questions/Comments?

[CULDiversityCom@lists.clemson.edu](mailto:CULDiversityCom@lists.clemson.edu)

Workshop Survey:

[https://clemson.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8jkzvgWaZ2YXvQa](https://clemson.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8jkzvgWaZ2YXvQa)

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by Slidesgo,  
including icons by Flaticon, infographics & images by Freepik