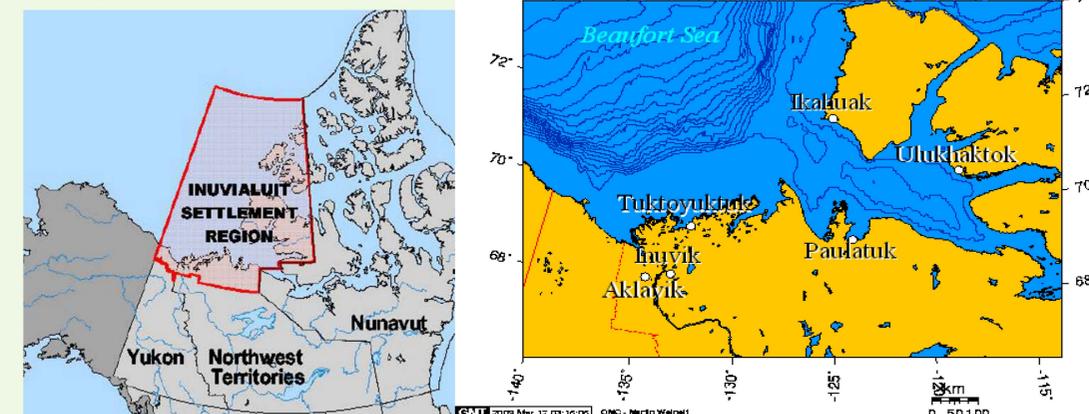


## Introduction

- Digital libraries provide democratic, organized and open access to quality information sources [A; B]
- Digital libraries are useful mechanisms for the storage, preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage information and are particularly relevant to Northern communities.
- “[C]ultural heritage refers to local and traditional places, rituals, cultural practices, foods, costumes or attire, plants, and areas of cultural, religious, and ceremonial significance” [C (p.27)].
- Research suggests that Canadian First Nations groups support documentation of cultural knowledge in order to pass it on to future generations, and that libraries can be “the most important custodians of documented traditional knowledge” [D (p.281); E].

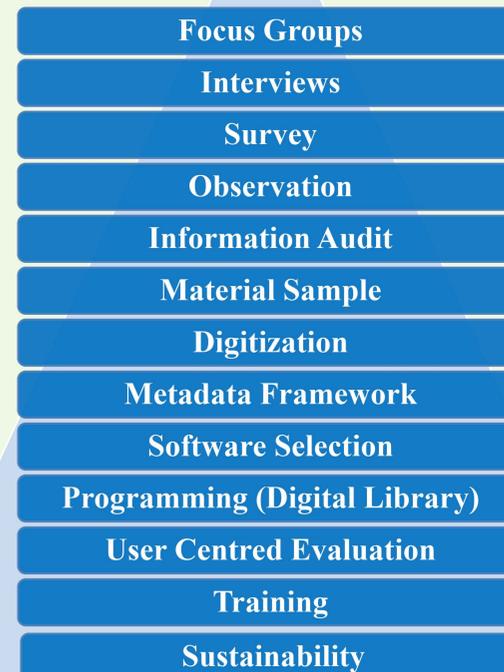
## Project Location



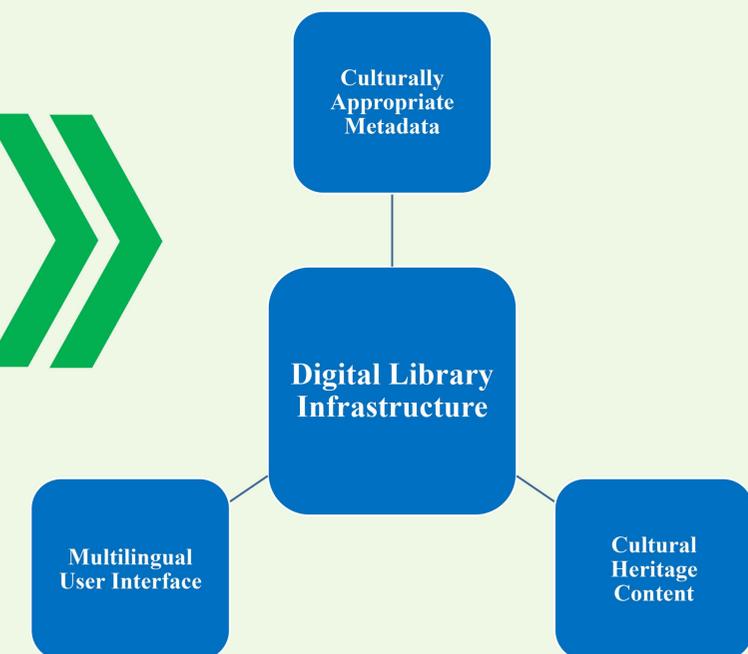
## Key Research Objectives

- Investigate and identify the information needs and information seeking behaviour of community members
- Identify and select cultural heritage information
- Create a culturally appropriate metadata framework for resource description
- Develop requirements for multilingual user interfaces that support the dominant languages
- Conduct a user centred evaluation of the digital library
- Develop a sustainability strategy for the digital library to ensure long-term access to information
- Provide training in information management to local project participants

## Process



## Digital Library Infrastructure for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region



## Emerging Findings

- Library and resource centres in the ISR region include the Aurora College Library, the Aurora Research Institute Library, the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre Library, and Public Library Services, and other specialized collections.
- Examples of information artefacts include oral history materials, photos, archived material as well as genealogical recordings, and resources in various formats such as VHS tapes, cassettes, CDs, papers, booklets, and digital audio files.
- Preliminary environmental scan suggests that digital library design requires:
  - Input from various stakeholders such as Elders and community members, community corporation members, regional boards, student groups, and others.
  - Consideration of social, cultural, technological, economic and political factors.

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