UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre

Cultural Heritage Preservation and Access: Digital Library North

Robyn Stobbs, Ali Shiri, Dinesh Rathi, Cathy Cockney, Sharon Farnel, Sandra Campbell, and Elaine Maloney
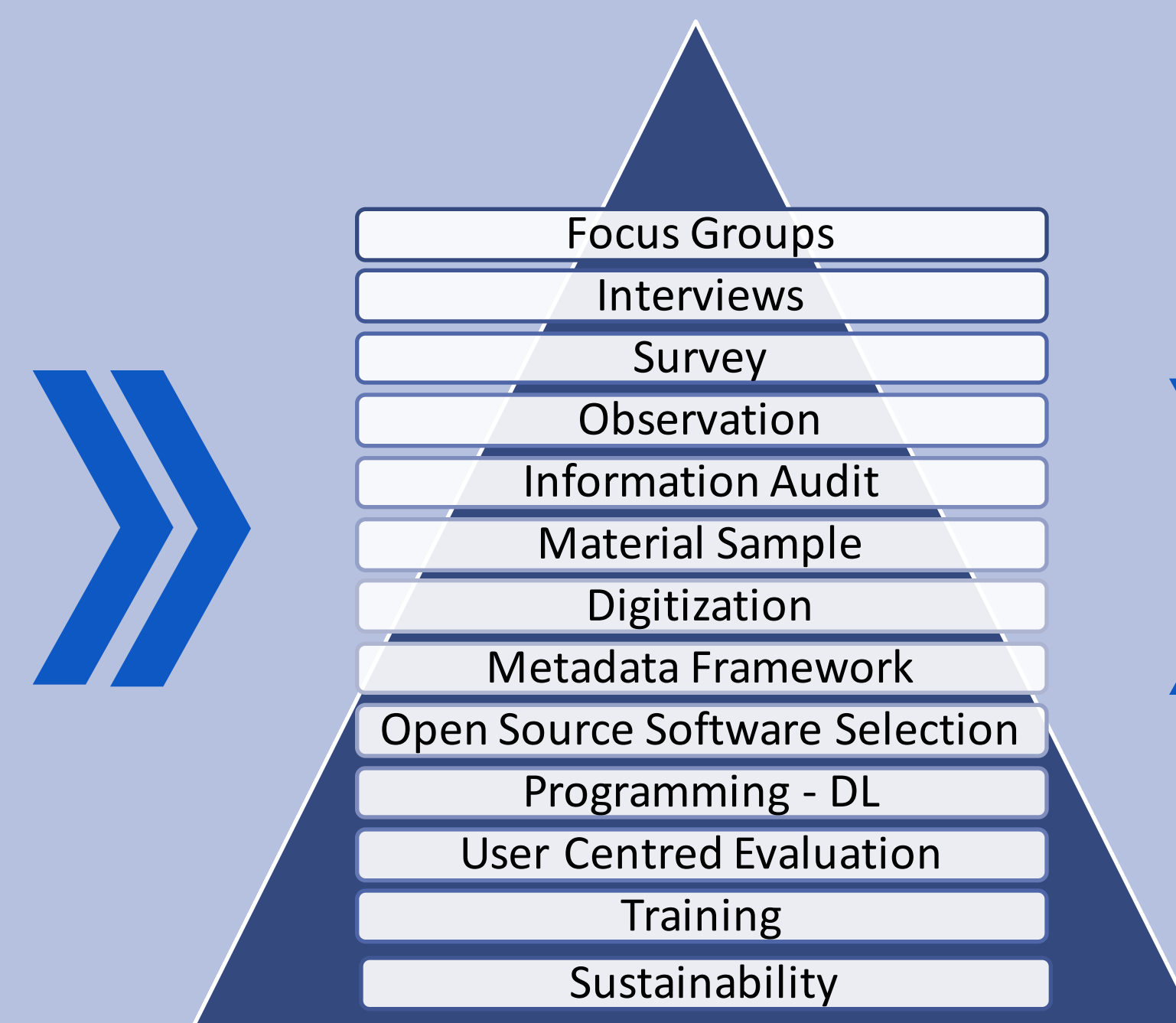
Project Overview

Digital Library North (DLN) is an ongoing project with the overarching goal of creating a digital library infrastructure for the north. In Canada's North access to information has been limited by the geographic dispersion of the population, lack of high-speed communications infrastructure, and low availability of digital information resources. DLN aims to address the information needs of northern residents by increasing access and providing a model of organization to make information available across time and space. Specifically, the project is focused on the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) in the northernmost parts of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and is being conducted in collaboration with the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre (ICRC). The project aims to create a digital library infrastructure specific to the ISR that will then be able to serve as a model for other regions in the Canadian North. Collaboration and the perspectives of potential communities and users are an integral aspect of the project and are important to understanding the cultural context for the digital library infrastructure to be created. An environmental scanning model has been created and is being used as a guide to understand the context of the digital library. Several methods and forms of data collection are being used for the project. This poster summarizes the emerging methodology and analysis plan as we plan for the 2016 field season.
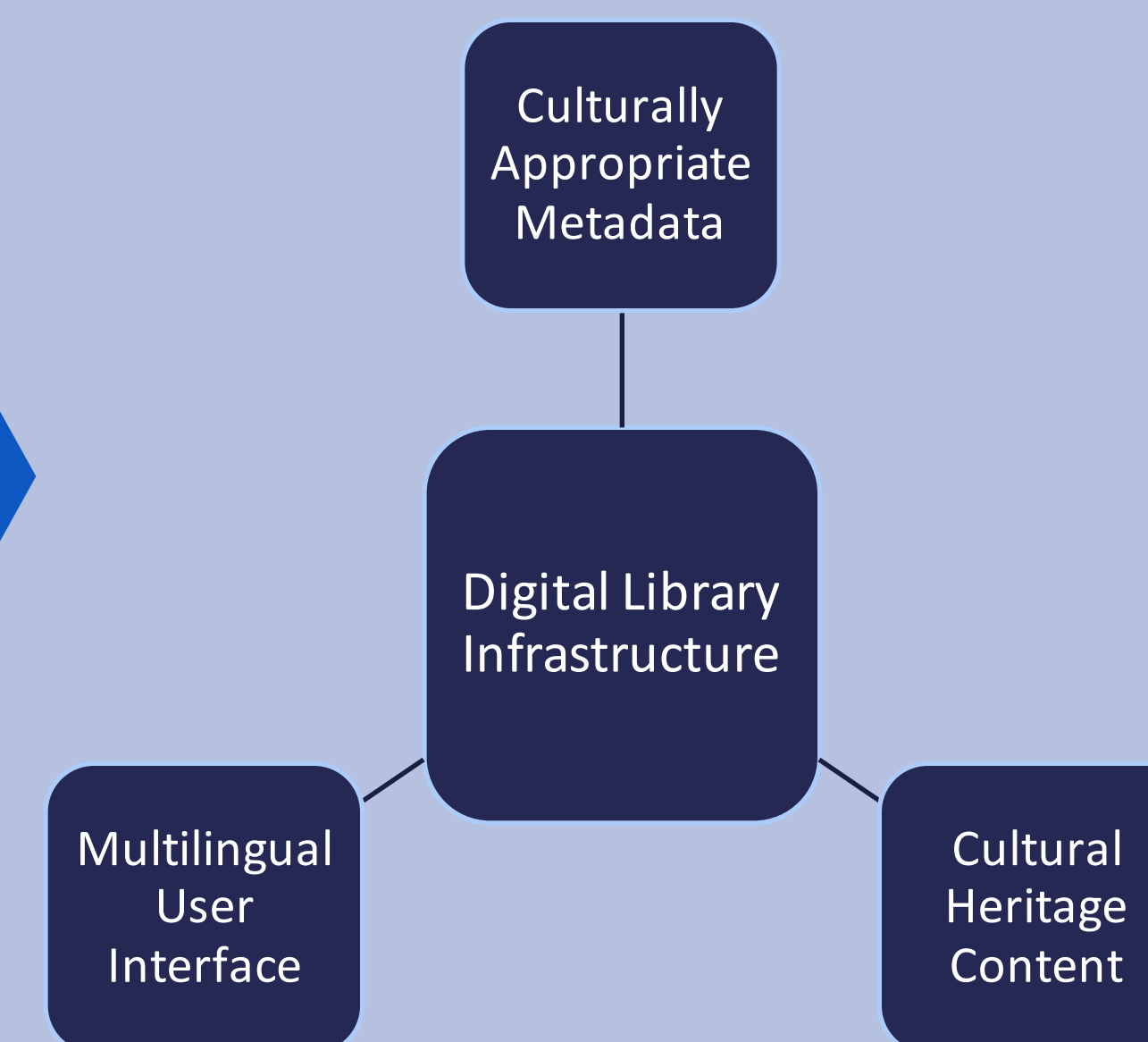
Key Research Objectives

- 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-centered evaluation of the digital library
- Develop a sustainability strategy for the digital library to ensure long-term access to information
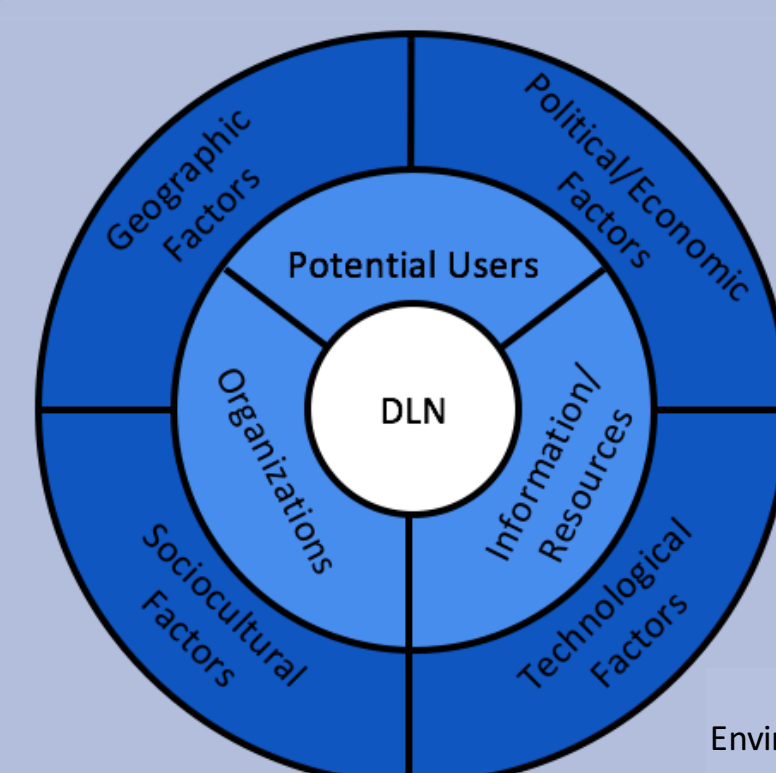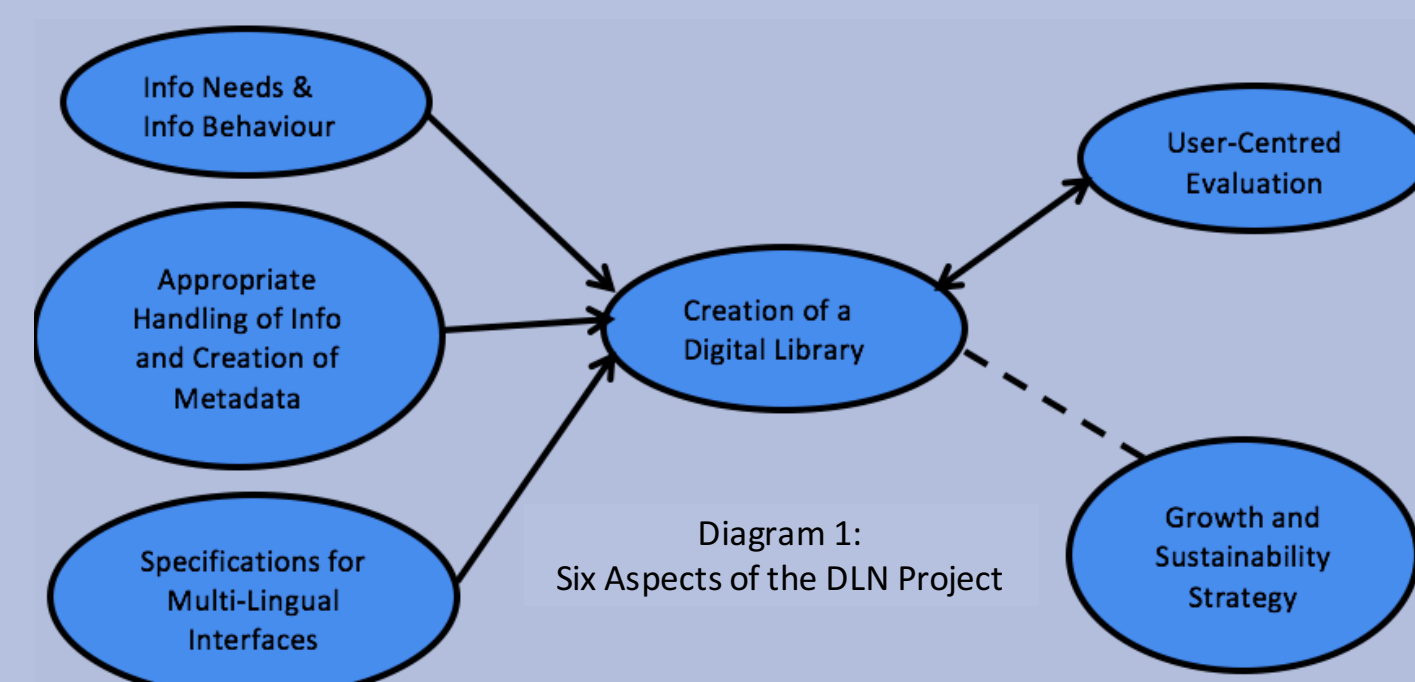- Provide training in information management to local project participants

Process

Focus Groups
Interviews
Survey
Observation
Information Audit
Material Sample
Digitization
Metadata Framework
Open Source Software Selection
Programming - DL
User Centred Evaluation
Training
Sustainability

Infrastructure Components

Culturally Appropriate Metadata

Digital Library Infrastructure

Multilingual User Interface

Cultural Heritage Content

Emerging Analysis

All textual forms of data collected (e.g., interview transcripts and field notes) are being coded using both deductive and inductive coding with a flexible coding framework. The ongoing analysis is framed by the six areas of the project outlined in diagram 1 and the seven areas of the environmental scan model: the macro-environment in the outer circle and the micro-environment in the inner circle (in diagram 2). Each of these areas will be inductively sub-coded with emergent themes.

Info Needs & Info Behaviour
User-Centred Evaluation
Appropriate Handling of Info and Creation of Metadata
Creation of a Digital Library
Specifications for Multi-Lingual Interfaces
Growth and Sustainability Strategy

Diagram 1: Six Aspects of the DLN Project

Geographic Factors
Political/Economic Factors
Potential Users
Organizations
DLN
Information/ Resources
Sociocultural Factors
Technological Factors

Diagram 2: Environmental Scanning Model for DLN

Photos from Inuvik, NT

Tusaayaksat Building, home of ICRC

Oral Heritage Audio, potentially to go in the digital library

Photo Binders, potentially to go in the digital library

Research and Data Collection Methods

Method	Techniques	Output
Environmental Scan	• Information collections • Libraries • Community organizations • Government organizations • Physical collections • Digital collections • Websites, digital libraries, databases, publications	-A model for environmental scanning for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region with cultural, social, political, technological and economic factors -Directory of organizations and websites with relevant content
Ethnography	• Observation • Interviews • Focus groups • Field visits	-Field notes -Summary notes -Observation notes -Transcriptions and audio
Information Tables at Community Centres and Events	• Informal and casual interaction with members of community • Story telling (e.g. Inuvialuit Day)	-Observation notes -Stories
Participation in Community Workshops	• Pattern Making • Bannock making	-Observation notes
Survey	• In-person questionnaire • Online questionnaire	-Quantitative data about the information needs and seeking of various communities
Review of Documents and Documentation	• Cultural heritage collections • Language learning • Historical documents • Archives	-Field notes -Typology of digital and physical collections
Information Audit to Support the Development of Metadata Framework	• Close examination of information collections	Inventory of collections: -Type of material -Format -Subject area -Location
Community Leader Engagement (project collaborator)	Identifying and connecting with • Community organizations • Key people • Identification of various user communities and stakeholders	-Directory of community organizations -Typology of potential and actual users -Forging connection with relevant organizations and media outlets
Visual Approach and Photography	• Photography by researchers & research assistants	Images of -Organizations -Community centres -Stores -Libraries -Geographic entities (streets, lakes, rivers, etc.) -Cultural objects

Acknowledgements