

## ATSILIRN PROTOCOLS<sup>1</sup>

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resources Network (ATSILIRN) is a professional support network<sup>2</sup> that functions to “support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples working in libraries and for those people servicing the information needs of the peoples”<sup>3</sup>. The network organizes annual conferences<sup>4</sup> for the sharing of information on issues and experiences.

The network has developed protocols<sup>5</sup> to “address issues and concerns related to indigenous materials held in libraries, archives and other information services, as well as those related to the provision of services for indigenous peoples”<sup>6</sup>. In other words, the ATSILIRN protocols provide informative guidance on how to handle Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander materials and on how to interact with the communities<sup>7</sup>.

The Protocols address, amongst other things, intellectual property and digitization issues. The Protocols indicate that there is a lack of recognition in “the primary rights of the owners of a culture”<sup>8</sup>, this in contrast to “the interests of the authors and publishers of records, books and other documentary material that are protected by copyright law”<sup>9</sup>.

The Protocols therefore advise cultural institutions to “develop ways for protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and intellectual property”<sup>10</sup>. These

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed in the resources and practices referred to in this summary do not necessarily constitute the views of WIPO or any of its Member States.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/conference/conferenceindex.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/home/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/home/conferences.htm>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index0c51.html?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index0c51.html?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report\\_of\\_Protocols12\\_01\\_2005.pdf](http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report_of_Protocols12_01_2005.pdf), p.4

<sup>7</sup> [http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index0c51.html?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index0c51.html?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexa3ae.html?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6&limit=1&limitstart=1](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexa3ae.html?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6&limit=1&limitstart=1)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexa3ae.html?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6&limit=1&limitstart=1](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexa3ae.html?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6&limit=1&limitstart=1)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexdc17.html?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexdc17.html?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6)

especially include recognizing the peoples' moral rights. Samples of these rights are illustrated as “the right to be identified as the source and owner of knowledge expressed in a tradition, story, dance and design, and the right to object to distortion, mutilation or other modification of, or derogatory action in relation to that knowledge”<sup>11</sup>.

When it comes to digitization and the internet<sup>12</sup>, the Protocols recognize that “intellectual property and technology issues introduce levels of complexity for the sustainable management of indigenous materials in the digital domain that pose challenges for both the library and information services profession and for indigenous communities”<sup>13</sup>. The Protocols therefore suggest that cultural institutions develop “a coordinated policy and planning approach”<sup>14</sup> to managing these issues.

Recently, a report has been published on the network's website which contains an evaluation of the extent to which the Protocols have been implemented and their overall value and effectiveness<sup>15</sup>. The main results indicated that the Protocols were useful “as a guide for policy development, awareness raising and understanding of indigenous information issues in libraries and archives”<sup>16</sup>. Recommendations for improvement include the need for more practical information related to the Protocols<sup>17</sup>.

For more information, see WIPO, “Intellectual Property and Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Survey of Current Practices and Protocols in the South Pacific”<sup>18</sup>, written for WIPO by Malia Talakai, 2007.

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[http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexa3ae.html?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6&limit=1&limitstart=1](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/indexa3ae.html?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=6&limit=1&limitstart=1)

<sup>12</sup>

[http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index1d4b.html?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=52&Itemid=6](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index1d4b.html?option=com_content&task=view&id=52&Itemid=6)

<sup>13</sup>

[http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index1d4b.html?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=52&Itemid=6](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index1d4b.html?option=com_content&task=view&id=52&Itemid=6)

<sup>14</sup>

[http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index1d4b.html?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=52&Itemid=6](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilirn/protocols.atsilirn.asn.au/index1d4b.html?option=com_content&task=view&id=52&Itemid=6)

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report\\_of\\_Protocols12\\_01\\_2005.pdf](http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report_of_Protocols12_01_2005.pdf), p.4

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report\\_of\\_Protocols12\\_01\\_2005.pdf](http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report_of_Protocols12_01_2005.pdf), p.6 and 7

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report\\_of\\_Protocols12\\_01\\_2005.pdf](http://www.jumbunna.uts.edu.au/staff/Report_of_Protocols12_01_2005.pdf), p.7

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/casestudies/talakai\\_report.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/casestudies/talakai_report.pdf)