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Memes from Learning Event with Loriene Roy

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Reflection 6: Learning Event with Lorie Roy

I chose to make some memes for this reflection. Lorie's discussion of the role of humour during meetings for Indigenous peoples inspired this creative reflection. Memes are a common and effective way to share social or political commentary. With these memes my intention is to distill concepts discussed in this class and other classes and convey my feelings about them. I cannot say that I would share these publicly on social media. For one, I do not quite have my finger on the pulse of meme culture. I also feel that making memes about people from other cultures is a tricky territory to navigate. I feel this especially with my Suez Canal meme, which I will discuss more below.

Here is an explanation of each meme:

1. Arthur Meme Per Capita: When you find out Indigenous libraries only get \$1.80 per capita when urban and rural libraries get \$4.00 and \$4.80 respectively. These numbers are in reference to the 2004 Ontario First Nation public libraries needs assessment report (NVision Insight, 2004). The image depicts a fist clenching which symbolizes anger or being upset at new information.
2. Suez Canal: In her talk, Lorie quoted Linda Tuhiwai Smith as saying, "Colonization smashed Indigenous knowledge systems. Decolonizing is repairing from that smashing." My point with this meme is that Indigenous librarians are doing the best they can to remedy the harms of colonization to their knowledge systems. I am worried that this meme could be misconstrued to mean that I do not think that Indigenous librarians have what it takes to do so. Hopefully, however, people who see this meme will know that the tiny but mighty backhoe did dig out this ship and that it is already on its way to its destination. Similarly, Indigenous librarians are making great strides in decolonizing and Indigenizing librarianship.
3. Huh Meme Indian Influences: At the top right of this meme is a screenshot of a subject heading I did not know existed. "Canadian Civilization Indian Influences" (Library of Congress, n.d.). This meme encapsulates my continual reaction to seeing such language and colonial bias in cataloguing standards. We can do better and yet we do not.
4. Blinking Indigenous Project: An 'Indigenous' project without Indigenous stewardship. This reaction image is intended to convey a similar reaction to number 3. It is about seeing something and not believing your eyes at first. After going through this course I will never accept a project on or about Indigenous people without thorough and meaningful Indigenous consultation, participation, or stewardship.
5. Drake Meme Indigenous Librarians: The top panel of this meme is something we do not want: anyone talking over Indigenous librarians. The bottom panel depicts what we do want: for non-Indigenous librarians to support and amplify the work of Indigenous librarians, so that they may go about their Indigenizing work, and doing the work of decolonizing that they are asking non-Indigenous librarians to do.

6. **Loriene Celebrating Librarians:** This meme is an image of Michael Scott from *The Office* crying happy tears. It was so heartwarming to hear Loriene so excitedly describe the work of Indigenous librarians she wants us to watch out for.

References

- Library of Congress. (n.d.). Canada civilization Indian influences. *Library of Congress authorities*. <https://authorities.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?AuthRecID=6675275&v1=1&HC=1&SEQ=20210401010128&PID=P96ZLvaF4jb0-2WRs5tVnIj1Squwc>
- NVision Insight. (2017). Ontario First Nation public libraries needs assessment report.
- Suez Canal Authority. (2021). *A massive ship is stuck in the Suez Canal, disrupting trade and inspiring hilarious memes*. Vox.com <https://www.vox.com/2021/3/24/22348186/ship-stuck-suez-canal-blocked-ever-given-memes>

When you find out Indigenous libraries only get \$1.80 per capita when urban and rural libraries get \$4.00 and \$4.80 respectively





EVER

**The legacy of
colonization**

Indigenous librarians

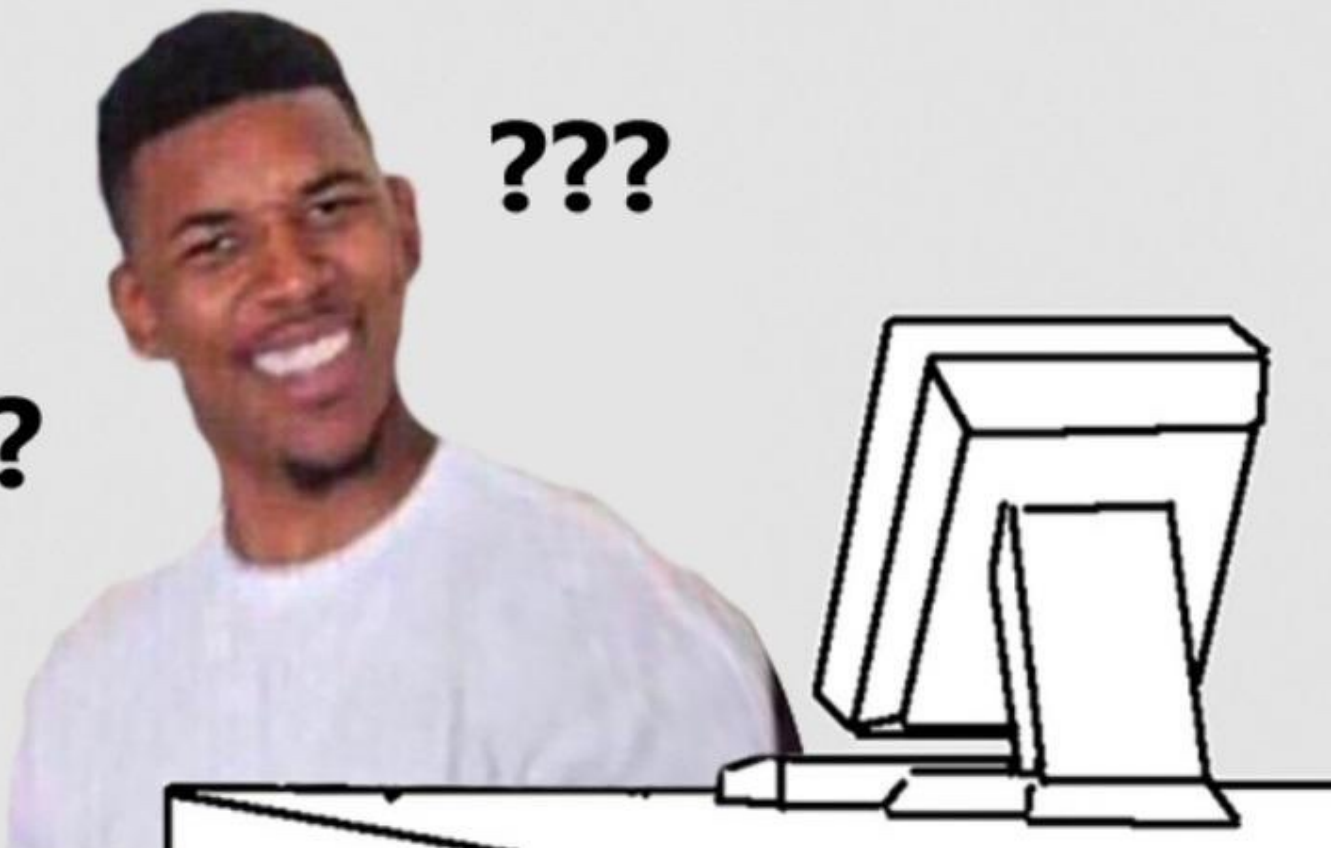
**Indigenous
knowledge
systems**

LCCN Permalink: <https://lccn.loc.gov/sh2005007133>
HEADING: Canada Civilization Indian influences



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An 'Indigenous' project without Indigenous stewardship





Talking over Indigenous Librarians



Supporting and
amplifying the work of
Indigenous Librarians;
doing the decolonizing
work they are asking
non-Indigenous
people to do

generationxhero

Me listening to
Loriene Roy
celebrate the
Indigenous
Librarians in
her life

