

Reorganizing *The Social Organization*: Collaborative Editing, Museum Collections, Indigenous Knowledges, and the Franz Boas/George Hunt Archives

Franz Boas's 1897 report, *The Social Organization and the Secret Societies of the Kwakiutl Indians*, was a landmark in anthropology for its integrative approach to museum collections, photographs, and sound recordings as well as text. A result of participant observation and extensive collaboration with Indigenous partners—especially George Hunt—the book set a standard for both ethnography and museum practice. However, both Boas and Hunt remained dissatisfied with the published text, labouring for decades to correct and supplement a volume that would forever mediate global knowledge of the Kwakwaka'wakw people of British Columbia. They left behind a vast archive of unpublished materials relevant to the creation and afterlife of this groundbreaking text and its related museum collections. These materials are now widely distributed across institutional, disciplinary, and international borders.

This paper will discuss an ongoing collaborative project to create a web-based critical edition of the book that reassembles published and unpublished materials as well as Kwakwaka'wakw knowledge. Archival revelations about the truly co-authored nature of the original text allow us to better situate the contexts and methods of creating ethnographic knowledge in relation to the Indigenous ontologies that *The Social Organization* purports to represent. Moreover, the edition seeks to demonstrate ways in which digital technologies can harness multimedia to return sensory richness to Boas and Hunt's synthetic text, to reactivate disparate and long dormant museum collections, and to restore cultural patrimony to its Indigenous inheritors.

Developed in collaboration with the U'mista Cultural Centre at Alert Bay and Andy Everson—a Kwakwaka'wakw/K'ómoks hereditary chief, a descendant of George Hunt, and the edition's lead Kwakwaka'wakw community consultant—the Boas/Hunt digital edition is partnered with UBC Press and its RavenSpace initiative (<https://ravenspacepublishing.org>), which is dedicated to a model of publishing that respects Indigenous cultural protocols. RavenSpace involves a number of technology partners, including the developers of Scalar, the multi-path publishing system. Among RavenSpace's customizations of Scalar is its implementation of Traditional Knowledge Labels, adapted from the Local Contexts project (<https://localcontexts.org>). With the recent release of the first RavenSpace publication, we are now working with UBC Press and lead Scalar developers Craig Dietrich and Eric Loyer on the development of a custom critical edition "hook" (by leveraging Scalar's CodeIgniter architecture; <https://www.codeigniter.com>) that can accommodate the organization, navigation, annotation, and collation of complex assemblages of digitized media types: audio and film recordings of dances and songs, sketches and photographs, masks and other ceremonial regalia, field notes, collaboratively authored and revised manuscripts, and print publications. These

digital assets are either stored locally as part of a DSpace repository managed by UBC Press or distributed among multiple remote archival and museum repositories and accessed by Scalar via its API architecture. The next phases of Scalar customization will provide not only the core critical apparatus to a collaboratively edited multimedia version of *The Social Organization* but also an adaptable, open-source model for other UBC Press collaborators working with RavenSpace on critical editions that observe Indigenous cultural protocols.