

Putting the 'I' Back in BIPOC: Indigenous-Specific Inclusion Initiatives across Academic Libraries in the United States and Canada

This study examines academic libraries' resources and services specifically centering Indigenous patrons and Indigenous Knowledge, as well as targeted support for Critical Indigenous Studies (CIS) academic programs.

INTRODUCTION

This research investigates correlations between the following factors:

- Liaison Librarianship Programs
- Specific CIS Liaison Librarians
- Curricular CIS Programs
- Institutional Land Acknowledgements

At institutions affiliated with the following organizations:

- Association of American Universities (AAU)
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
- Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL/ABRC)
- Research I Institutions (RI)
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
- Title III Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)
- National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (NCAA)

OBJECTIVE

This landscape analysis provides a multifaceted comparison of academic libraries' Indigenous-specific resources and services to better illustrate the environments in which college and university libraries operate. Moreover, this data serves to demonstrate both the academic libraries concentrating their efforts to support Indigenous members of their respective campus communities, as well as how these institutional efforts compare to peer institutions across Turtle Island (North America).

METHODOLOGY

Data collection was conducted by surveying individual institutional websites using key word searches. Key demographic institutional details were accessed through the National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Post-January 20, 2025, however, this method of survey became more challenging, requiring some digital forensics to identify recently modified and deleted content. For additional details, please see the full methodology here:



ANALYSIS

Though the trends illustrated through this data were the original focus of this research, the long-term data management and methodological implications of this process have taken priority, particularly given the accelerated re/deconstruction initiatives of the current federal administration.

REFLECTIONS

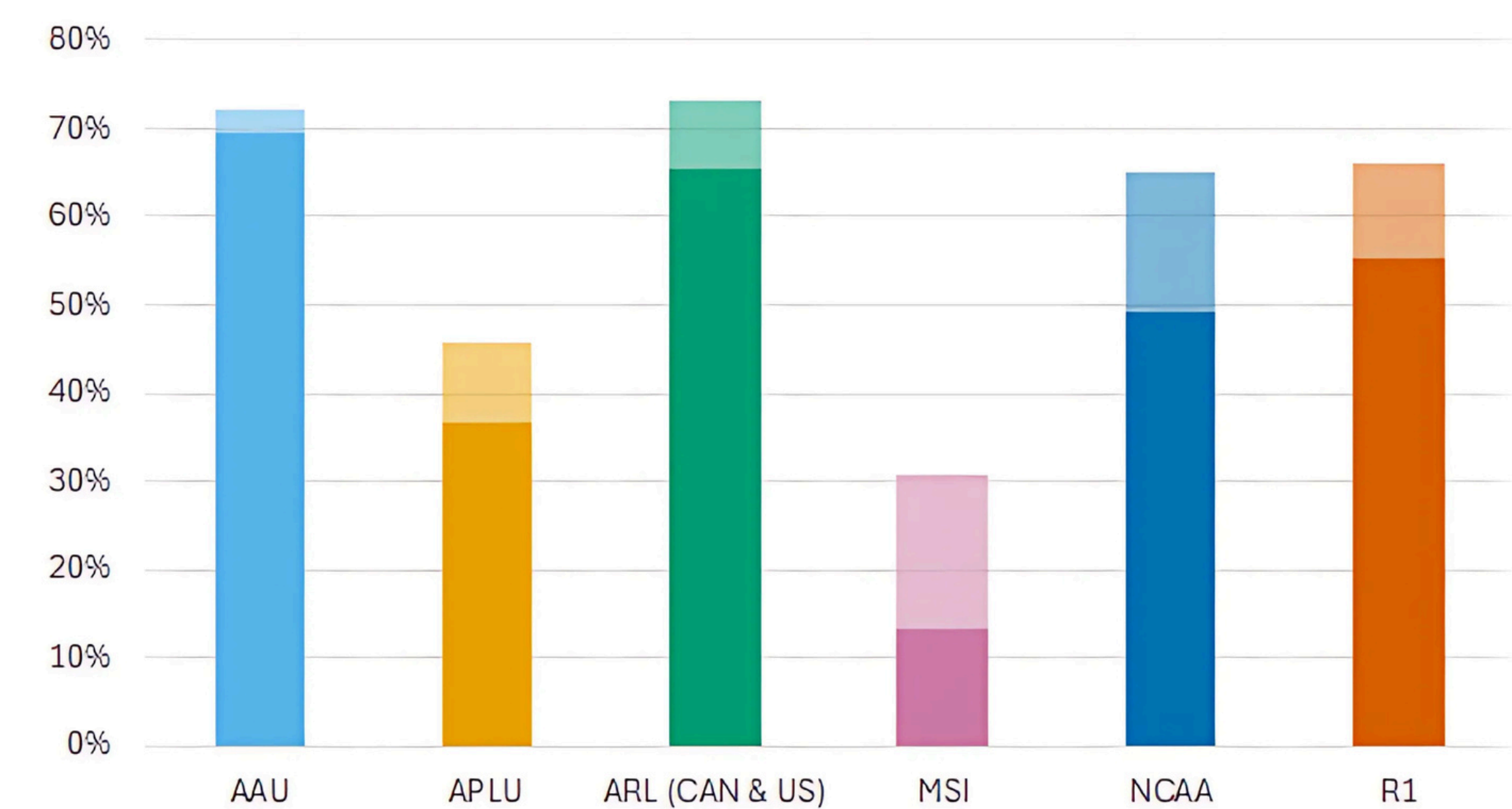
The ACRL Framework highlights how "authority is constructed and contextual;" thereby any support of CIS and Indigenous Knowledge improves academic librarians' ability to address some of the systemic biases librarians face in the dominant, colonially-informed approaches to librarianship.

AUTHORS Kathryn Randall, PhD; Katie Sparks, MA, MLIS; Adrienne VandenBosch, MLIS; Katerina Allmendinger, MLIS; Erik Mendoza, Ask A Librarian Apprentice; Loretta Nicodemus, Libraries Undergraduate Fellow

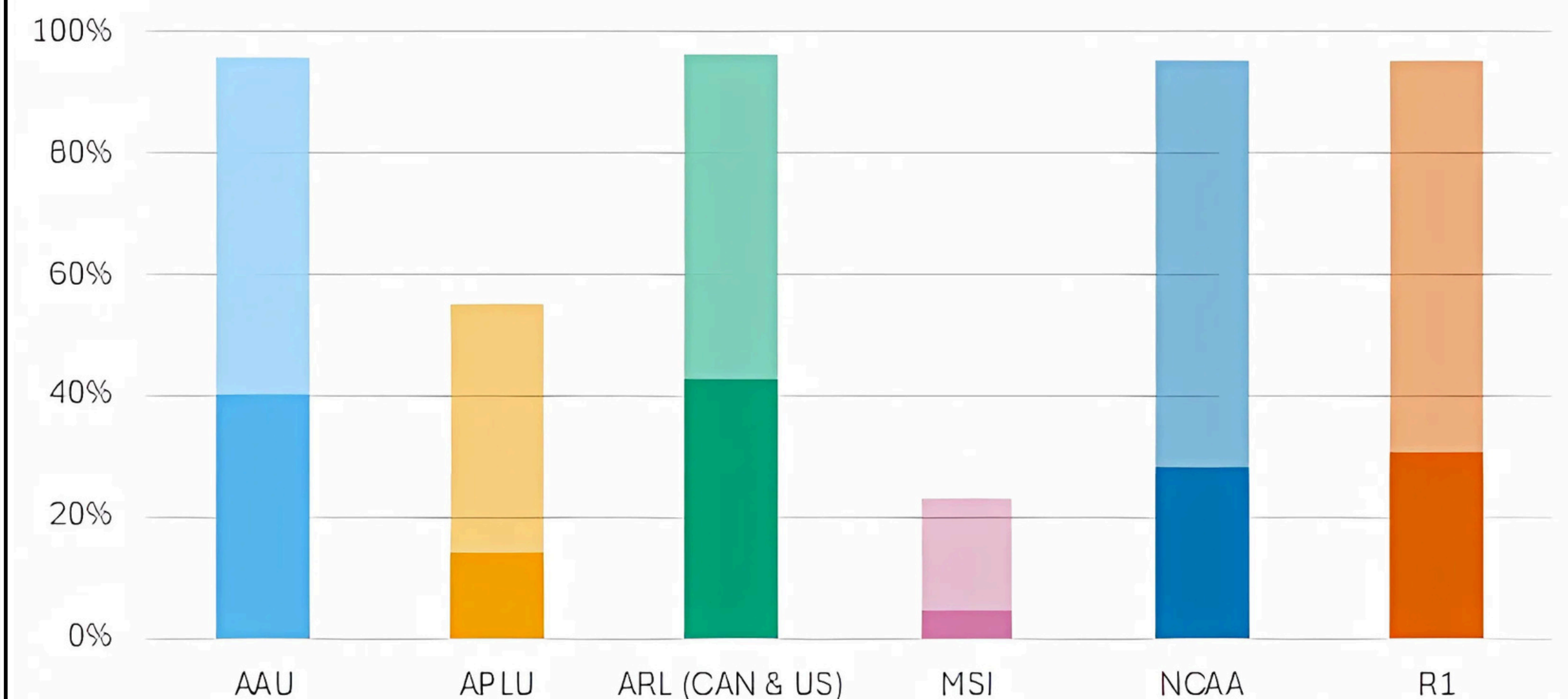
SELECT FINDINGS

Graph 1. Percentage of institutions with a CIS LibGuide by organization. More pigmented portions indicate institutions with CIS programs, and less pigmented portions are institutions with no CIS program which still provide a pertinent LibGuide.

CIS Program and LibGuide Support by Organization

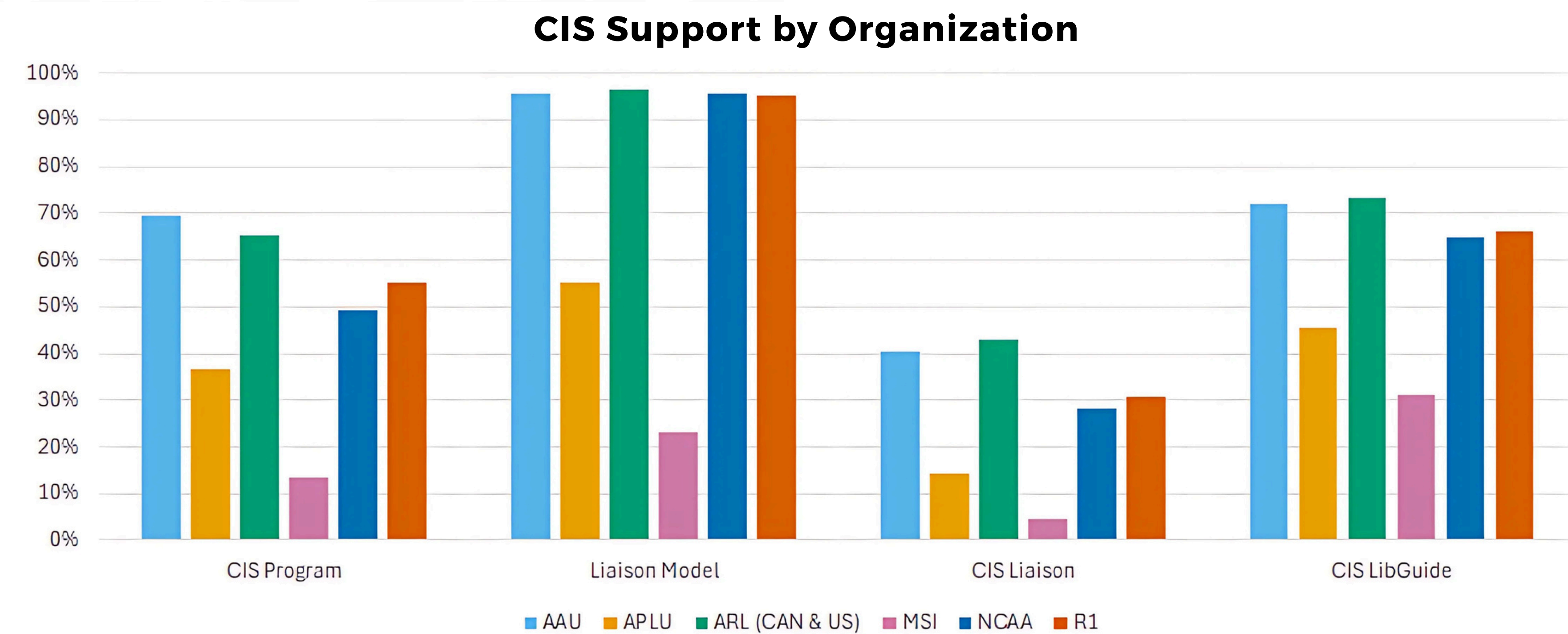


CIS Support in Liaison Model Institutions by Organization



Graph 2. Percentage of institutions with CIS support (a CIS-specific liaison librarian) by organization. More pigmented portions indicate institutions with a CIS liaison, and less pigmented portions indicate institutions without a CIS liaison.

Graph 3. Percentage of various types of CIS support offered by institutions, by organization.



FINDING 1.

Canadian institutions' CIS resources and services outpace those in the U.S.

FINDING 2.

Among U.S. institutions, geographic location is a determining factor for dedicated CIS services and resources.

FINDING 3.

Of CIS-specific resources and services, there are more libguides than liaisons. This finding suggests that all institutions can provide CIS support. 31% of Minority serving institutions (MSI) have a CIS LibGuide, while only 13% have a CIS Liaison.

CONCLUSION

- What would it take to see more CIS resources and services in academic libraries across Turtle Island?
- Given the new federal administration, in addition to the persistent limitations of resources, how can academic libraries in the U.S. rise to the challenge of supporting Indigenous scholars and patrons?

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION University of Colorado Boulder

RELATED LITERATURE Scan the QR Code for the full bibliography:

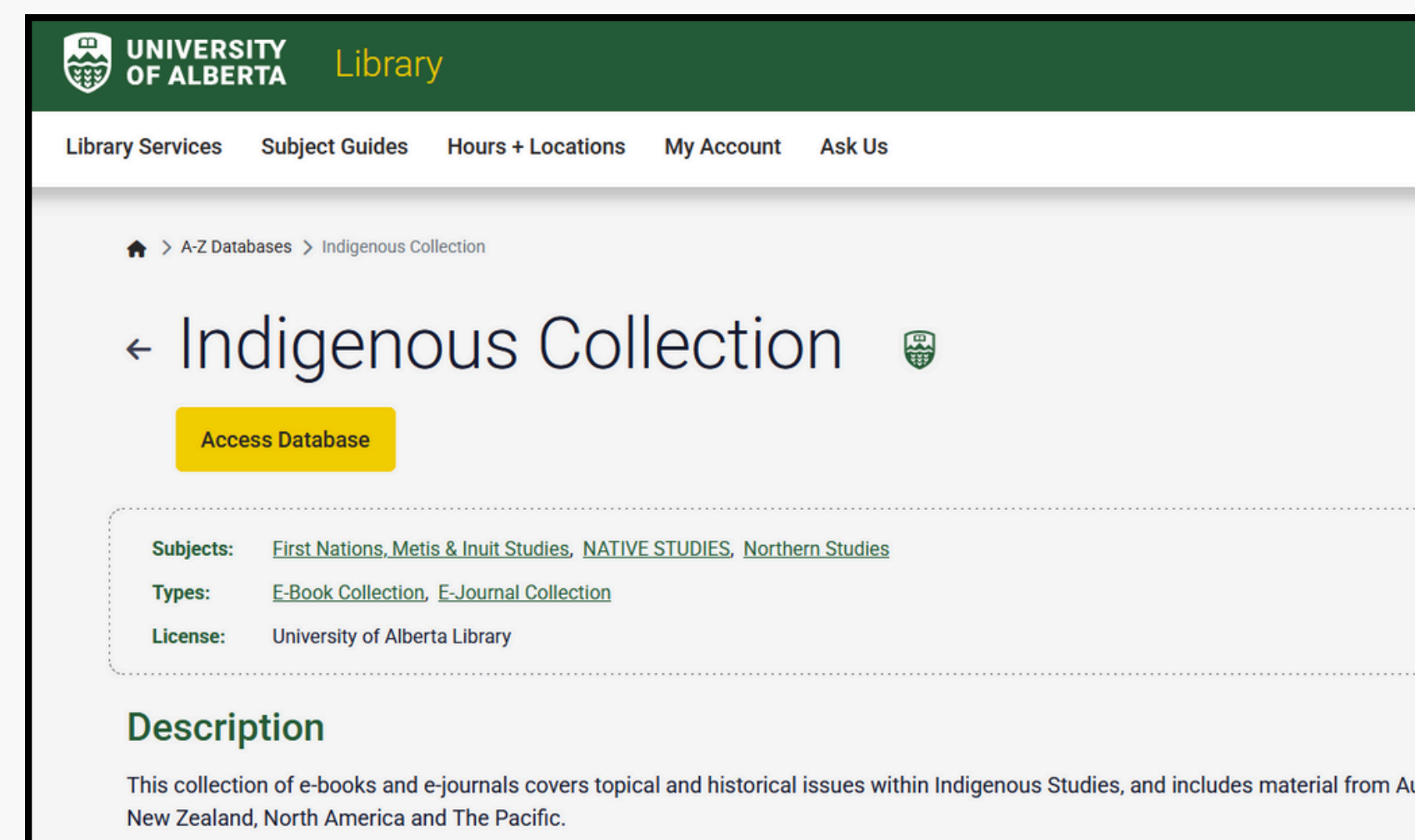


Mapping Standout Institutions



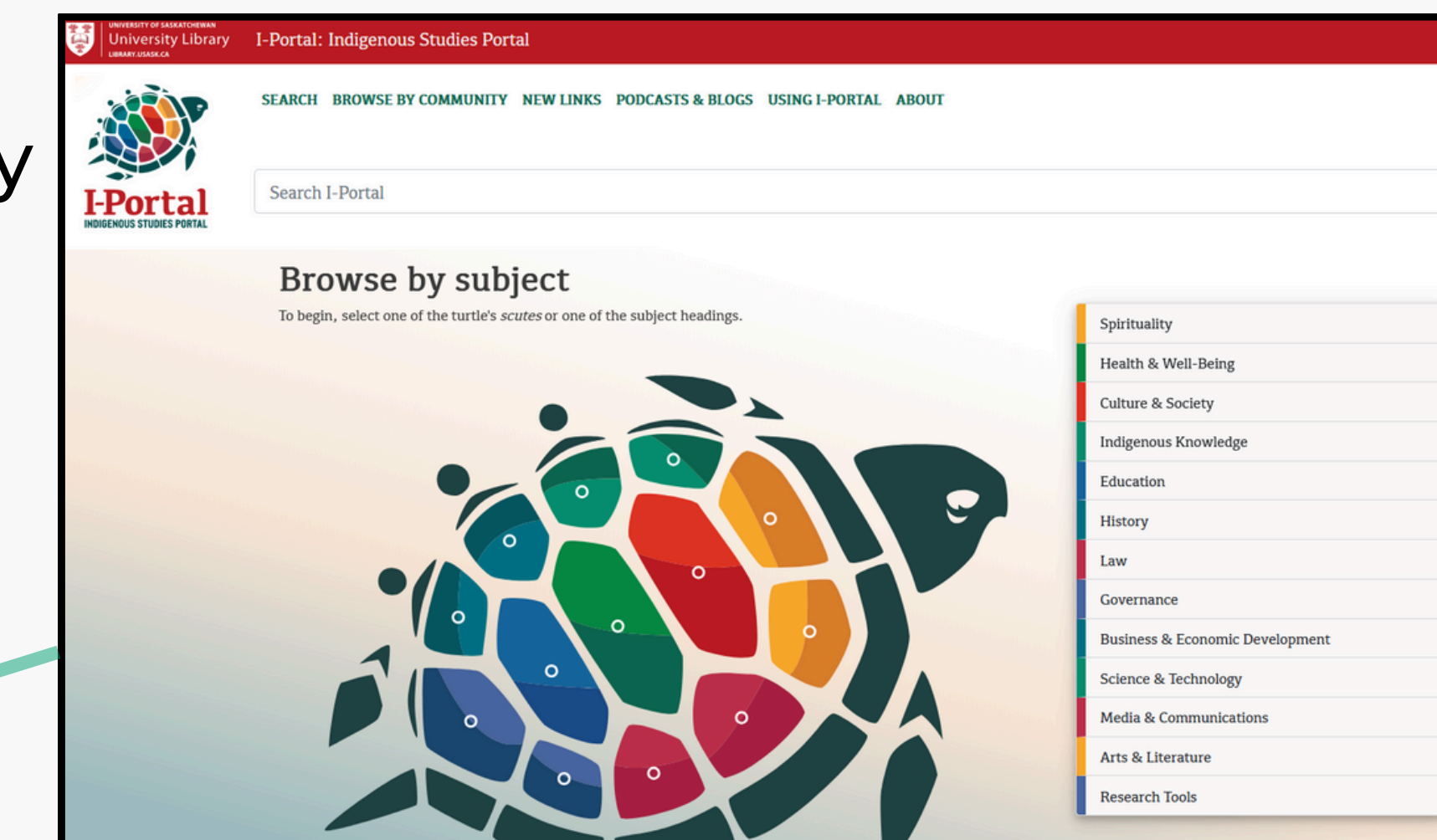
University of British Columbia

- Xwi7xwa Library
- First Nations House of Learning
- Opened Indian Education Resource Centre in 1970



University of Alberta

- Indigenous Strategic Plan
- Emphasizes Indigenous Research and community collaboration
- Indigenous Libraries Internship



University of Saskatchewan

- I-portal for Indigenous resources
- Comprehensive, accessible, archival collections
- USask is notably committed to decolonization



University of Minnesota



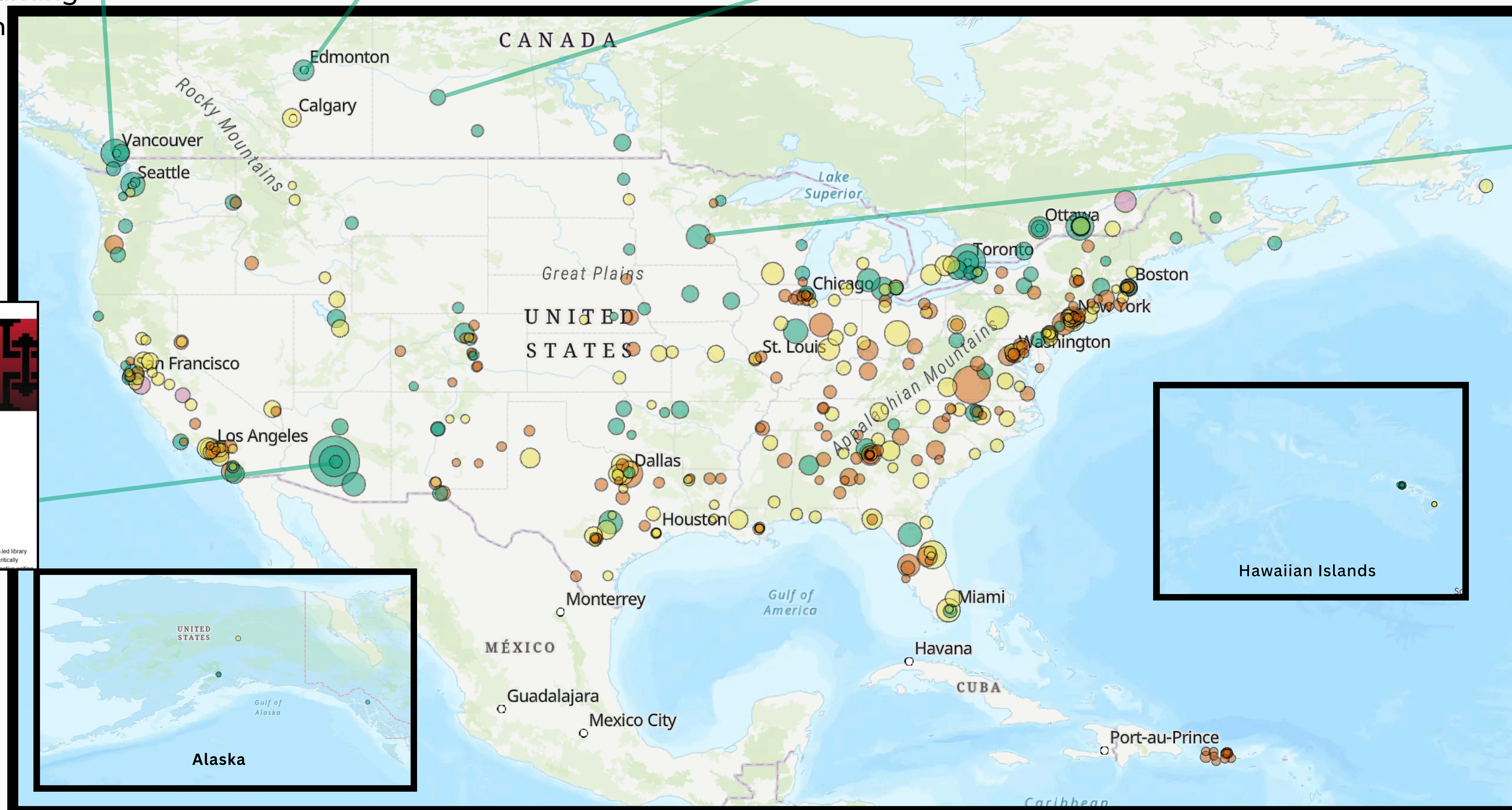
University of Minnesota

- One of the most robust curricular CIS programs in the U.S.
- Varied, extensive resources on Indigenous research methods
- Thorough and representative CIS collections



Arizona State University

- Labriola National American Indian Data Center
- Multiple CIS liaison librarians
- Integrates Indigenous Knowledge and ontologies into western, academic structures



Map 1. Schools with a liaison model. Dot size is proportional to enrollment number

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Key | No CIS Liaison, No CIS LibGuide | CIS LibGuide | CIS Liaison, and CIS LibGuide | CIS Liaison |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------|

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