RDAP Post: Conference edition
Attending a conference while the world starts to catch on fire
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While RDAP has traditionally been a small conference, it was smaller this year due to the impending spread of coronavirus. Bart covered this facet of attending the conference extensively in his post. My post will focus more on the highlights of what I learned from the content of the RDAP conference.

The RDAP (Research Data and Preservation) 2020 Summit was held in Santa Fe, NM March 11-13 at the Santa Fe Convention Center. RDAP is a unique community of librarians, researchers, and educators from academia, funding agencies, and industry supporting areas of research data, access, and preservation.

To begin the conference, there was a land acknowledgement, which is one of the few times I have seen this. A land acknowledgement is "a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories." https://www.northwestern.edu/native-american-and-indigenous-peoples/about/Land%20Acknowledgement.html While this is especially pertinent in areas where indigenous peoples currently live in our country, such as New Mexico, this may be something that becomes more ingrained in our culture to recognize those who have been on the land before us.

The keynote session was delivered by Michele Suina, PhD (Cochiti Pueblo), Program Director, Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AAST) on the topic of "Realizing Indigenous Data Sovereignty". She talked about values within her pueblo (community) around data topics and argued that it is a right of indigenous people (IP) to govern their own data, including who owns the data and who should have access to the data. From Dr. Suina's perspective, knowledge belongs to the collective and is fundamental to who she and her people are, whether those are pictures taken of people in her pueblo, how to approach DNA research, or IP determining what kinds of indicators are important to track and who determines how data is represented. Dr. Suina talked about her grandfather being a composer and how there are recordings both of him talking about the composition of pieces as well as singing/performing them, housed in a digital repository. This can raise questions around the topic of indigenous data sovereignty--who should have access to those materials, did he understand how the recordings would be shared, who should determine who has the right to mark items in a repository as culturally sensitive, and how to navigate all these considerations?

Dr. Suina mentioned the CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics) principles from the Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA) can go hand in hand with the more familiar FAIR principles when it comes to research data management and how organizations like GIDA work to advocate for indigenous rights around data.

The talk on "Connecting Communities through a Passion for Data Visualization in Libraries: The Visualizing the Future Symposia" by *Jo Klein, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Tess Grynoch, University of Massachusetts Medical School; and Alisa Rod, Barnard College* was also really interesting, highlighting projects from an IMLS funded National Forum on Data Visualization in Libraries. The authors were three of the fellows who worked on this overall project, and they talked about their individual projects, as well as all of the funded projects. They

talked about the importance of understanding visualization as both a research product and a form of expression. They contend that data visualization should be a subset of data & information literacy, especially in teaching others how to understand/recognize misleading data viz and how to critically analyze and interpret visualizations.

In one particular project, Tess Grynoch and Sally Gore's project on [Data Visualization + Empathy](#) explored the intersection of the topics of statistical analysis and good design by looking at ten areas that data viz and comics have in common to evoke empathy.