



The Keepers of Knowledge

Fourth International Indigenous Librarians' Forum

Daily Forum Newsletter

Friday – 16 September 2005

Welcome Indigenous Delegates!

Thursday marked the first day of the Indigenous only part of the forum. We thank the forum organizing committee for this unique opportunity.

Keynote: From the West

Through the keynote address, Maria Campbell reminded us of what the west door represents: sacrifice, women, honor, dignity, darkness, autumn, old age, vision, thunder birds, blackberries, warrior women, and librarians. To Maria, the west reminds her of strong people like her mother who always managed to provide books for the family despite their distance to the library. Maria reminds us of the need to keep fighting for women's rights and giving access of information to our communities. Our sympathy goes out to Maria as she mourns the loss of her friend who was an example of a warrior woman.

Loriene Roy, Rob Yazzie, and Sandy Littletree from The University of Texas at Austin, School of Information, gave an overview of the Honoring Generations Scholarship, a

program striving to increase Native representation within information service careers. The morning continued with an in depth look at how UT's program provides services for Indigenous people, Guest speaker, Marty Kreipe de Montano, provided information about the virtual museums. Hook 'em Horns!

Delegates had an opportunity to discuss the Manifesto from the Third International Indigenous Librarians' Forum. Comments were collected and will be discussed during Friday's forum.

Kim Lawson used her thesis to demonstrate why our oral traditions are vital to our culture. She reminds us that our knowledge is in our blood and that our oral traditions are not fragile.

An overview of the New Zealand National Library, including governance and collection management, was provided by David Jones. Celia Joe's presentation guided us through an important archive project that eventually led to

the identification of many Maori ancestors.

Terehia Biddle brought us back to our roots through song and storytelling to remind us that we need to know ourselves, speak the truth, listen, be humble, and be human before we can help our people.

The Maori panel ended with a beautiful waiata that previewed the night's talent show. The audience was left wanting more! David Jones and Celia Joe presented Wendy Sinclair-Sparvier and Larry Loyie with traditional Maori piū pū.

The evening's entertainment was an impromptu talent show coordinated by Deborah Lee (not Brenda Lee). Who would have guessed that so many delegates had such talent! Participants graced us with song, story and dance. Thanks to all those who participated.

Announcements

Lisa Workman, forum committee member, is running a marathon in Hawaii in order to fight diabetes among Indigenous people of Canada. Lisa would appreciate your help in supporting this cause.

Congratulations to the winners of the beautiful door prizes:
Sandra Falconer
Sharon Shorty
Edna Mirasty

Faye Charles
Angelena McLeod

And the winners of the afternoon drawing were:
Marcelynn Constant
Kim Lawson
Michael Racette
Jeff Burnham
Nina Wilson
Lois Mercredie

As we convene for our last day of sharing and discussing, let us not forget the importance of every delegate's responsibility of carrying on the forum's vision.

The International Indigenous Librarians' Forum **Vision Statement:**
We as a unified peoples who work with libraries and information, will ensure the appropriate care, development and management of the indigenous knowledge of generations past, present and future.

As always, we invite your comments and suggestions for content. Contact Sandy Littletree (Navajo/Shoshone) or Rob Yazzie Jr. (Navajo/Slovenian), MSIS students, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin. The spelling of *filling* in yesterday's edition was incorrectly spelled as *filed*. We apologize for any inconvenience.