

Indigenous Studies Pathfinder – general guide to finding resources

The University of Otago Library uses the Library of Congress Classification system which was developed from a western, rationalist tradition. Often the terms used are drawn from anthropology and were not created by indigenous people to reflect their world views. The language this classification system uses to describe indigenous topics and people is therefore problematic. Keep this in mind when you are searching for information, as the terms used in the catalogues and databases may not be the terms we currently use or prefer to use.

Indigenous peoples are classified in library resources as members of ethnic groups which originally populated the country in which they live, and where they are not in control of the government.

Broad subject terms :

- **Indigenous peoples** -used for Aboriginal people, Aborigines Native peoples, Native races.
- **Aboriginal Australians** - used for Indigenous Australians. Torres Strait Islanders have a separate subject heading, but may be included in the main heading.
- **Indians (of North America)** - term generally used for American Indians, American Aborigines, First Nations, Indians of the United States, Native Americans, North American Indians.
- **Eskimos** - used for the Inuit peoples and the related Eskimo peoples of southern and western Alaska and adjacent regions of Siberia.
- **Inuit** -used for the indigenous Arctic peoples of Greenland, Canada, and northern Alaska.

Narrower terms : use the name of the people you are researching eg. Maori, Nga Puhi, Samoan, Buandik, Hawaiian, Shoshoni etc.

1. Finding books -

- [Library catalogue](#) to see what is held at the University of Otago Libraries
- [Te Puna National Bibliographic database](#) to see what is held in other NZ libraries (you can interloan titles we do not have.)

2. Finding journal articles - use the [databases](#):

New Zealand Databases:

- Index New Zealand (via Te Puna database)
- SuperIndex (via Knowledge Basket database)

International Databases:

- Web of Knowledge
- Proquest 5000 (some full text)
- Academic Search Premier (some full text)
- Expanded Academic (some full text)

See the [Subject Guides](#) for finding information on related topics eg. Health, Community and Family Studies, Anthropology, Maori Studies, Education and so on.