

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge DB

Supporting Native Digital Archiving



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What is the ITK DB?

Welcome!

This is the Traditional Ethnographic Knowledge Database, operated by Ecotrust.

Please log in to explore.

If you do not have an account, please reach out to an administrator to get set up.

Login →



Monteregina

ITK DB

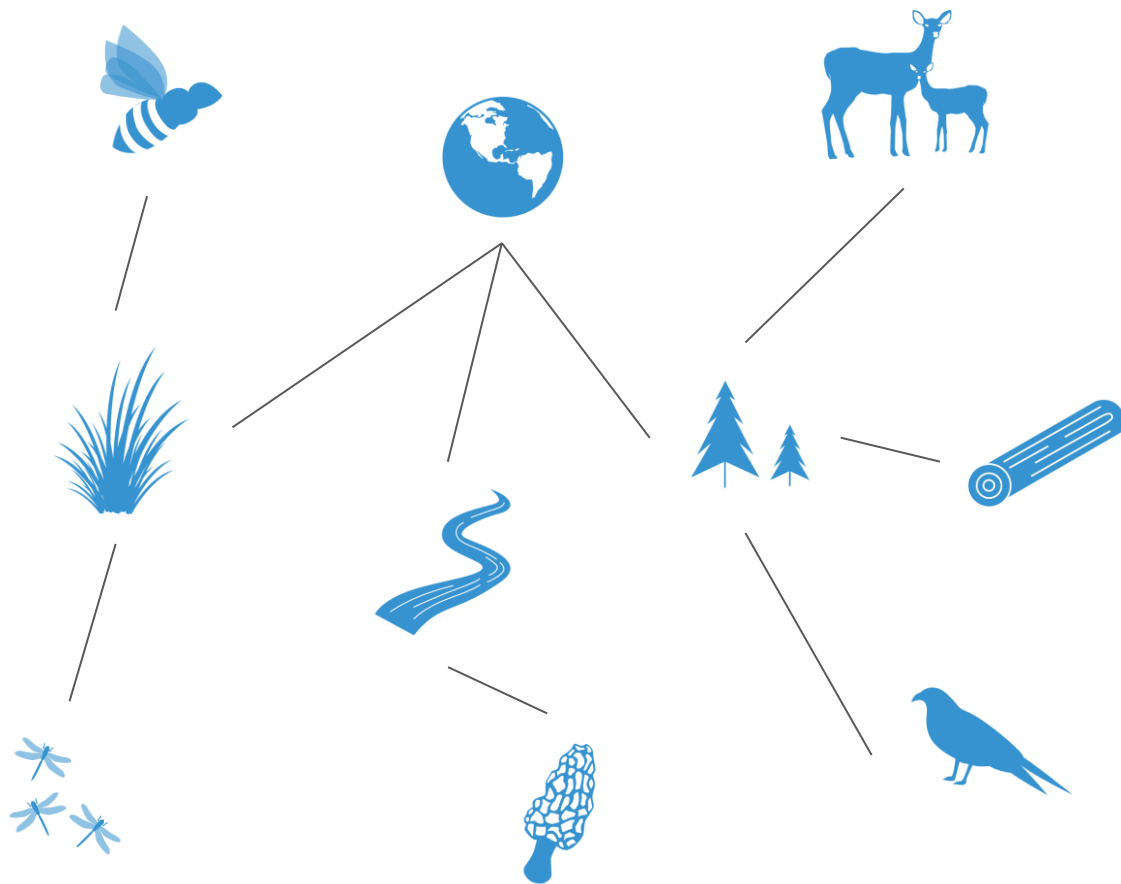
The Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Database; Formerly the (M)TEK Database.

Assists in Tribal efforts of digital archiving of materials and assets.

Supports GIS interaction, multiple languages, and version tracking of entries.

The homepage at itkdb.org. Abalone photo courtesy of [Monteregina](#) and used under [the CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 Licence](#). No changes were made

[Monteregina](#)

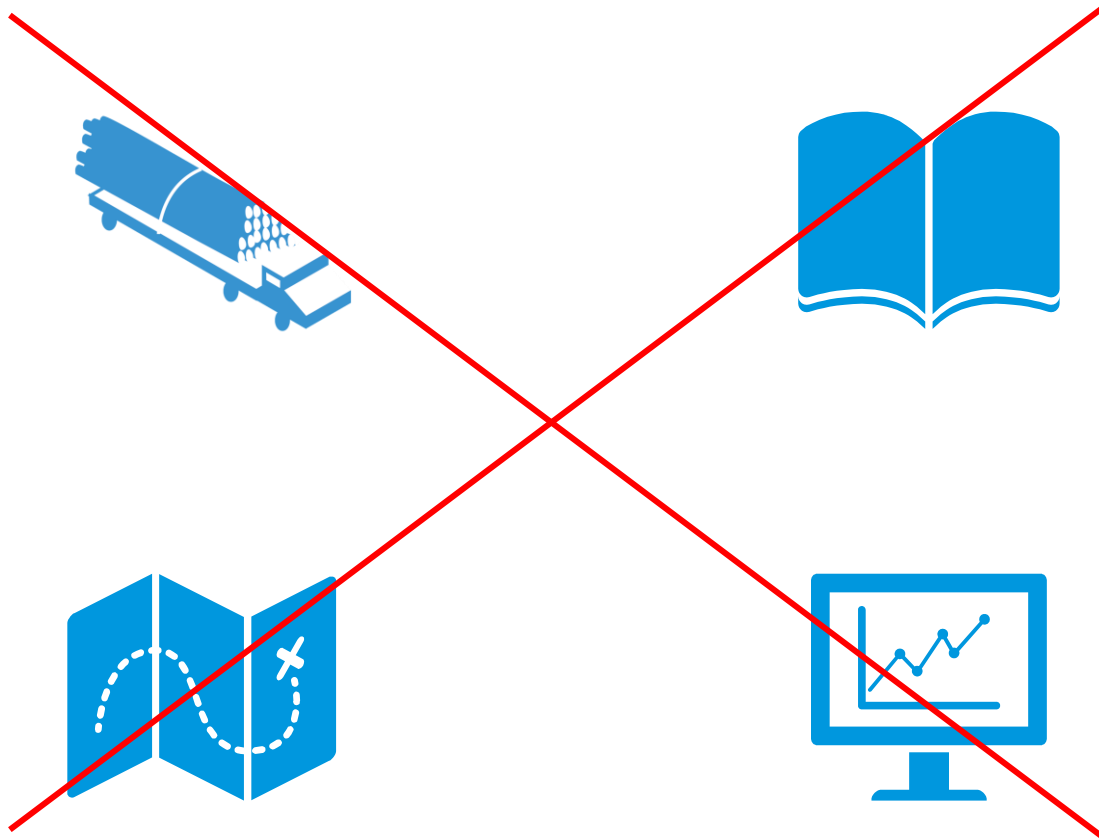


Relationships

The "DB" in ITK DB refers to a relational database.

The schema specifically captures relationships BETWEEN: People, Places, Resources, Media, and Sources.

Emphasis is placed on interconnectedness over the objects or items themselves.



What it is NOT

IT IS NOT: An open book to collect data for federal government or commercial interests.

IT IS NOT: A replacement for or an improvement on Oral Tradition.

IT IS NOT: Any one Tribe's or person's property to be used for profit or exploitation.

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Why We* Built It

**"We": Ecotrust, The Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation, and other partners*

[← Back to results](#)[↓ .csv](#) | [.xls](#)

PLACE

Mee-nee-xe See (Battle Rock)

INDIGENOUS PLACE NAME: Mee-nee-xe See

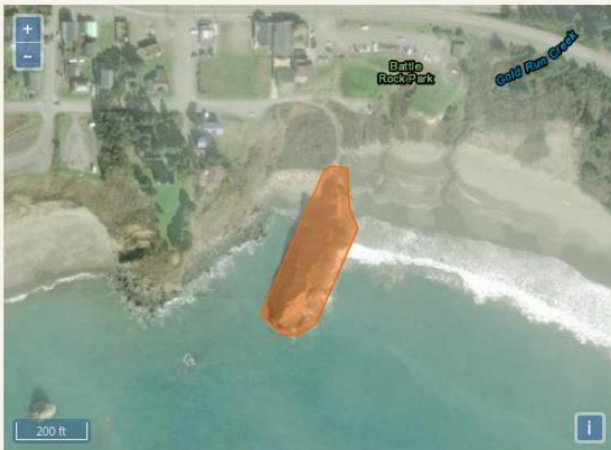
ENGLISH PLACE NAME: Battle Rock

INDIGENOUS PLACE NAME MEANING: None

PLANNING UNIT: Northern

PRIMARY HABITAT: Offshore Rock

TRIBE: Tututni: Tututni, CTSI



Related Materials

PLACE-RESOURCE EVENTS

[mussel, California at Mee-nee-xe See \(Battle Rock\)](#)

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

[\[Other\] John Peabody Harrington Reel 26 \(None\)](#)

History

The Marine Traditional Ethnographic Knowledge Database was built using MS Access - clunky, unwieldy, and rigid.

We rebuilt that framework to overhaul the user experience to empower and encourage data entry AND data access.



Communities

What it means:

- Rematriation - compatible with community practices
- Centralized and accessible

How it is helping

- Supporting cultural continuance
- Contemporary and historical sources working together
- Recontextualize archival materials
- A place to care for what elders are sharing today

◀ Prince Island and Hunter Rock,
Smith River Rancheria, California

Ryan Hodges, 2023



Impact

How it is being used

- Cultural education
- land stewardship practices
- Land acquisition
- Supporting scientific work

What this means:

- Digital space for internal collaboration
- Resource for advocacy
- Informing Co-management agreements

◀ *Mussels. Demonstration record available in the ITK DB.*

Manaha Herman, 2014

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How We* Built It

**"We": Ecotrust, The Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation, and other partners*



Principles

Open Source - the tool is free with documents for adoption and is customizable.

Lightweight - Run internally or on the cloud. Can be run on a \$35 microcomputer.

Region Agnostic - Can be configured for any region.

Versioning - Environments change, so should data.

PRIVATE - The tool is open source; Tribal Data is proprietary. No exception.

◀ The mouth of Smith River, CA

Ryan Hodges, 2023

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Who is Using It?



Partners

We continue to work in close collaboration with the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation.

We have deployed to 5 different partners across the West Coast.

We have 2 more partners in active discussion.

This includes individual tribes, confederated tribes, recognized and non-recognized tribes.

Digital Archivists representing 4 different Tribes teaching/learning together.

Jon Bonkoski, 2023

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What We* Have Learned

**"We": Just Ecotrust this time.*



Supporting Tribal Data Sovereignty

Empower Native Community voices and perspectives.

Gov. and private institutions must support partnerships that prioritize collaboration over extraction

Tribal perspectives about how to take care of communities and resources need to be respected.

◀ Mouth of the Smith River, CA

Ryan Hodges, 2023

“If you want to engage with tribes you need to build relationships, show up consistently, partnerships and support extend beyond grant periods, set aside funding for indigenous partners to travel and attend conference, partner with indigenous-led orgs.”

Steph Gutierrez
Forests and Community Program Director

Trust vs. Relationships

You cannot start with trust.

Start with creating and building relationships with Tribes or Indigenous-led orgs.

Hopefully trust will come later. "Work at the speed of trust."

Show up and check in regularly.

LISTEN.



Acknowledgement vs. Action

Many conferences and organizations have committed to recognizing those who have stewarded the land prior to colonization.

These are often not done in collaboration with the descendants and current populations of those people.

At Ecotrust, we have a call to action instead.

<https://ecotrust.org/call-to-action-for-indigenous-communities/>

◀ Mouth of Smith River, CA

Ryan Hodges, 2023



Thank you for joining us

Ecotrust.org | @ecotrust

Explore a live demo at <https://demo.itkdb.org>
[username/password: "readonly"]

Code/Documentation/Download at <https://github.com/Ecotrust/TEKDB>

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