

Mobilizing Data and Information to Support Vibrant and Resilient Arctic Communities

Colleen Strawhacker
National Snow and Ice Data Center
University of Colorado, Boulder



Overview

Resilience of What for Whom?

Need a lot more groundwork with 'end users'
before meaningful progress is made

Indigenous peoples need a place at the table and
the capacity to engage

Indigenous Data Sovereignty

The Authority of a People to Govern Their Information

Context and History Matter



The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. At the top left, the text reads "US Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network" in a large, dark blue font, with "Hosted by the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona" in a smaller, grey font below it. To the right of this text is a search bar with the word "SEARCH" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a horizontal navigation menu with the following items: "HOME", "MEMBERSHIP", "SPOTLIGHT", "RESOURCES", "JOIN THE NETWORK", "ABOUT US", and "CONTACT US". The main content area below the navigation menu features a decorative border at the top consisting of a row of red and yellow squares, followed by a row of blue and yellow squares. The background of the main content area is dark grey with a pattern of small, multi-colored squares (red, yellow, blue, green). The text in the main content area reads: "The United States Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network (USIDSN) helps ensure that data for and about Indigenous nations and peoples in the US (American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians) are utilized to advance Indigenous aspirations for collective and individual wellbeing."

US Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network
Hosted by the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona

SEARCH

[HOME](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [SPOTLIGHT](#) [RESOURCES](#) [JOIN THE NETWORK](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CONTACT US](#)

The United States Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network (USIDSN) helps ensure that data for and about Indigenous nations and peoples in the US (American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians) are utilized to advance Indigenous aspirations for collective and individual wellbeing.

Challenges to Data Sovereignty

- Who in the community gets to decide what data are shared and how?
- Trust building is difficult given the long colonial history of interactions between academics and Indigenous communities in the Arctic, as well as the long history of data misuse.
- It is expensive and time-consuming compared to other cyberinfrastructure / data-intensive projects that focus solely on technical development of flashy products. ***That is, there will not be a single solution or standard for data addressing 'Arctic community resilience'***









According to Indigenous peoples,
the incorrect data and metrics are
being collected, restricting
effective decision-making by Arctic
Communities

ELOKA Mission Statement

ELOKA fosters collaboration between resident Arctic experts and visiting researchers to facilitate the collection, preservation, exchange, and use of local observations and Indigenous knowledge of the Arctic. ELOKA provides data management and user support to Indigenous communities to ensure their data and knowledge are managed, visualized, and shared in an ethical manner in order to work toward information and data sovereignty for Arctic residents.



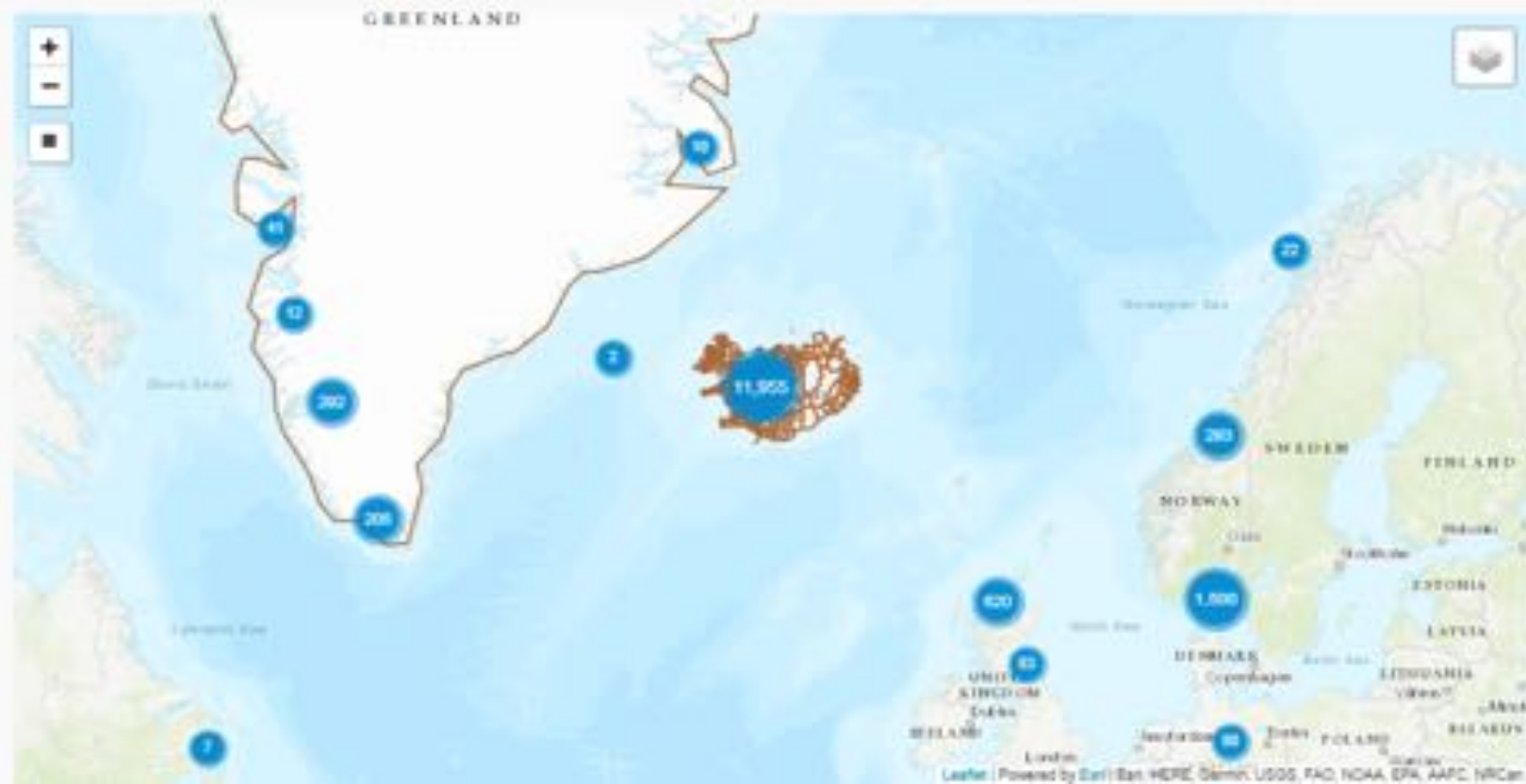
Find us online:

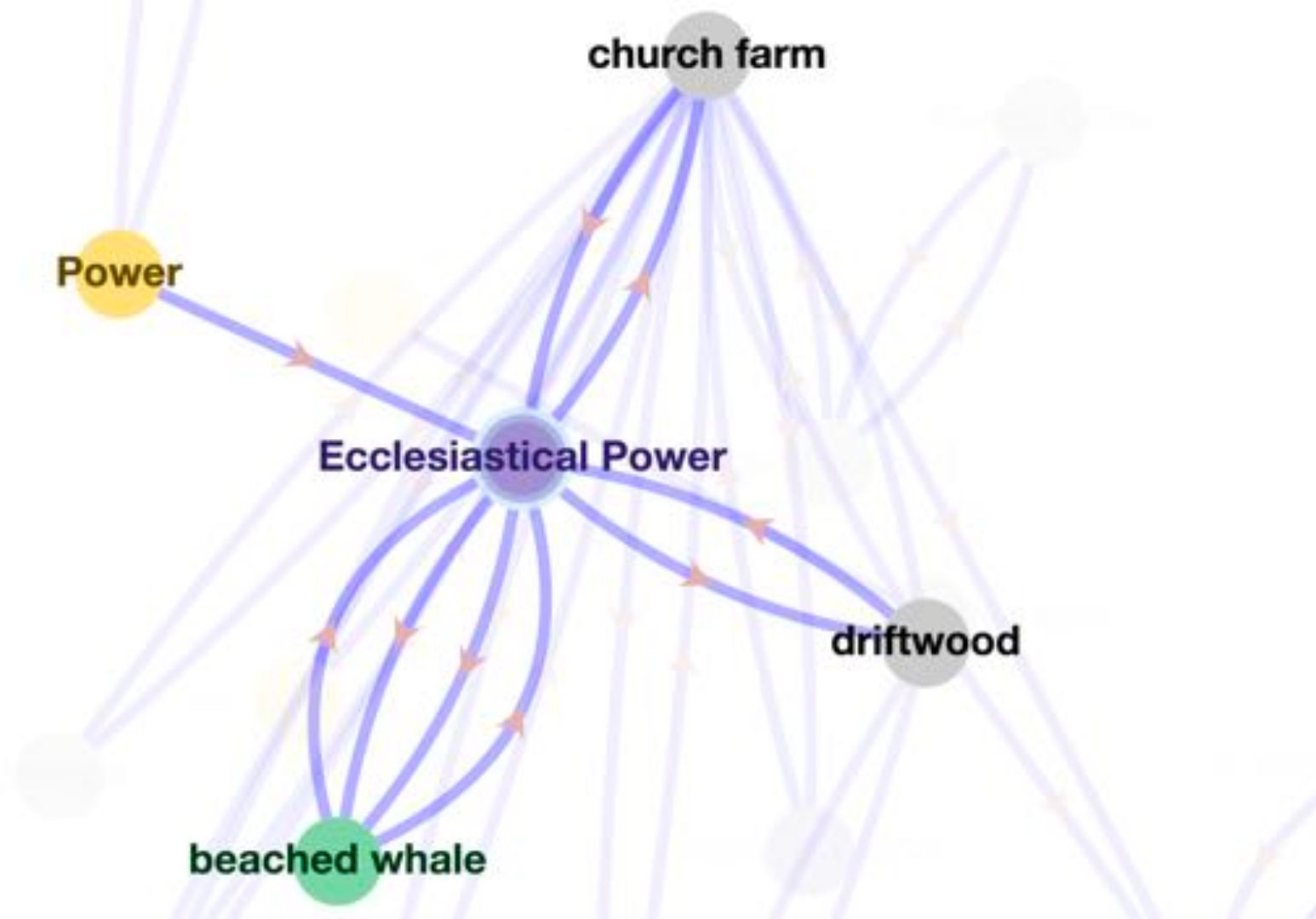
<http://beta.data-arc.org/>

<https://www.data-arc.org/>

Map

Archaeological Sources Textual Sources Environmental Sources







ARCTIC HORIZONS



FINAL REPORT

In Sum

Important to ensure that Arctic community voices are included in the discussion and decisions made around infrastructure

The conversation around social science and Indigenous data is NOT just about confidentiality and privacy

Power Dynamics need to be considered, and often Arctic communities need their own spaces to come together before engaging the wider community

Acknowledgements

ELOKA acknowledges the valuable contributions of all partners and particularly the Indigenous knowledge holders and community members who have generously donated their time and knowledge

This material is based in part upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant Numbers ARC 0856634, 1513438, 1231638, 1745499

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

