

Introduction to the Mapping Interview



Indigenous Mapping Workflow

Project Preparation

- define area
- define focus
- discuss how maps will be used

Pre-Interview

- refine interview questions
- create GE offline cache (if needed)
- pre-load any extra basemap KML into Google Earth (local names, water features, past interviews with knowledge-holder)
- recording equipment (video, audio, notebooks, laser pointer, projector, laptop, spare batteries, extension cord, screen)

Interviewing

- 2 interviewers, one leads conversation, one operates equipment
- introduce project and be clear about what kind of information you will be asking about (map biography, important places)
- obtain informed consent
- review questions, ensuring to follow protocols
- ensure that each placemark made in Google Earth can be traced back to quote from participant (through unique site numbers)
- thank participants!

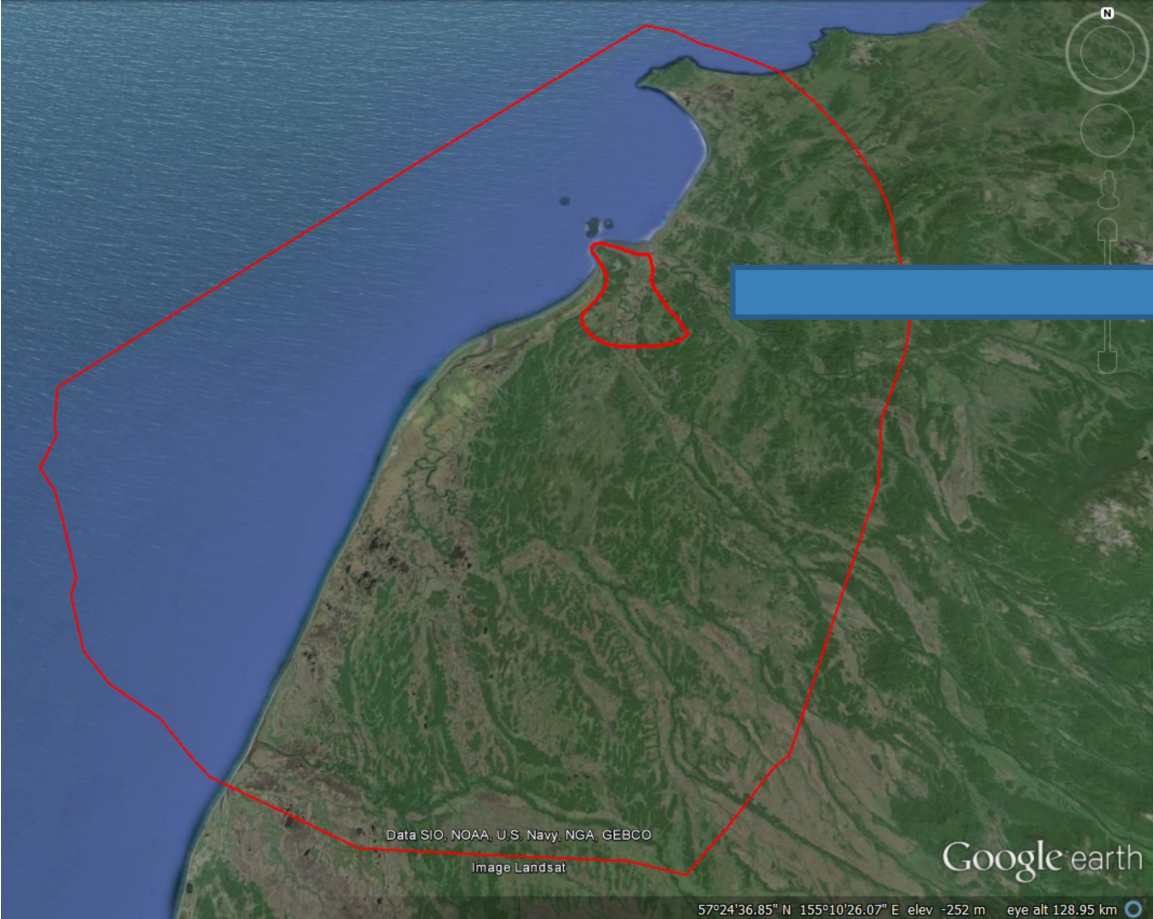
Post-Interview

- make backup copies of all recordings
- transcribe and proofread (esp. indigenous language terms)
- review transcript to connect placemarks with quotes from interview
- make notes about any information that may need to be clarified, sites to visit, urgently threatened sites
- return copy of transcript and map printouts to participants

Analysis and Presentation

- review site data and ensure that it is coded for site type, site use, species, confidence (Google Earth, Fusion Table)
- organize data from all interviews into folders / layers (Google Earth? Google Map Engine Platform?)
- create thematic maps
- write interpretive report to give context to study, methodology, information gaps, significance of information collected
- create materials to share with community

Broad or Narrow Approach to the Study Area?



Interviewing Methods

Broad area study

- Guided by interest of interviewees
- Good to show extent of land use
- Best used over long period of study (over several years)
- Inclusive of everyone's knowledge and experience
- Can leave data gaps in areas that people forget to speak about)

It is like a wide beam of light over a large area

Narrow area study

- Guided by interest of interviewers
- Shows intensiveness of land use
- Good for rapid assessment of an area (if an impact is expected)
- May exclude people who do not know about a particular area
- Risks missing places that are important to people

It is like a narrow beam of light over a small area

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A Guide for Interviewers

- Interviewing involves asking a standard set of questions that locate culturally practices on the land, while providing flexibility for knowledge-holders to tell their own stories.
- Interviewers should try to learn the full range of questions and standard question probes (getting at ‘who’, ‘what’, ‘where’, ‘when’)
- A sample interview outline based on Thom’s work can be downloaded [here](#).
- Tobias provides an example of an interview guide on P. 200-201, and 285-288.
- A shortened ‘interview question checklist’ sample based on Thom’s work can be downloaded [here](#).

General Process for Map Biography Interviewing

You will need 2 interviewers

- 1 asks the questions, 1 operates computer & video/audio equipment

Interviewer guides knowledge-holder with questions

- Design a question guide with project goals in mind. While the basic 'data diamond' information (next slide) should be relevant for every project (particularly because almost every projects has shared goals in respect of indigenous rights), the amount of detail interviews probe for about a particular place depends very much on the project terms.
- It is important to reflect on how they are proceeding through the range of questions, both during and between interviews. Avoid Burnout!

Interview gets transcribed, duplicated (safekeeping)

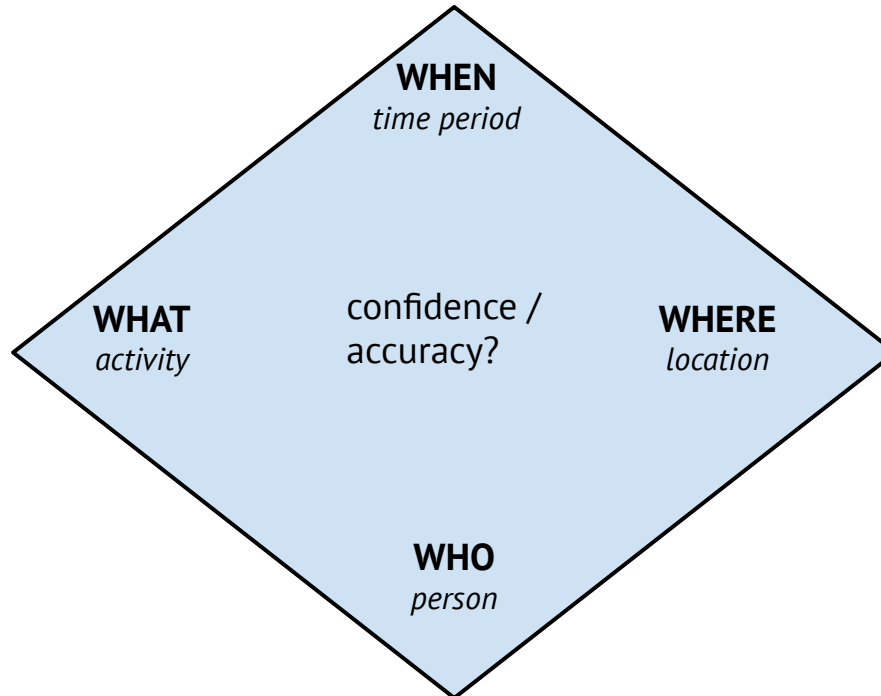
Following review of interview transcript, return to knowledge-holder

- ask for clarification for any information that was unclear; fieldtrip?!

'Data Diamonds' for Map Biography Projects

- specific time (season, year, date range)
- general time (decade, quarter century, etc)
- frequency

- site type
- site use
- resource
- story / history



- placemark / path / polygon
- place name
 - indigenous language
 - 'official'
 - local

- tribal name / language group
- person(s) who did the activity
 - gender, age, family, etc
- reference to documentation
 - interview, bibliographic, etc

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Post-interview checklists

- Keeping track of all the things that need to be done right after the interview is critical for quality control and data management!
- Some sample checklists to help guide this work can be found here [[LINK](#)].

Traditional Use Study Post-Interview Checklist

- read for unmapped sites
- check over map circles for clarity & accuracy
- think of questions for clarification interview and add these to fieldnotes
- bracket and bold all site numbers & letters
- double-check Indigenous language spellings
- create family tree from people mentioned during the interview
- document threatened sites/community concerns

Transcribing

- Transcripts need to be accurate, proof-read, use Indigenous orthographies correctly.
- **All site numbers on the map need to be able to be linked to the text of the transcript.**
- All editorial notes / transcriber uncertainties need to be clearly marked using [square brackets].
- A brief guide to some transcribing conventions can be found here [[LINK](#)].

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