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# TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE (TK) LABELS FAQ

## WHAT ARE THE TK LABELS?

TK Labels are a set of digital tags offered through the [Local Contexts](#) initiative. The labels are meant to be used by Indigenous communities to provide additional information about digital cultural heritage materials that are in the public domain or owned by third parties (museums, archives, libraries, scholars, etc). This may be missing information about culturally and community specific protocols about access, circulation, and use of Indigenous digital heritage. The TK Labels are cultural and social guides for action that help non-Indigenous people better understand and respect different cultural perspectives and concerns about the correct and appropriate ways of listening, viewing, and using traditional knowledge.

## WHAT DOES USING THE TK LABELS DO?

Labeling helps correct historical mistakes, adds missing information in the form of cultural protocols for access and use, and provides local knowledge about digital cultural heritage materials. Labeling helps inform different publics about the correct ways to use, attribute, access and circulate digital heritage materials. The TK Labels also make it clear that Indigenous communities are stewards of these materials, regardless of Western legal structures.

## ARE THE TK LABELS LEGALLY BINDING?

No. The TK Labels are not legally binding (like copyright or Creative Commons licenses). TK Labels are educational tags, they do not change already existing copyright and they do not change the legal ownership of a collection or digital item. The TK Labels re-position legal ownership *alongside* already existing cultural protocols for access and use. As a result, the TK Labels create new norms that recognize the existence and the legitimacy of cultural protocols in regards to the management, access, and control of valuable cultural resources, especially those in the public domain.

## WHO CAN USE THE TK LABELS?

The TK Labels have been designed to be used by Indigenous communities who want to make non-Indigenous people aware of the local and traditional guidelines and cultural protocols for the sharing of their digital cultural heritage. The TK Labels also can be used by collecting and cultural institutions, but only in collaboration with an Indigenous community, to bring Indigenous perspectives into collections management, curation, and display.

## DO WE NEED TO OWN MATERIAL THAT WE WANT TO LABEL?

No. The TK Labels can be added to any public domain or third party owned digital cultural heritage material including images, moving images, sound files, and digital manuscripts.

## CAN WE CUSTOMIZE THE TK LABELS ACCORDING TO OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS?

Yes. You can customize the TK Labels. Currently TK Labels can only be customized within Mukurtu CMS or by working directly with the Local Contexts team.

## WHERE CAN WE USE THE TK LABELS?

TK Labels can be used anywhere you share your cultural heritage. TK Labels have been used in physical exhibits, on websites, within collections catalogs and metadata schemas, and within content management systems.

## HOW DO THE TK LABELS WORK IN OUR CMS?

The TK Labels have been embedded into Mukurtu CMS and can be used and customized there without any additional development. At this time, Mukurtu is the only CMS that supports TK Labels, but you are welcome to integrate them in any content management system you use.

To learn more about how to customize TK Labels in Mukurtu CMS, contact [support@mukurtu.org](mailto:support@mukurtu.org)

Learn more about the TK Labels at [www.localcontexts.org](http://www.localcontexts.org)