

# Maawn Doobiigeng (Gather Together)

## About the new organization system at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries



## Creating the New System

A work group of community members was established to create a new system of organization for cataloging and classifying library materials according to Anishinaabe ways of knowing and being.

The work group created this new system, **Maawn Doobiigeng**, based on the seven original clans and their respective responsibilities, as described in the *Mishomis Book* by Edward Benton-Banai, and based on the cultural knowledge of the group members.

The clan responsibilities were adapted into subcategories that the committee felt best represent both the clan and the types of knowledge traditionally shared in books and libraries. Careful thought was put into each clan and subcategory, with the understanding that it may need additions or adjustments after implementation. It was important to the committee that the new classification system also double as a teaching tool, with users of the libraries gaining knowledge of the clans and the Anishinaabemowin language.

## About the National Leadership Grant

In 2019, The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries were awarded the National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The purpose of the grant was to address the question: How can tribal libraries use traditional ways of knowing and being to break free of the colonialist epistemology of existing library organizational systems that reinforce a damaging worldview?

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries include the public Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library, The preK-5th grade Saginaw Chippewa Academy elementary school library, and the public two-year community college Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library. For classification, the former two used DDC, the latter used LCC, and all used LCSH, all of which employ colonialist logic to classify and describe items relating to Indigenous people.

Phases of the grant project:

1. **Assess** the cataloging and classification systems currently in place through a decolonizing lens.
2. **Create** a system of organization for cataloging and classifying library materials according to Anishinaabe ways of knowing and being.
3. **Implement** this system to decolonize and indigenize the Tribal Libraries collections.
4. **Analyze** results and share documentation that outlines how this project was conducted, providing a framework that other libraries could use as a template for decolonizing the knowledge organization of their collections.



Saginaw Chippewa  
Tribal Libraries



# Navigating the New System



## **Maang (Loon)**

**Gimaakewin** (Leadership - Internal)  
**Mnomaajishkaang** (Community and Nation Building)  
**Kchi-naakneewin** (Constitution)



## **Waabizhiish (Marten)**

**Ezhishiying** (Skills and strategies)  
**Wiidookaagewin** (Sports)  
**Mnisekweng** (Cooking)  
**Zhimaaknishak** (Military/warriors)  
**Naasaab Ezhi-gnowaamdeng** (Social Justice)  
**Aki Gwek-naaknegeng** (Environmental Justice)



## **Waawaashkesh (Deer)**

**Mnomaadziwin** (Community health)  
**Mnowangozwin** (Entertainment)  
**Ngamwinan** (Poetry and songs)  
**Enendimeng** (Psychology)  
**Ngododewziwin** (Family)



## **Jijaak (Crane)**

**Gimaakewin** (Leadership - External)  
**Kina Ezhwebak** (Intergovernmental Affairs)  
**Gabe-zhiwebak** (International History)



## **Mkwa (Bear)**

**Gnowendaming Aki** (Land management)  
**Ezaakiigen** (Plants)  
**Emshkikiiked** (Herbalists)  
**Mshkikiin** (Plant medicine)  
**Zhaabwiing** (Survival)  
**Mjidoodameng** (Law enforcement/crime)  
**Kowaabjigeng** (Protection)



## **Giigoonh (Fish)**

**Enweying** (Language)  
**Enendamaang** (Self-expression)  
**Maanjiinaang** (Arts)  
**Kinoomaageng** (Teaching)  
**Daakenjigeng** (Research)  
**Kinoomaadzeng** (Developing skills)  
**Naanaakdowendameng** (Mediation)  
**Dibaajimowinan** (Storytelling)



## **Bineshiinh (Bird)**

**Naadmaadsaang** (Self-help)  
**Mnidoo'aadziwin** (Spirituality)  
**Mnomaadseng** (Well-being)  
**Maamwi-noojimaang** (Holistic Care)  
**E'jiiskijik** (Spiritual Leaders)  
**Waanezhiwebak** (What the Future Brings)  
**Aangwaamseng** (Prevention)  
**Zhitwaawin** (Religion)

# Navigating the New System



## **Aadizookaan**

Factual, what we know to be true, and traditional stories and teachings.



## **Dibaajimowinan**

Embellished, creative stories



## **Anishinaabe(k)**

One or more of the contributors identify as Anishinaabe



## **Mayagi Anishinaabe(k)**

One or more of the contributors identify as Indigenous, but not Anishinaabe



## **Kaawii Anishinaabe-aawsiiwok**

The contributor(s) do not identify as Indigenous

## **Binoojiinhik**

Children

## **Eshkniigid**

Teen

## **Nitaawgid**

Adult

# Contributors

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