

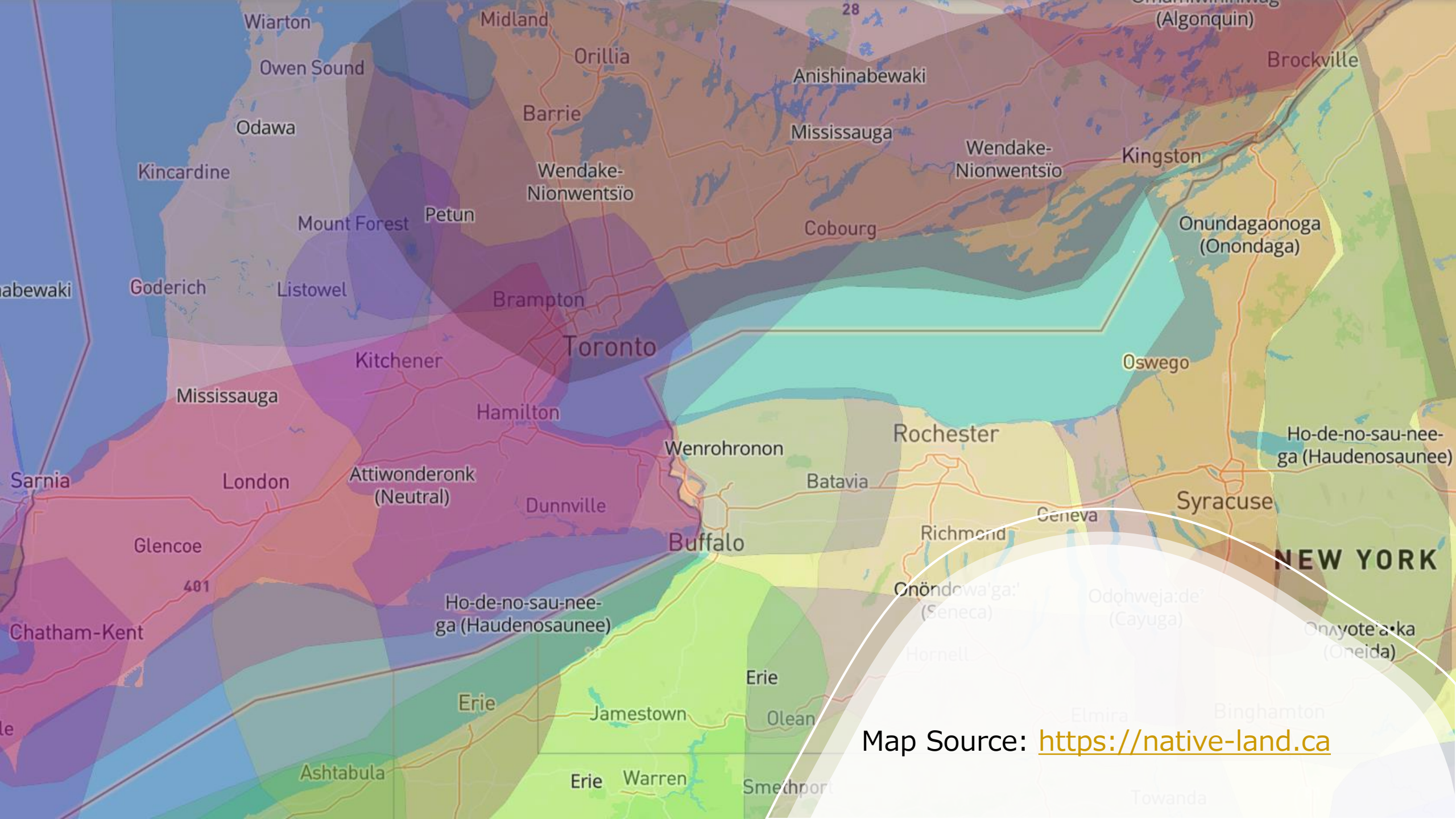


The Digital Scholarship Divide: Some Needs Assessment Findings

Presenter: Kris Joseph

Research Team: Sarah Coysh, Andrea Kosavic,
Rosa Orlandini, Anna St.Onge

York University Libraries



Map Source: <https://native-land.ca>

Coverage

1. Our study
2. Barriers
3. The Digital Scholarship Divide
4. What next?



About the study

- Needs Assessment patterned on appreciative inquiry methods
- Semi-structured interviews across all faculties, including instructors/faculty and graduate students (**n=25**)
- A follow-up survey of a more quantitative nature (**n=116**)
- Qualitative interviews open-coded by a team of five

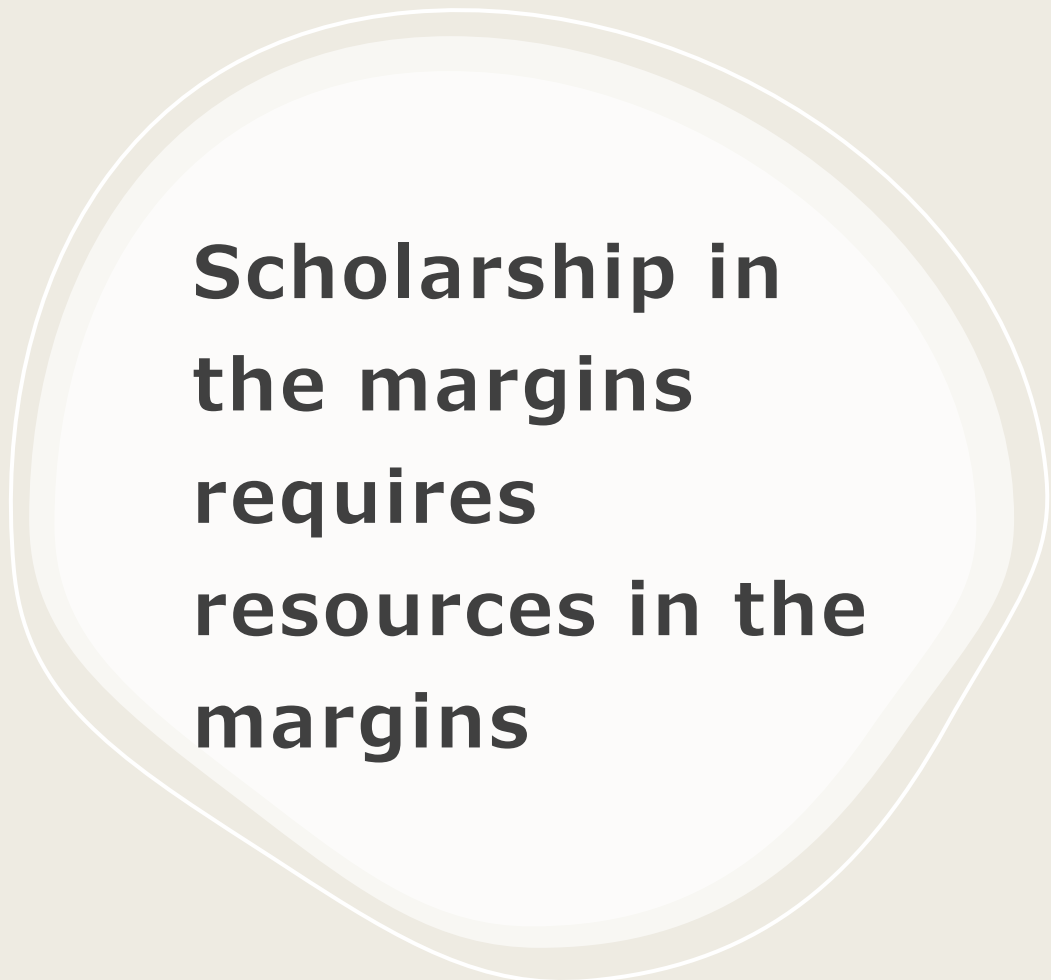


**A pattern of
barriers**

We saw things that we expected...

- Collaboration-friendly spaces
- Hardware and software access
- Skills training and communities of practice

**...but also things
we *should* have
expected**



Scholarship in the margins requires resources in the margins

“Another layer to that is even looking at Black studies and Black history. When I make comparisons between the United States and Canada, **there’s a huge gap in terms of digital materials, access to materials, but then also the creation of different digital tools.** And so, the potential is there to reach so many people, whether it is in classroom instruction, whether it's the general public, through the use of digital medium.” (graduate student)

Belonging and connecting

- Generation/age, self-identification, and qualifications
- “I’m stuck on this chapter because I think I should make a thing but I don’t know how to make it and I don’t know who to ask to help me make it.” **And then several faculty members all put their hands up said “Why don’t you just not do that? Why don’t you just drop that piece?”**
(graduate student)

Valuations on digital scholarship as an output

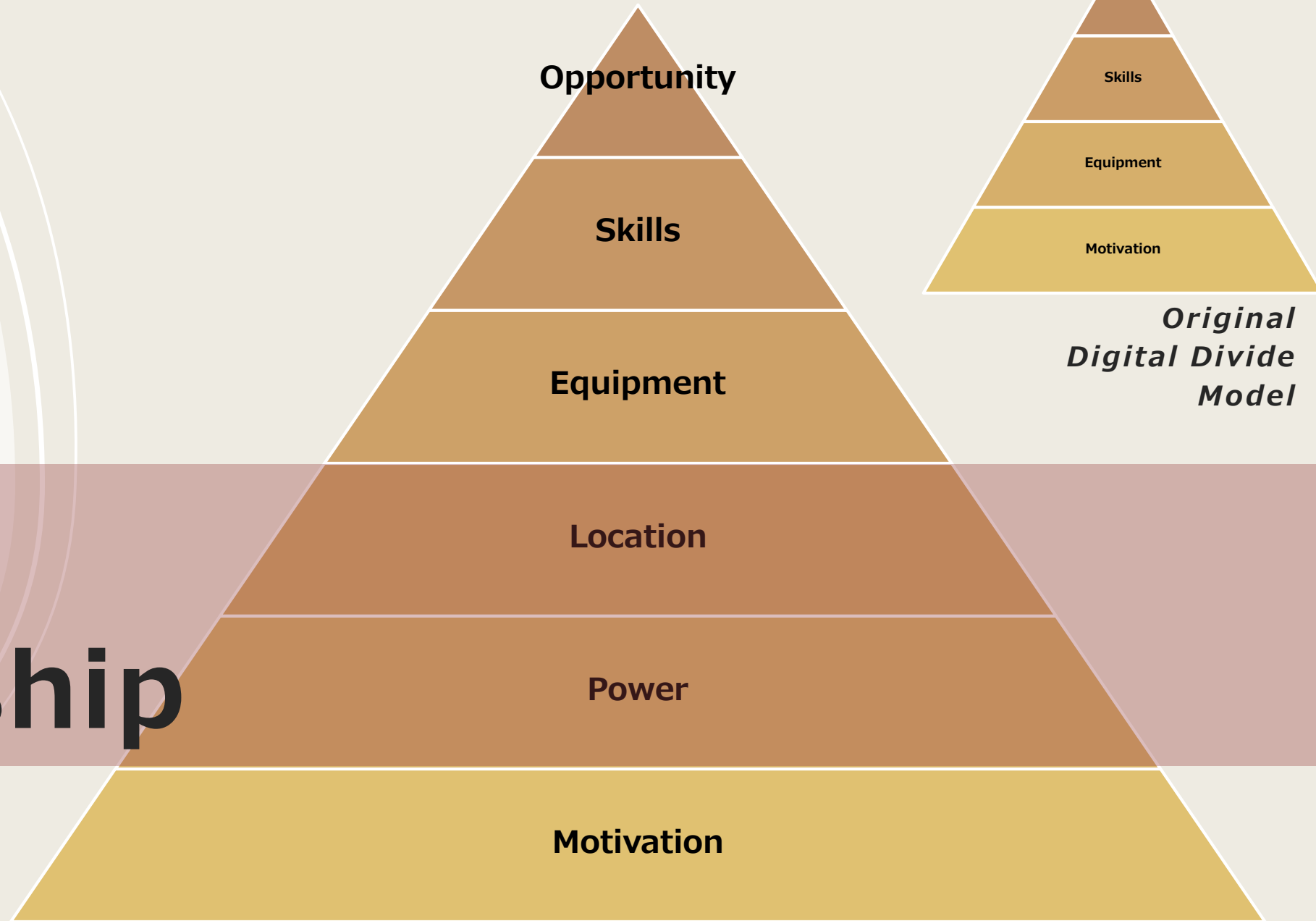
“what led me to digital [humanities] was realizing that **a purely non-digital or analogue approach wasn't going to help me answer a question around racism and social justice** that I wanted to get to”. (tenured faculty)

Digital methods are colonial

**There are a lot of expressions of the
colonization in the digital already...**

most of the indigenous focused
projects are created with the same
methodologies; Digital decoloniality is
the expression of decolonization in the
digital but in the end, you are not
changing the way of creating the
digital. (graduate student)

A Model of the Digital Scholarship Divide



A scenic landscape featuring a two-lane asphalt road with a double yellow line, curving through a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, and a mountain peak is visible in the distance. A large, semi-transparent white oval with a thin white border is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the text "The road ahead".

**The
road
ahead**

Acknowledgements and Works Cited

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