MyKnet.org:
The Cultural History & Social Life of
an Indigenous Web-Based Environment

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Research / Methodology

- Digital / media anthropology project
  → Internet in (remote) indigenous communities
  → geographical, historical & sociocultural contexts
  → socio-technical infrastructures & relationships
  → digital practices related to everyday internet appropriation
  → socio-technical change

- Ethnographic fieldwork
  → 6 months between 2006–2008: Northwestern Ontario
  (participant observation, group discussions & 96 interviews)
  → 2006–2014: web-based environments
  (following research partners' online activities → participant observation,
  conversations & online surveys → 2007 [N=1,246] & 2011 [N=117])

- Internet Archive's Wayback Machine
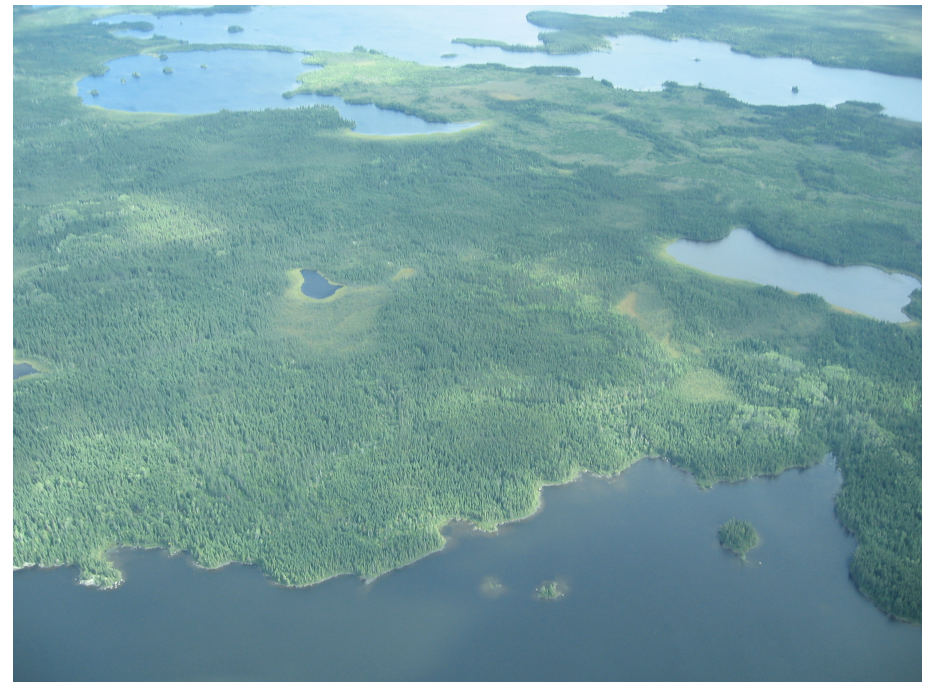 → archaeological tool for research into history of MyKnet.org

Northwestern Ontario

- Size of France

- Overall indigenous population ~45,000 → Ojibwa, Oji-Cree & Cree

First Nations in Northwestern Ontario

- Remote communities
  → fly-in (summer)
  → winter road

- Almost no telecom infrastructure till middle of 1990s

KO-KNET – Infrastructure & Services

- Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) Tribal Council
  → association of 6 First Nations

- 1994
  → Kuh-ke-nah Network (KO-KNET)

Nishnawbe-Aski First Nations

Legend

- NAN Territory
- ● Independent Bands
- ● Independent First Nations Alliance
- ● Keewaytinook Okimakanak
- ● Matawa First Nations
- ● Mushkegowuk Council
- ● Shibogama First Nations Council
- ● Wabun Tribal Council
- ● Windigo First Nations Council
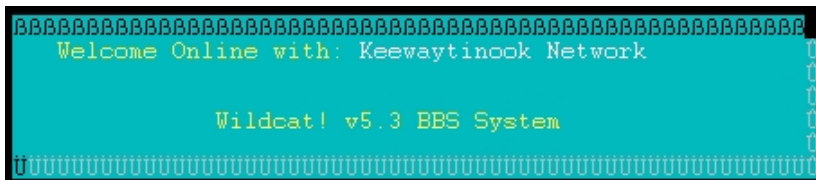- * Not affiliated with Nishnawbe-Aski Nation

KO-KNET – Infrastructure & Services

- KO-KNET

→ bulletin board system (1994)

→ connect indigenous people in region's remote (indigenous) communities through (broadband) internet → community-driven projects (2000s)
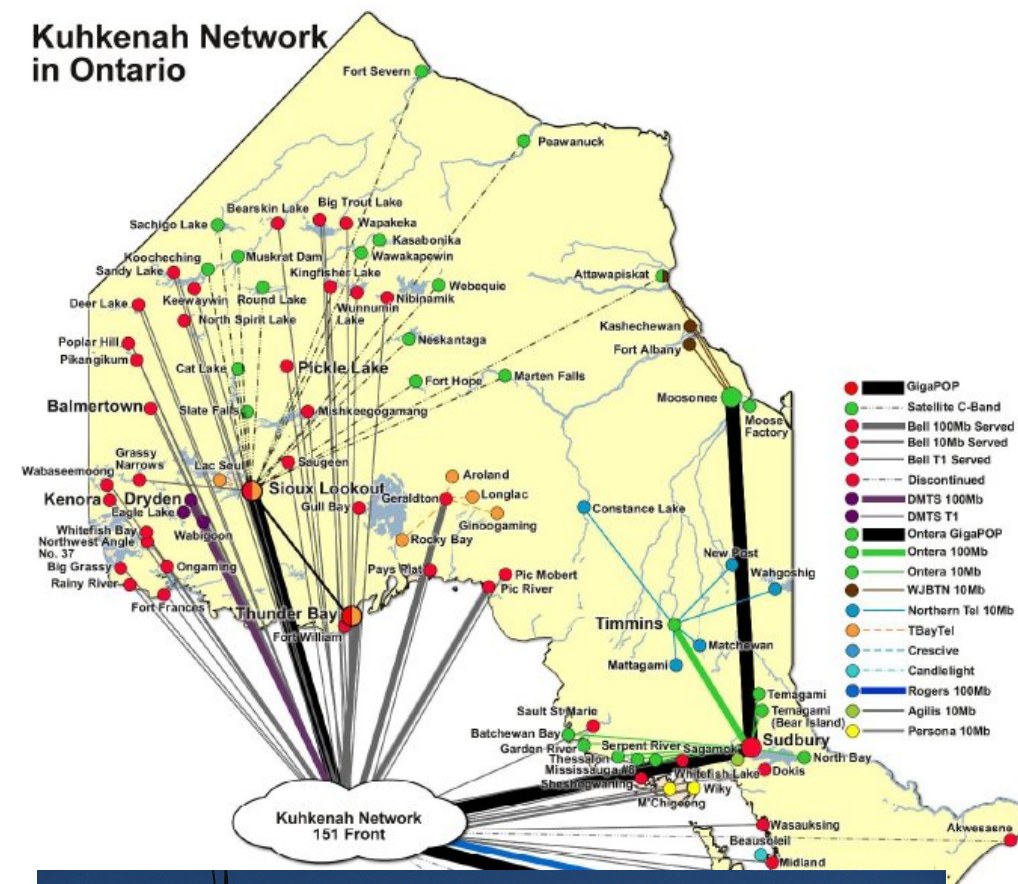
→ give people choice & possibility to stay in home communities

KO-KNET – Infrastructure & Services

Kuhkenah Network in Ontario

- Infrastructure
  → landline & satellite broadband internet,
  mobile phone network

- Services
  → KO eHealth / Telemedicine,
  Keewaytinook Internet High School,
  video conferencing,
  MyKnet.org

21 June 2019

MyKnet.org

- Set up in 1998
  → exclusively for First Nations people (youth)
  → create digital presences
  → cost- & commercial-free environment

- 2000 → different age groups across NO & neighbouring regions

- 2013 → ~25,000 active homepages (user accounts)

- 2014 → decline of users
  → new MyKnet.org's hosting platform
  → need to set up new pages
  → rise of commercial social networking platforms (Facebook since 2011)

- 2019 → ~2,900 homepages
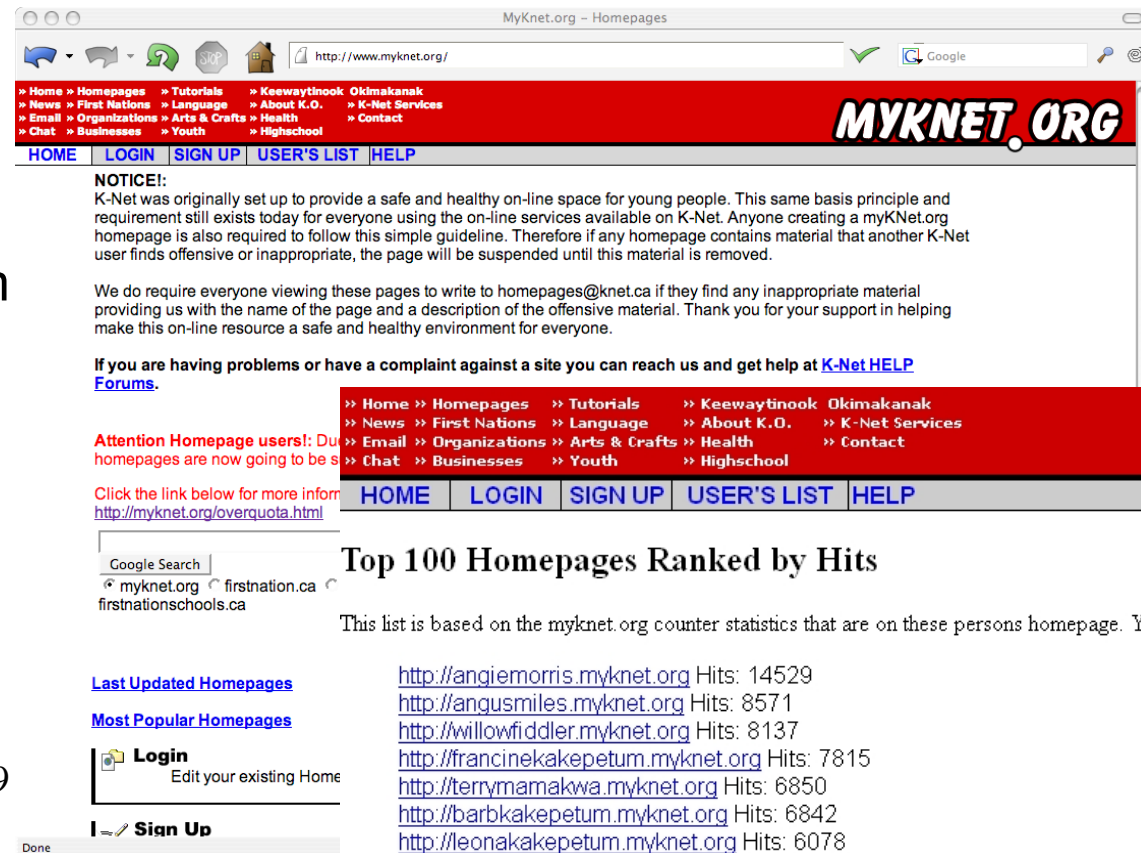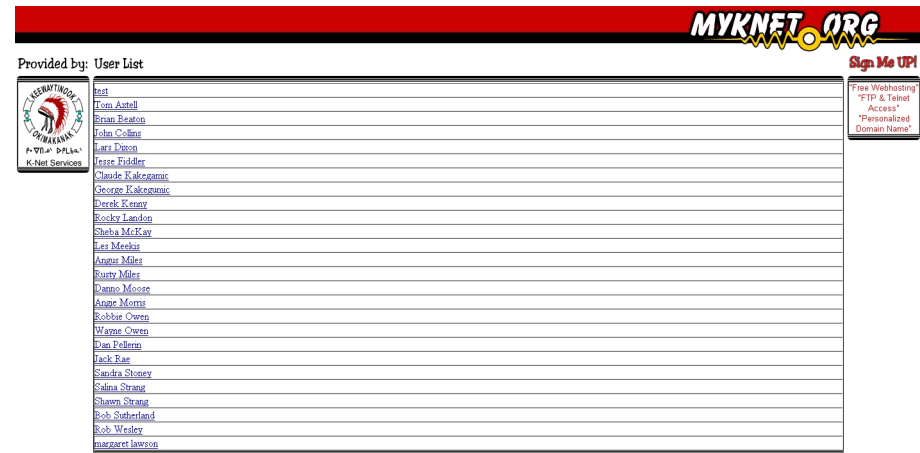
MyKnet.org

- MyKnet.org between 2004–2008 (>30,000)

  → (1) build & maintain social relationships across distance
  (in infrastructurally disadvantaged region)
  → communicating via communication boxes
  → linking family & friends' pages

  → "Web-based directory" / "archive" of indigenous people in Northwestern
  Ontario (real name policy)

  → (2) different forms of cultural representation & identity construction /
  negotiation
  → representing homepage producers, families & communities
  → creating, displaying & sharing pictures, music, texts, website layouts &
  artwork

  → community-developed & community-controlled (KO-KNET)
  → importance of locality & indigeneity

  (e.g. Bell et al. 2012; Budka 2015, 2019; Budka et al. 2009)

MyKnet.org – "Digital Biography" / 2002

Finally Got This UP
Last Updated October 15, 2002

Real Name: Alicia Sayers
Nicknames: ali, baby ali, neech,leash
From: Garden River First Nation
Occupation: student
Hobbies: boxin, football, hockey,baseball, hangin with friends
Quote:

View My GuestMap

THIS IS US... ALOT OF PEOPLE ..Lemme See
Here if i can member them MACKENZIE,TAYLOR,JOHN,NATALIE,SASHA,ZACK,ME,NAOMI... GONE
PAINTBALLIN ON OCT.12 FOR MY SISTER'S BIRTHDAY

**Well imma still work on it i jus got it workin so ... ill make it better next time wit html n all that
shyt..but for nowz..its gonna be like this.:D j/k**

Alicia Sayers's Favourite Websites

- my sisters homepage
- my other sister's page
- my other other sister's page

Don't be Afraid hit me up on my other e-mail tkeyaa_11@hotmail.com , or rez_star49er@hotmail.com
Later

aliciasayers@knet.ca

This page has had 133 1572 visits

MyKnet.org – "Digital Biography" / 2003

Alicia Sayers

// alicia // 14 // lady // flying solo but oh so in love// 3 fires // garden river //
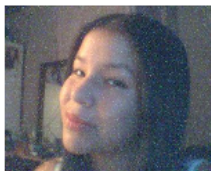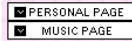
MyKnet.org – "Digital Biography" / 2004

ALICIASAYERS

Alicia Sayers

☑ PERSONAL PAGE
☑ MUSIC PAGE

□ STATISTICS
miss alicia sayers; unique; 14; independant; g.r.f.n; catch me if you can; 3 fires native; music' parties' friends' boxing' pow wow's' dances; more? **don't know me yet**
□ ITS ONLY me
● **hmm**: saturday. getting my hair done cut and layerd. yess!. went to the mall and bought all my stuff for my trip/job. oh gsus!. sexy kanye and fine usher are in t.o when im there!. i should try and get a ticket;). that would be my ultimate day to see both of them live!. ::drools.
my b-day's tomorrow, 15 babyy!. who wants to buy me a gift?. hmm im jus having a "fam" thingy!. but when i get back from toronto im gonna have a b-day for me with my girls!. be ready!;). im going to miss all my ladiess. (no paticular order) Jen, Dellie, Chels, Heather, Erin, Alex, Lise, Melly, Kleatz, Lace, Bean, Kayla. new layout, ya like? **music page is down** yes i KNOW!. check my old page for songs.

version
sweet dreams

. Old Music

ebsites

Email Address:
baby_neech@hotmail.com

This page has had **1144563** visits

2 sayers.
r & ssm.
er
dependant.
rustworthy.
riends.
smart.
& sensitive.
mmon sense.
chillin.

msn & email.
● etc. & much more

121504 almost xmas holidays! can't wait. jenna's
why didn't you come? cause garden is weird . lee
nothing. only that the teachers are giving us o

121304 well surely did fail my science test tod
shopping for kk, josh, and bday! xmas holidays
for my cd. please! gotta go study for my english

ADAMP

that i know alot of information about. omg, buckie you look so pretty with your braces off! going out on friday yup yup. got two tests! one on mon. in science. wish me luck. and
a whole novel test on lord of the flies! . but enough of that, kinda messed right now. i want and am gonna keep on seeing him. hmm. anyways goin out for semi! & xmas shopping
soon!. ahh cant wait gonna be so much fun!. lols. anyways ciao. =)

120804 today! was very good. considering that i don't get science. gahh. man there is so much drama. not even it's jus that too many people talk. and in turn get their words
twisted. but other than that, im doing very well. got my petey pablo video for my class, haha. and my coke =). officially going out with him. going to hockey game tonite for josh & paul? hmm. anyways thats it got little
homework only to study! whoo. and i LOVE christina, thanks for your good advice . ciao.

120604 well today was alright. can't complain. i am very confused with the "white" people. got two tests. eng. & sci. wish me luck!. christmas colours! should i go out w/ him or not? hmm. should i go to the seance w/
tommy;). got some homework that i certainly don't have a clue on what im doing! help meee. wow and yes matt's is very sexy. need to go shopping STILL for x-mas & semi! [jan.8]. friggin cold today, got locked out of my
house, forgot my key! waiting to get my cd from joshua, thank you for making it! that is it, got some timmy's waiting for me, so ciao!.

120504 well. pretty good week. THINK i passed all my tests. one more on mon. fri. plans didn't work, but still went out. sat. went to jaimes' pretty fun! auc for a min and the mall. went out w/ the boys & chris. bowling.
streets. pauls. home. christinas. tiring day. got in a fight with the moms. christina i LOVE yooo. tired as hell. went to bed at 7am. cant wait for semi, need to go shopping for a semi-dress. gonna get chey to do my make-up
she RAWKS at that shit. but anyways gonna have some fries for lunch. muahs. i LOVE me :o)

120104 happy december! wow well feeling alot better, than was. i know its never going to work. actually happy. x-mas is just around the corner. gotta get gifts; family. friends. kris-kringle. specials ones :). jonah is
comming. yay! got 3 tests. gahh. hist. sci. AND eng.; thurs. fri. & mon. e-spirit needs to be completed. should i go to to semi? with who? the mount might be closing! awww. love this song! someone to just listen and 'care',
that's all i need. is it that hard? muahs.

Alicia Sayers 's Favourite Websites

● She's Good.

Email Address:
aliciasayers@knet.ca

This page has had **1256924** visits

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MyKnet.org – "Digital Biography" / 2012

ALICIA SAYERS

21 . Wilfrid Laurier University . Garden River First Nation

2010

It seems that many fall back on a year to "sum" up or dictate and reflect on their success or failures. life is now and always moving. for 2010, I am looking forward to a healthy, safe, stress free year. I accomplished a lot of what I wanted during 2009 and now, I have to keep this going. I'm enjoying 2010 right now but i want more.. my deal for 2010 is my culture, to continue volunteering, to find out about me and get what I want.

2011

As I said in 2010, "life is now and always moving." I have been able to grow and achieve a lot more than I expected in 2010 and I will do the same in 2011. I am working towards graduating and stepping into the world of opportunity (career-wise) and look forward to connecting with new people. Being in tune with my culture is key, it has been the frontrunner in my life and it always will be.

MISCELLANEOUS

|

"It's not how good you are, it's how good you want to be."
- Paul Arden
"Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be the way you act."
- Leonard Cohen

MORE?

My Favourite Websites

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alicia sayers
"don't let yesterday fill up today"

nineteen | brantford/toronto | wilfrid laurier university

and it begins...

- wow, been so long since i've done this knet thing! haha. figured i would like to keep this up today - did the journal, myspace, blogger, yadda yadda thing... but it's back to square one!
- second semester was killer. first semester was bomb. i am so glad that i did well all year! studying & hard work really **does** pay off!
- living in toronto again and started my new job downtown. should be an interesting/educational summer!
- bought a new baby ferret and she is simply adorable, name's Hollywood & it suits her to a T
- **RADIO SHOW** is on temp. hiatus due to work- ... but you should tune in - Saturday's at 8:30pm Eastern time (subject to change/replay) - i speak my mind, i am frank and i laugh a lot. may not be suitable for all ages :) - http://www.live365.com/stations/wlurtv/?_site=pro

well... i've got so much to do with my future.. i am realizing a lot right about now and that i need to evolve. i've got the ambition to succeed and it's extremely wonderful to know that i will make it. i just don't know when! i am doing so much to build rapport for my future career but i still need to do a lot more. i am not a writing junkie, i am shy but i love the camera.... sometimes i wonder where i will end up. i need to get into PR, marketing or broadcasting and then into management. lord help me!

"Reasonable men adapt themselves to the world.
Unreasonable men adapt the world to themselves.
That's why all progress depends on unreasonable men."

My Favourite Websites

- k-net

Email Address:
alicia.sayers@gmail.com

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Conclusion

- MyKnet.org as indigenous web archive

  → local population (& digital representation / identity / biography)

  → digital artifacts / objects

  → changing digital (mundane) practices

- MyKnet.org as case for

  → (cultural) diversity (of digital culture)

  → non-Euroamerican web / digital culture

  → reality of socio-technical change

  → need for cultural continuity

References

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