Introduction to Cultural/Indigenous Knowledge Impacts on Knowledge Systems, an Intersection of Beliefs Minitrack

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This minitrack presents research that focuses on capturing cultural and indigenous knowledge as knowledge systems. Cultural knowledge is knowledge particular to a subgroup of a population. As with many areas of modern science, indigenous knowledge helps shine a different perspective, or lens, on human understanding and when combined with all other aspects of knowledge serves to shape a fuller and more accurate picture. Moreover, there are important lessons for us all from such a holistic approach to knowledge management.

The first manuscript “Indigenous Techniques of Knowledge Creation in Qinea Schools of Ethiopian”, authored by Workineh, Workineh, Garfield, and Libsie explores how a particular community has created knowledge and used indigenous knowledge for generations. This research explores the potentials of a knowledge creation technique which has been in use in Ethiopia Church Schools since the 5th Century. In addition to preserving the heritage of accumulated wisdom, this research plays a role in narrowing the divide between traditional or indigenous knowledge creation and the modern/scientific techniques regarding knowledge creation.

Our second manuscript, “Social Media to Capture and Convey Chamorro Cultural Knowledge”, by Nicolas-Rocca and Parrish, presents research on the use of current technology, social media, and an endangered knowledge base. The results of this research indicate that present day Chamorro people share core Chamorro cultural values. The use of social media to capture and disseminate cultural knowledge among the Chamorro people is offered as a strategy to capture this endangered knowledge.