Engage UBC
Nicholas Jakobsen, Ryan Wallace & Susan Rowley

Overview
The Reciprocal Research Network (RRN) is an online research environment co-developed by the Musqueam Indian Band, the Stó:lo Nation / Stó:lo Tribal Council, the U’mista Cultural Society and the Museum of Anthropology at UBC. The RRN provides access to Northwest Coast material culture housed in 26 partner institutions around the world. It enables geographically dispersed users and institutions — including originating communities, academics, and museum staff — to carry out individual or collaborative cultural heritage research projects. Diverse user groups are able to share their own perspectives and knowledge with the people and institutions that make up the RRN community.

While rich in research tools, until Engage UBC the RRN had no tools specifically developed for educational purposes, as this was not permitted under the terms of the original grant. Engage UBC seeks to:

- enhance UBC student learning through the creation of online resources linked to collections and exhibitions at MOA,
- increase UBC student understanding of complex Indigenous issues,
- increase student and course visits to MOA.

We are developing an online toolkit (RRN Publisher) utilizing the innovative knowledge mobilization approach of the Reciprocal Research Network. Working with course instructors and students, online exhibits built using RRN Publisher are being used in conjunction with museum visits.

Background
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Outcomes
For the development of RRN Publisher we are employing an iterative approach using three exhibitions at MOA as case studies: časnaʔam, the city before the city (2015-2016), In the Footprint of the Crocodile Man: Contemporary Art of the Saxp River (2016-2017) and Manifesto para el Buen Vivir/Living well a Manifesto (2017-2018).

Here is a page from an early test exhibit module developed for use with the časnaʔam exhibition:

| Page from Vigna at časnaʔam, časnaʔam is an ancient Musqueam village and cemetery. In 2012 developers planned to build a condo with underground parking. They immediately unearthed burials. The Musqueam community stood vigil to respect their ancestors and prevent the development. Exhibit curated by Susan Rowley and Jordan Wilson. |

During the testing for the first exhibit modules we learned that although the toolkit was originally conceptualized for instructors to create rich course content, it was in fact an exciting and engaging learning experience for UBC students. Students from a second year anthropology course created their own exhibits and provided us with valuable feedback.

To date, over 100 exhibits have been created by UBC students using RRN Publisher. While curating their own exhibits, students are able to collaborate with each other, gain exposure to contemporary museum research tools, and learn to think critically about online resources. Once published, these exhibits are made available to the RRN research community and automatically linked to the objects they incorporate. This allows research done by students to make an impact beyond the due date of an assignment, and incentivises them to achieve high standards for their long-lived, public content.

Assignments to create exhibits using RRN Publisher often also include a requirement to visit MOA in order to select objects for their exhibits in person. This encourages student use of MOA’s physical resources in addition to its online assets.

In the next year we will make the following enhancements to the toolkit:

- Adding interactive elements to RRN Publisher while creating an online version of the tangible table from the časnaʔam exhibition.
- Evaluation of modules created for časnaʔam and In the Footprint of the Crocodile Man.
- Development of modules for Manifesto para el Buen Vivir/Living well a Manifesto by students in ANTH 431/518.

Students learn and succeed in different ways and RRN Publisher adds a new way for instructors to provide enriched, interactive learning experiences for UBC students.

Over 1800 UBC students toured časnaʔam the city before the city as part of their course work. This included students in Anthropology, History, First Nations and Indigenous Studies, First Nations and Endangered Languages, Art History and Visual Art, English, the Coordinated Arts Program, the School for Urban and Regional Planning, Law, Education, Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, and Forestry.

Summary
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The Museum of Anthropology at UBC (MOA) is a world-renowned institution dedicated to increasing understanding of world arts and cultures. Currently, UBC instructors and students underutilize MOA as a teaching resource.

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