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Abstract

The Concept of Knowledge and the Interpretation of Language, Culture and Science.

“I know, I believe and you ask me to prove it.”

The Scientific Written Word versus The Traditional Oral Knowledge

Western and Indigenous knowledge are two systems of knowledge that are unique in their own right. Both provide the tools for educating, understanding and growth. One is in the written form and in the other oral. Textual knowledge must be read, interpreted and solved through tools of reflection, close reading and careful introspection. The other must be listened to carefully without question and then interpreted and experienced for one's own benefit. Both knowledges are highly valuable and specific to the views of the institution or individual who is utilizing them. Although a portion of Indigenous Knowledge is mainly found in the oral form, as opposed to that of Western knowledge, which can be borrowed from a library, our Elders are our books and it is through them that we acquire wisdom, teachings and stories based on experience.