The Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round space features a collection of books, DVDs and CDs about the history, traditions, stories, and languages of Aboriginal people in our community. The Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round is also a gathering place where school children come to learn, storytellers light the way into their imaginations, and families share their love of reading.
History
In the late 1980s, Centennial Library established a Native Studies Collection. This first collection featured dual language books written in Ojibway, Cree and English. Originally located in the multilingual area of the library, by 1992 the collection was large enough to have its own designated space. The collection grew to include not just Aboriginal languages, but also picture books, and books on tape/CD.

In 2005, Millennium Library reopened after a complete renovation of the Centennial Library. As part of the renovations the Native Studies collection was reinvigorated into an Aboriginal Resources collection. Adult materials were moved to the second floor. Children’s materials were re-located on the main floor as part of a much larger designated space - the Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round, designed by Anishinabe designer Destiny Seymour. A dedication opened the space on November 17, 2005 with storytelling, fiddling and singing. The main floor Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round continues to hold events, from storytelling and author readings to dance and singing.

Quick Facts
about the Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round area
Number of items: 2000
Formats available:
- Picture Books
- Board Books
- Early Readers
- Juvenile Fiction
- Teen Fiction
- Folk Tales and Legends
- Non-Fiction
- DVDs
- CDs

Other libraries with children’s and adult Aboriginal Resources Collections:
- Sir William Stephenson
- St. John’s West End

The footstep patterns in the rug are aligned with the four points of the compass, with due north following the bear prints. The footprints in the rug represent the bear, wolf, deer, and rabbit.

In 2010, funding from the City Of Winnipeg Aboriginal Youth Strategy allowed Destiny Seymour to return to design an art installation that would complete the Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round. Children from neighbourhoods in Winnipeg’s West End painted the canvasses, expressing their vision of ‘community’. This art project brought people together, encouraging them to take ownership of their communities while promoting cross-cultural education. Partners in the project were Art City, along with the imaginative children of the Orioles Community Centre and the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre.