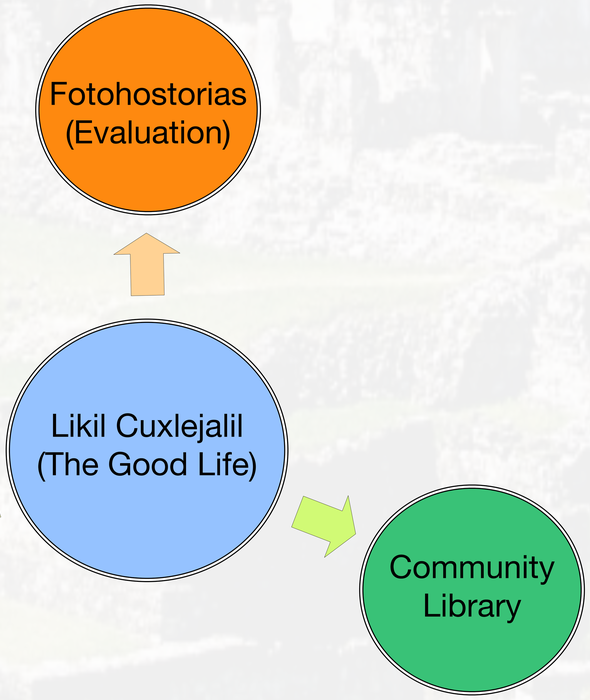
Indigenous Information System in Chiapas, Mexico:
integrating community radio, library, and fotohistorias for community development

Quick Facts
- Tseltal Maya are one of 25 Maya Groups
- Located in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico
- 500,000 Tseltal speakers
- 5,000 Square kilometer region
- Approximately 600 communities

Image: 2007 Encylopedia Britannica, Inc.

Through Fotohistorias, we use participatory photography to document the Tseltal values and traditions that support the notion of "Good Living." These values include a synthesis of Maya and Catholic ritual, the importance of family, clean water sources, and food autonomy.



Likil Cuxlejalil (The Good Life)

The Tseltal vision of "Good Living" is rooted in the harmony between the physical, environmental, social, and spiritual health of a community, as well as the Tseltal relationship with Mother Earth.

Community radio programming is produced in Tseltal language by community leaders nominated by their communities to serve in this role.

The notions of "Good Life" inform the organization and classification system of the library, and helps determine what to digitize, and what to preserve.

Information School
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Ricardo Gomez Calrita Lefthand-Begay Jeannie Berwick
Cala Zubair Yvette Iribe Sigifredo Mora

ONE EQUAL HEART FOUNDATION

siet