The local training of library paraprofessionals in Fiji commenced in the 1970s. USP Library professional staff, who were members of the Fiji Library Association (FLA) recognized the need to train those who were already employed in libraries and in need of qualifications and was conducted over the Christmas break.

This gave rise to an academic Certificate in Library Studies that was part of the School of Education and later developed into the Diploma in Library and Information Studies (DLIS) under the Faculty of Arts, Law and Education (FALE).

Following discussions and consultations with library professionals in the Region, it was agreed that a basic skills certificate at the vocational level and a diploma would encourage and enable access to training for a wider number of personnel employed in school, special, public and academic libraries.

Over some forty years, the programme has been responsible for many Pacific Islanders obtaining library qualifications and making a great impact in the areas of reading, information literacy and quality of library services. Many of its graduates are employed in New Zealand, Australia and Canada which is testament of the quality of the programme.

In 2015, a decision was made to relocate the USP Diploma to PacTAFE and in 2017, after consultation with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), the Fiji Library Association, the USP Library, graduates of the earlier programmes and the Fiji Ministry of Education by the Coordinator, Ms. Liviana Tabalala who is also the Head of the School of Social Sciences, the programme was accredited by ALIA at Level 5.

We are very pleased to note that the first graduates of the accredited PacTAFE programme will be receiving their Diplomas at the USP graduation on 21 March 2019.

Of special significance is the receipt of the award by ALIA for the best DLIS graduate, Ms. Elenoa Fonmoa who will receive a certificate and a letter from ALIA.

The local profession congratulates Elenoa and wishes her every success in her career. To all library graduates, well done. Elenoa’s achievement and those of the first PacTAFE DLIS class is encouragement for all who work in libraries and reconfirms the value of obtaining library qualifications for both personal and national development.

Elizabeth Reade Fong
Threat of Fire

The USP Communications Building that housed offices of the Student Administrative Services, Pacific TAFE and Centre for Flexible Learning was extensively damaged by fire during the late hours of Thursday 22 November 2018. Students and staff could only look on in shock as firefighters attempted to battle the raging flames.

Due to the intensity of the fire which continued to smolder a day later, staff working in surrounding buildings had to be evacuated.

Whilst no one was injured, the incident prompted the Library based at Laucala Campus to relook its existing fire detection and extinguishing systems as at any time, a fire can destroy an organization’s records. Records cannot be retrieved and the information is lost forever which results in disruptions to daily business operations and loss of revenue.

The first rule to follow in case of a fire is personal safety as human life is more important than a book, record or audiovisual material and because libraries are public spaces, every library should be protected by a fire detection and suppression system. At a minimum there should be portable fire extinguishers placed in strategic locations throughout a library. Automatic fire suppression systems, consisting of water sprinklers, water mist or clean agent fire extinguishers may be used for larger libraries.

It is worth mentioning that all fire suppression and fire detection systems be inspected on a regular basis for operability. Furthermore, all libraries; school, public or special libraries, should have a fire evacuation plan and an annual drill.

At Laucala Library, thirty-five Elide fire extinguishing balls were purchased and placed in vulnerable fire risk areas including the Library server room, distribution boards and network cabinets. Balls were also placed in Pacific Collection; a closed access special collection of library materials pertaining to the Pacific and kept for preservation and archival purposes.

A fire extinguishing ball is an automatic fire suppression device which aims to prevent the starting of small fires, is relatively affordable and easy to install and use. Instead of replacing fire extinguishers, the balls supplement existing firefighting equipment by acting as a fire suppression device to ‘cut-off’ the source of oxygen, fuel, or heat before a fire extinguisher is required.

The website url http://elidefireball.co.nz/ promotes that a fire extinguisher is only effective when someone reaches it, while an Elide fire suppression ball is effective when a naked flame reaches it.

Fiji is noted to be the first country in the South Pacific region where the fire ball extinguisher was introduced in March 2017 by renowned distributor Fiji Fish Marketing Group Limited.
NEW LIBRARY COMMONS FOR LAUCALA

Information is no longer confined to printed materials and accessible only in a single, physical location with the current digital era and ever-present internet. As information is becoming increasingly accessible online, a library’s role becomes less a silo of information but about connecting users and generating knowledge from the information it houses or accesses. The vital role of physical libraries becomes more evident as not just a place to stock resources, but one to create meaning from them. In other words, instead of being an archive, libraries are becoming a learning commons.

This change sees users of libraries across the globe consume content and utilise library spaces differently. Libraries become a different kind of learning destination when they are redesigned as open, transparent spaces that invite users to communicate and collaborate with each other. So rather than maintain an exclusively quiet study space for individual study, the USP Library wanted to also create an environment for collaboration and knowledge co-construction by using technology to enhance the traditional.

The renovation of Level A into a Learning Commons complete with necessary information technology, audiovisual equipment, and furniture was officially opened on 24 January 2019. Fortech Construction was awarded the contract for renovation works with a project timeline that commenced in September 2018 with completion two months later. New furniture was imported from Sebel Furniture in Australia with refurbishment of existing ones by Tropical Leisure.

Preparatory work took place a year before with the Periodicals Collection rightsized and integrated into the existing collection on Levels B and C. The traditional space on Level A, consisted of way too many study carrels with partitioned sides and 64 double-sided shelving ranges that hindered open discussion and collaboration, has been turned into one that fosters communication and learning. With seating available for 528 users, flexible spaces with a multitude of chairs surrounding numerous discussion tables, colorful and comfortable furniture in the form of moveable chairs and desks now greet the eyes of visitors to Level A. Two glass-boxed Learning Labs that make this central space literally transparent can be opened up to allow for bigger audiences. Several writeable whiteboards with dry-erase markers for brainstorming exercises will encourage the collaboration and sharing that the previous space had discouraged.

The Learning Commons is a space without barriers where students, teachers and the broader Pacific community from different backgrounds and fields of expertise can get together to explore, create and collaborate. So where traditionally Level A was often characterized as a place of silence, independent study, the space has been transformed into a group study area. It will be a venue where students can migrate between lectures or tutorials and after school. It will be a place where they would want to be, not just hanging out or zoning out but an avenue that fosters student discussion, collaboration and group work.

Other features of this open area are the ample powerpoints allowing students to plug their numerous devices and the cost saving overhead sensor lights. Non-alcoholic beverages are allowed in this 24/7 Monday-Thursday area and the adjacent verandah will be serviced by a coffee cart offering beverages and light snacks in the form of sandwiches and dry food. In the Commons integrated learning space, the Library has included a one-stop-shop concept whereby students have access to support services on-site with the likes of Student Learning Support, Student Administrative Services and Campus Life. This is part of the Library’s outreach for students to enrich their learning experience by bringing services to them in this central location.

Whilst this social learning level is dedicated to project learning and group discussions, Levels B and C of the Library remain for independent study and research.
An Integrated Library System (ILS), also known as a Library Management System (LMS), is a library automation system or software used to track items owned and cataloged, orders made, bills paid and patrons who have borrowed. It can be locally hosted or, with newer options, web-based.

An ILS will increase efficiency of staff and users as it saves time and increases library productivity as a direct result of automation. It reduces order backlogs by speeding up ordering work including the receipt of materials, improving funds control, achieving compatibility in terms of resource sharing with other libraries and committing the library to use technology.

There are many products on the market to choose from, such as Destiny Library Manager, Koha ILS (open source), LibAnswers, Liberty, Polaris and Sierra. Visit the url https://www.capterra.com/library-automation-software/ for a detailed list of available LMS products.

When considering which product, whether open-source or proprietary for your library, think about the following library-related tasks:
• acquisitions (ordering, receiving, and invoicing materials)
• cataloging (classifying and indexing materials)
• circulation (lending materials to patrons and receiving them back)
• serials (tracking magazines, journals, and newspaper holdings)
• online public access catalog or OPAC (public user interface)

The USP Library network linking all fourteen campuses recently acquired SirsiDynix's Symphony BlueCloud. The project to migrate from Spydus ILMS will take place this year and the project is led by the Library Systems team.

Stay tuned for more updates!

LIBRARY PREPARATION FOR THE BEGINNING OF SEMESTER 1

At the beginning of every academic year, the Main USP Library embarks on a preparatory programme spanning two weeks. The programme includes sectional meetings and short refresher courses as well as informational workshops covering topics pertinent to the smooth day-to-day running of an academic library. This ensures that the semester begins without a hitch and all staff are adequately equipped to play their part in the smooth operation of the library.

SOLOMON ISLANDS CAMPUS LIBRARY UPDATE

The Solomon Islands Campus Library recently installed a CCTV (closed-circuit television) in the Campus Library in November last year primarily for security purposes in safeguarding library materials.

In December 2018, the Taiwanese Embassy based in Honiara donated three copies of the new book Birana i Wala: growing up in Langalanga to the Campus Library. Written by local writers in collaboration with academic researchers, the purpose of the book was to preserve in written form the fast disappearing Wala tradition (falafala/kastom) for the people of Wala and their future generations.

The book, divided into three parts, covers Wala culture and society, daily life in the lagoon and rites of passage in Wala lives. The Wala reside in the Langalanga Lagoon on the west coast of Malaita Island, Solomon Islands.
Mr. Jeffrey Tauman joined the Solomon Islands Campus Library as a Library Attendant on 7 January 2019 having worked in the Gizo Provincial Library in the Western Province of Solomon Islands.

On 30 January 2019 Solomon Islands Campus conducted its orientation programme and library tours for new students who were informed of the resources, services and facilities provided by the library. Students were shown the wealth of information available in their library and how they could maximize the resources and services during their studies at USP. Solomon Islands Campus is considered one of the fastest growing USP Campuses.

Salanieta Bukaniyava and Bharti Devi, Library Assistants, recently put together a foyer display about Thurston Gardens and the Fiji Museum that was timely, enlightening and historically rich. Information and photographs were sourced from materials kept in the USP Library’s book collection, mainly from its renowned Pacific Collection. On display are quotes from primary sources of information about the history of Suva and its first owners together with photographs of Thurston Gardens in its former glory.
IFLA CELEBRATES THE WORK OF GLOBAL LIBRARIES

An announcement by Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General

After 21 years, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Global Libraries Programme has closed its doors. IFLA, on behalf of the entire global library field, would like to give thanks not only for its contributions to date, but for the immense impact it will continue to have into the future.

We believe that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s 1997 decision to establish a dedicated programme for libraries will be seen by future historians of our field as a major moment.

At a time of political, economic and technological change, it represented a clear statement of the enduring place of libraries in society. It affirmed their role as accelerators of progress, community anchors and guarantors of equity, and challenged other stakeholders to do the same.

After implementation across the United States, the Global Libraries programme took this message around the world, with immense success. They have given librarians the tools and inspiration they needed to realise their potential. They have shown the difference that effective libraries with engaging services can make to their communities.

Thanks to its visionary leadership and dedicated staff, Global Libraries has done so much to deliver on its mission to improve lives and strengthen libraries. IFLA acknowledges Deborah Jacobs as the driving force, not only of the Global Libraries team, but for change across the library field. IFLA itself was a beneficiary of funding that allowed it to develop the Building Strong Library Associations programme and pursue advocacy at the highest levels.

Now, we are at another major moment. With the closure of the Global Libraries programme, we say goodbye to one of the greatest allies our sector has ever known. IFLA President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón said, “While the closing of the Programme marks the end of an amazing phase in the development of libraries, I am confident that its missions, vision and energy will live on, and make a lasting difference to our institutions and the people they serve.”

With the energy and example they have provided, and the most generous grant in IFLA’s history, IFLA has never been in a better position to work towards a globally strong and united library field.

IFLA will seek to transform the global library field, with a transformed IFLA at its heart. Our federation is better able to listen to the voices of our members around the world, and join together in advocating for library services that improve lives.

IFLA is already enabling a qualitative change in the way the library field collects data and measures its impact through the Library Map of the World. With our International Advocacy Programme, we have placed libraries at the heart of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda.

With IFLA’s Global Vision, we are firmly on the way to a truly united global library field. Across the global culture, science and education sector, there has never been such an ambitious and inclusive initiative.

These successes have only been possible due to our outstanding partnership with Global Libraries, and to the inspiration Deborah Jacobs and her team have provided. The legacy of their work has given IFLA and its legacy partners an unparalleled opportunity and an unparalleled responsibility.

IFLA believes that, together, we are up to the task, and we can help stronger libraries build better lives the world over.

Source: IFLA https://www.ifla.org/node/91808

PARADISEC

The Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC) is a consortium of three universities – the University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University. It is a digital archive of records of some of the many small cultures and language of the world with a goal to preserve material that otherwise would be lost and make these materials available to the people, communities recorded and to their descendants.

In the Pacific, PARADISEC has distributed copies of their endangered ethnographic recordings to the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, the University of New Caledonia, the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, the Solomon Islands National Museum and to Rapa Nui.

More information can be acquired from this url http://www.paradise.org.au/

READING TO KEEP ABRASEST OF OUR PROFESSION

It is important for those working in libraries: both professional and paraprofessional, to keep abreast of literature and the latest trends and developments in librarianship and related fields such as education and information systems and in disciplines in which they teach, collect materials or have a liaising relationship with.

Library staff need to be as savvy as the clients they serve. For without keeping up with the literature, one is working in isolation and is deemed not to know what other people are doing or contextualize their own work in the bigger picture of things. In addition to more traditional methods such as talking with colleagues, attending conferences and reading journal articles, there are newer technologies such as blogs and RSS feeds.

Two interesting readings can be found at:


BOOK DONATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE YOUTH GROUP

Aneet Kumar, Administrative & Research Officer at USP, recently handed over a book The True Story of Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) : Peace and Cessation of War to the USP Library. The book was donated by the International Peace Youth Group whose members met Aneet in Korea enroute to Chandigarh, India, to receive the Global Youth Leadership Award at the 13th Global Youth Peace Fest 2018.

DEVELOPMENT & FEATURES

WE BID FAREWELL TO JAMIE

Jamie Bloss, Librarian – Reader Services (Reference), will soon complete her three year contract with the USP Library. Prior to joining USP she worked as an emerging technologies librarian at a public library and also taught online for Kent State University as an adjunct instructor teaching LIS courses. Given her background in technology, utilizing technology in a way that works for staff and making work processes easier is important to her as well as promoting library services online and through social media.

She considers the staff as one of the best things about working at USP where they created a memorable experience by welcoming her with open arms. She loved living in Suva for its multicultural aspect and got to know the wonderful local culture and the opportunity to travel to New Zealand, Australia, and Marshall Islands were highlights of her three years in Fiji. Her husband participated in the Pasifika Voices choir at the Oceania Centre and sang on the Moana soundtrack and for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex when they came to Suva, opportunities he could never have imagined if they had remained in Ohio in the US. The highlight of their time in Suva was their marriage at Suvavou House on 12 January 2018.

Jamie’s advice to expatriate staff is to exercise patience right away given that some things take more time in Fiji, but it always gets done and slowing down a bit is not necessarily a bad thing. She enjoyed the more relaxed lifestyle of not having to rush to different events every day of the week but rather prioritizing her hobbies and after work activities to focus on what really matters. Whilst Suva has plenty of meet-up and get-together venues and chances to go out of town, she didn’t want to burn herself out doing too much either. She also advises to watch and observe a lot before jumping in on changing things in the workplace as you will save yourself from making cultural ‘faux pas’ if you just watch and learn a bit on how people interact and work together though acknowledges that learning from mistakes is what matters.

Jamie found her colleagues very willing and eager to learn and are excellent customer service providers. She sees strengthening libraries all over the Pacific as a main goal as there are simply not enough trained professionals in the region. Based on her visit to Marshall Islands, she saw sometimes one person doing much of the work and promotion of libraries in one place. As long as students and staff keep upskilling and working ahead Jamie believes the library system will continue to grow and become stronger with trained staff in the region at all campuses and in their local libraries as well.

Libraries PaCıka asked Jamie what she is most looking forward to when she returns to the States and her response was “I would
like to eat a legitimate burrito, and after that, see my parents and grandparents. I haven’t been home since 2017 so it’ll be a great reunion. I want to take a month off before doing anything else so I have time to travel around Ohio and see all my family and friends. Then onto job searching”.

**Best of luck Jamie! Your USP Library family thanks you for your contributions and bids you safe return.**

**JADE MANAGES THE USP LIBRARY’S NEW LEARNING COMMONS**

Jade Moore is the new Senior Library Assistant (Learning Commons). She has accepted this newly established position with a year-long initial fixed term appointment and will play a major part in managing the operations of the Learning Commons inclusive of information services support and involvement in the Information Research Skills programme.

Jade began her library career in 2002 as a Junior Library Assistant in the Reader Services section of USP Library. She also worked as a part-time Junior Library Assistant whilst completing her Diploma in Library and Information Studies. Before returning to USP Library in 2013 to work in the Cataloguing section, she had a five year stint as a School Librarian in Veiuto Primary School.

Jade is excited to be part of this new initiative in the development of the Learning Commons that provides students with interactive learning spaces in the library. She finds her new role more customer care oriented requiring a lot more interaction with the students which she thoroughly enjoys as “It has been great to see so many students using the Learning Commons”. She welcomes all students to use this bright and cheerful space that features a mural titled Journey in the House of Knowledge by artists Lingikoni Vakauta and William Camakau.

With the new learning commons showcasing a student centered space and providing a more relaxed and flexible environment for study, Jade encourages all students to make good use of the spaces and services provided and adds that she hopes students will respect the spaces, furniture and equipment so that everyone can enjoy these facilities.
do any exercise but my mind kept telling me to do it. After my second week I told myself I could not continue on to week 3. So on that Monday of week 3 while I was sitting in the office looking at the clock as it approached 5:30pm, my boss asked if I was going to bootcamp and I replied “No, I can’t do it”.

But my innermost sense kept telling me, “Betty you really need to do it if you want to live a healthy lifestyle”. At that moment I stood up, changed and went to bootcamp. From that day till now I told myself there is no turning back. This is my season, my time, as God has given me the strength and victory to win every battle.

So to all my sisters and brothers who want to transform and lose weight, you have to do it right now, not tomorrow because you never know what tomorrow brings. 1Touch Ministry Bootcamp is the best ministry that helps obese people in Samoa transform themselves spiritually, physically and mentally.

Share with us about 1 touch ministry boot

1Touch Ministry Bootcamp is a non-profit organization in Samoa. It is the best transformation and weight loss programs I have ever been to. It is led by Pastor Lenny Solomona and their main purpose is to help people Champion their lives spiritually, physically and emotionally through training and nutrition.

Take us through a typical work day including your meals, work and exercise routine

Since I joined the 1Touch Ministry program, I have cut down on carbohydrates, oily and junk food. Throughout the day I will always have five to six meals, which includes breakfast, morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack, dinner and an evening snack if I want to. What I learned from my journey with 1Touch is that we should never miss a meal. “Eat More Eat Less” means eating less portions more times a day. You don’t have to wait to feel hungry then you eat, you have to eat when it is time to eat.

I always go to the gym at 4:30am for ‘tabata’ class before moving on to my weights workout. In the evenings at 6:00pm I always look forward to our bootcamp.

What is the best part of your new lifestyle?
The best part of my new lifestyle is that by giving up fizzy drinks, I can walk or jog long distances, go hiking, and do my own chores at home. One of the most amazing things about my new lifestyle, is that I am getting back to my studies, taking good care of my mum, and honoring God with my given talent in singing.

What is your favorite food, favorite drink and favorite workout?
Favorite food - vegetables, chicken/fish soup
Favorite drink - lemon in hot water
Favorite workout – ‘tabata’ and hiking

Libraries PaCfika salutes Betty for her perseverance and commitment.

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Betty Before
Betty After

Excellent job well done, Betty. Keep it up!
Gyaneshwar Narayan, USP Library Analyst Programmer, recently spent five days at Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP), located in the precinct of Yio Chu Kang in the town of Ang Mo Kio, Singapore, to observe SirsiDynix BLUEcloud in action and NYP’s experience with the transition from Spydus to Bluecloud. Apart from discussing issues and resolutions including risks and mitigation strategies when migrating to a new ILS, his packed agenda included observing library operations and services including IT developments, customer and technical services, systems and training.

The visit was also beneficial to NYP as it enhanced their profile in terms of outreach and assistance to an academic library based in the Asia Pacific region with future possibilities of collaboration and cooperation. Gyaneshwar also made a library presentation to NYP staff about USP and they were better informed about one of only two regional universities in the world and their unique arrangements and successes.

The best part of the visit according to Gyaneshwar was “seeing in action the technology of the self-service devices and learning room spaces on offer to students and how the library engaged and collaborated with students in designing library learning spaces”.

In observing SirsiDynix BLUEcloud in action and NYP’s experience with the transition from Spydus to Bluecloud, their primary advice to USP Library was to make minimum policy changes and allow users to understand that things will be done differently in Bluecloud.

Having visited a library in a developed country considered a world-class technology hub in Asia, which has a self-check-in check-out system tops Gyaneshwar’s wish list for USP Library in that it will free up staff time to allow them to focus more on project work to develop services and programmes that will advance and enhance student learning experiences. He also envisions a cashless system in the Library with the acceptance of student cards to make payments.
“On May 14, 1987, Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka along with soldiers from the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in gas masks hijacked and incarcerated the elected Fiji government of Timoci Bavadra – (the Fiji Labour Party and the National Federation Party coalition government. For the coup leader he claimed that he was protecting an elected government from the wrath of the indigenous nationalist Taukei Movement, which demonstrated its grievance through organized noisy demonstrations in April 1987.

Thursday, May 14th 1987 will be along remembered as the blackest day in Fiji’s history. Emeritus Professor, Satendra Nandan now after 30 years later, writes his first book giving us the first and the only personal account of what this heavy toll of the 1987 coup had taken on the lives of the victims who were the direct target. Only a writer like Nandan through his literacy skill and emotional depth could have captured the essence of the tragedy and terror that befell our nation demising democracy. A must read for everyone especially for remembrance.”

“Divakar Rao’s Life on the Run is an enthralling account of his life as a student, teacher and most importantly as an educationist. He rose to a senior position in Fiji’s Ministry of Education and was instrumental in devising education reforms in high schools curriculum syllabus. This book recounts a number of stories of the colonial history’s influence over education sectors, the emergence of Ratu Kadavu School, Queen Victoria School and how other schools established through race and religion purposively.”

“The stories come across as so real that sometimes one can’t help wondering whether they are actual occurrence cleverly dressed as fiction; in other words, fact and fiction seem fused together in near and natural ways. Readers should be prepared to laugh and shed tears almost equal proportion.”

“In Enslaved on Paradise, Prasad boldly decodes the enigma, going behind Fiji’s known history, revealing British depravity, chiefly collaborations with largely self-serving and egotistical leaders, ravaging Fiji’s political landscape and eventually scarring it indelibly as the ‘coup coup land’. Enslaved in Paradise recounts betrayals of Fijians by the British, Chiefs and the leaders of Fiji (1876 – 2006), revealing British predation, chiefly manipulation and leadership let downs on a mammoth scale.”

“A valuable book for those wishing to better understand the history, life and values of the Solomons.”