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WHY ATTEND SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES?

Pacific Islanders are some of the most travelled people in the world. Go anywhere in the world and at some airport the likelihood of meeting a civil servant, an academic or a staff member of a regional or non-governmental organization is high. On one occasion, I was in a lift in the UN building on Rajadamnern Avenue, Bangkok and there were no less than 7 Pacific Islanders in the lift attending three different meetings. The knowledge gained between these persons and shared with ten countrypersons on their return home should make us part of the most knowledgeable communities in the world.

Library personnel too form a part of this movement of people. What are the benefits to libraries? It is an opportunity to network and create contacts which create opportunities for discussions, consultations on library matters in an informal setting. It is so much easier to be able to discuss a library issue with someone you can put a name and face to than it is without that previous personal contact. Conferences extend this knowing of someone that we can call upon.

Getting to conferences costs both time and money. The issues, developments and challenges in Pacific libraries need to be written about by us from a Pacific perspective. This is our opportunity to share what we are doing in our part of the world and we are doing some exciting things. We have been the recipients of positive outcomes of relationships and friendships made at conferences, seminars and meetings of various types.

The Fiji Library Association Biennial Conference, PIALA Annual Conference and the ALIA and LIANZA conferences are close to home. The World Library Conference of IFLA is a must at least once in the lifetime of a professional and if possible for a paraprofessional.

Library personnel are certainly encouraged to attend conferences and seminars and gatherings of people working, interested and supportive of libraries. What is important is the sharing and application, with modification, at times for the benefit of our libraries and communities.

Elizabeth C. Reade Fong



CONFERENCES WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

THE 76TH IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, 2010, GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN: IMPRESSIONS BY GWEN MAR AND SHARMILA PILLAY

The 76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly was held in Gothenburg, Sweden from 10 – 15 August with the theme “Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress”. The congress theme built on the Presidential Theme of IFLA President, Ellen Tise which was Libraries driving access to knowledge and focused on through five subthemes of (i) Open access and digital resources (ii) Policy, strategy and advocacy (iii) Users driving access and services (iv) Tools and techniques (v) Ideas, innovations, anticipating the new.

Gwen Mar, Reader Services Librarian USP was fortunate to attend the conference as an IFLA de Gruyter grantee. In total there were 35 grantees of which five were from the South Pacific. The other grantees from Oceania were (i) Atarino Helieisar, FSM Supreme Court / Pacific Islands Association, Palikir, Pohnpei (ii) Sharmila Pillay, USP Library, Laucala Campus, Fiji (iii) Vatiseva Kaku, Central School, Port Vila, Vanuatu and (iv) Kathleen George, Cook Islands Ministry of Education, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

For all the attendees from the Pacific, the journey to Sweden was a lengthy and arduous mission consisting of at least two flights of about ten-plus hours and numerous hours spent in transit. Spirits and excitement were not dampened on this first trip to Europe by the grantees.

The first session for the grantees was the Global Librarian Satellite Meeting held at the University of Borås' School of Library and Information Sciences. The keynote presentation was on the Shanachie Tour. The strange word Shanachie is adopted from Ireland's history and is about the Irish storyteller, travelling from village to village telling and gathering stories in return of food and lodging.

This time the stories were about libraries and best practices though, and not so much about Irish folklore, although the creators, Erik Boekesteijn and Jaap van de Geer, did run across some wild stories during their travels across America and Australia.

Gwen found the presentation motivational and the videos that were shown aptly demonstrated what a few enthusiastic individuals in the library and information profession are capable of accomplishing. The ideas and best practices shown, including the use of gaming toolkits for libraries was certainly an eye opener for grantees and especially those from developing nations.

Providing good contrast and opening the stage for debate and discussion, the next presentation centered on a SWOT analysis faced by next generation Caribbean academic librarians. The remaining presentations gave the audience a better understanding of the vital lifeline that libraries offer to the communities they serve. Libraries also act as barometers to the societies that they serve and mobile libraries, whether state-of-the-art located in train stations or those laden on a donkey's back, offer an important service in accomplishing life-long learning.

One of the conference highlights for Gwen was visiting University West and Trollhattan Municipal Library as part of the organized library visits during the conference. She was mainly interested in the university library's system of liaison librarians, information literacy strategies and copyright-related services. Overall, she was impressed with the ambience and welcoming atmosphere of the



libraries, the ergonomic furniture as well as the university library's well-stocked photocopying room.

During her spare time, she visited Gothenburg City Library and was amazed at the inclusiveness of the teenagers section.

Running in parallel with the conference proper, the exhibition arena at the IFLA conference proved to be very educational. The exhibitions provided an alternative when one did not have a conference session to attend and participants were able to learn more about the products and services offered by the various publishers, online databases and library management



Creative Librarians Make Reading Interesting!

CONFERENCES WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

system vendors as well as other library-related organizations.

Sharmila Pillay: Sharmila found the Conference very well organized with its location convenient in terms of accommodation and travelling around Gothenburg. The first session she attended was at the University of Borås on 9 August where she attended the New Professional Special Interest Group. The session was very informative and focused on best practices for the development of new leaders, services, and inclusion of new professionals in decision-making processes through both research based scholarly presentations and experiential and practical stories of successes.

From Borås she travelled to Gothenburg for the 76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly. On our first day in Gothenburg we went for a library tour to Trollhättan, about an hour's drive from Gothenburg City where she visited libraries at University West, Trollhättan and Trollhättan Municipal Library.

The University library was small by national standards and the Public Library setup and the atmosphere was very

pleasant and welcoming and impressive. She noted that libraries in Sweden use a Swedish Classification System but was informed that all libraries in Sweden would be adopting the Dewey Decimal Classification System between 2011-2012. She said that 'The intellectual content of the conference programme was inspirational and often provoked good questions and discussions at sessions. My area of interest was particularly on Preservation and Conservation, Knowledge Management, Education & Training and Asia and Oceania sessions.

It was useful to see how colleagues in developed and developing countries were responding towards the preservation issues and it was interesting to note the challenges they face on daily basis. As always, the content of the sessions provoked a period of evaluation and reflection on my current role and the library environment within which I work. The opportunity that was afforded by being physically away from work but still focused on the workplace was always important for strategic thinking and planning and I looked forward to this at the conference.' The social highlight of the conference for Sharmila was the opening session which came with a

lovely surprise. After the last speaker had finished, an ABBA cover band entered the stage and played ABBA's greatest hits for almost 20 minutes. She said 'Everybody was getting up, dancing and turning the Opening Session into a real Opening Party.' Apart from this there was a night spot at the Gothenburg City Library where delegates from around the world met and networked. She said that she and the other delegates were very fortunate to be in Sweden at the time of the Swedish Music Festival Week which enabled them to enjoy live music all around the City. She also attended the Emerald host evening which was held at the Radisson hotel and enjoyed further networking. She said that 'Since this was my first conference attendance I was very impressed with the poster session and the exhibition hall. It was one of the best ways of showcasing a variety of worldwide activities within the profession.'

Outside the conference programme itself, she thoroughly enjoyed the company of colleagues who were mainly the De Gruyter Grantees. She concluded by saying 'The benefit of the time taken up in networking was endless and I hope that the relationships built will benefit everyone professionally.'

THE USP/WIPO SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH, USP, SUVA, FIJI, 31 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2010

This historic Symposium was organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts and Law, USP.

Its aim was to raise an awareness of Intellectual Property (IP) related issues at a regional level and pave the way for the introduction of future IP education, training and research in the South Pacific. IP being defined as the products of the human mind.

Presenters included Maria de Icaza, Head of the WIPO Japan Office in Tokyo; Associate Professor Elizabeth Siew-Kuan Ng, National University of Singapore; Martha Chikowore, WIPO Academy Training Officer in Geneva; Professor Kamal Puri, Queensland University of Technology; and Kathy Moore, USP Copyright and IP Officer, Suva.

Participants were from USP Regional countries and in addition to being informed about the mandates and functions of WIPO the primary objective was to assist developing countries in the set up of effective IP systems at national and institutional levels the participants.

The participants were made aware of the wide range of courses and documentation available to assist the countries. For those interested in pursuing courses in IP visit the WIPO education website at <http://www.wipo.int/academy/en/courses/>

The presenters shed light on the various components of IP such as copyright, patent, trademark, industrial design, geographic location and trade secrets, using examples from work experiences and their countries.

Details on how an IP curriculum could be designed at university level were also explained. Generating much interest were presentations on genetic engineering and Traditional Knowledge (TK).

The Symposium ended with a set of 7 recommendations covering the areas of Leadership in IP Awareness and Training; Collaboration with WIPO by the University; Information Sharing; Curriculum Development; Research Outputs; Conflict of Interest and Traditional Knowledge

Feedback from participants indicated that they left the Symposium with a much clearer understanding of IP and its importance, role and implications of IP for the University and the Region.

*Shirley Devi and Liviana Tabalala
USP Library Participants*

REGIONAL CONNECTION

BOUGAINVILLE LIBRARY TRUST

A New Zealand author who went from relative literary obscurity to being a frontrunner for the Man Booker Prize in 2007 has established a novel development project. Lloyd Jones, whose *Mister Pip* sold 300,000 copies in Britain after it reached the Booker shortlist, is hoping to arouse similar enthusiasm for his venture in support of the real-life inhabitants of the island where his novel was set.

His Bougainville Library Trust has already made links with local people to help them plan, build, stock and fundraise for a community library – Jones calls it a “temple for story” – in Arawa, the largest settlement on Bougainville, an autonomous island that is within the political fold of Papua New Guinea <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/papua-new-guinea>.

Also planned is a cultural centre to house field notes from visiting scholars and historical materials from institutions around the region.

A site for the solar-powered library, which will include a stage for performance, a room for carvings and space for housing old and new recordings of stories, songs

and oral histories, has been provided and architectural plans are being made.

The project, which is being administered through a dedicated website, is supported by volunteer agencies in Bougainville and New Zealand. Besides the £150,000 (\$224,740) they want to raise to help build and stock the library – and replenish its books, which will deteriorate faster than usual because of the tropical air – a further £25,000 is to be earmarked for collecting local stories.

If all goes according to the plan, those stories would also be published in local pidgin as well as the English vernacular that is used by most aid workers and educators in the Melanesian outpost.

If you've read *Mister Pip*, which also won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, you will recognize the setting. Jones, who was a journalist, first saw it in the late 1980s when he reported for Australian media on the beginning of an internal conflict that had been simmering since the 1970s and exploded in a decade of civil war that left 20,000 dead and much of the island's cultural heritage ruined.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/24/bougainville-library-author>

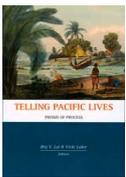
“NUCLEAR DIASPORA: BIKINI AND ENEWETAK” ONLINE DIGITAL PHOTO COLLECTION HAMILTON LIBRARY, UH

The online digital photo collection on “Nuclear Diaspora: Bikini and Enewetak” consists of 878 images shot by Dr. Len Mason and Dr. Robert Kiste at varying times between 1948 and 1988, while documenting the lives of Bikini and Enewetak islanders in the wake of U.S. nuclear testing. The Collection is accessible at: <http://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/kiste/index.php>

INFORMATION ON THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN THE PACIFIC

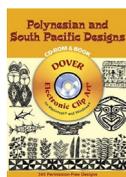
If you need any more information on the right to information in the Pacific take a look at the to “Freedom of Information for Pacific Policy-Makers” which is a workshop report on freedom of information produced by the Pacific Centre and PIFS in 2008 at <http://www.undppc.org.fj/pages.cfm/publications/democratic-governance-reports/>.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



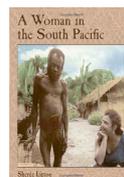
TELLING PACIFIC LIVES PRISMS OF PROCESS / Brij V. Lal & Vicki Lucker. Canberra, A.C.T.: ANU, 2008. ISBN: 9781921313813 USD40.50

“How are Pacific lives imagined, written and read? How are they refracted through prisms of process? From legends about culture and heroes to biographies of national leaders, from tales of ancestors to stories of contemporary men and women, from loves told of both the famous and the nameless, this collection of essays - by historians and anthropologists, islanders and island scholars - probes questions of personhood, identity, memory, and time across the sweep of the Pacific, as well as practical issues of research and writing.”



POLYNESIAN AND SOUTH PACIFIC DESIGNS CD-ROM and Book (Dover Electronic Clip Art) [Paperback] / Gregory Mirow [S.I. : Dover Publications, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0486995847 USD11.53

“This collection of 245 black-and-white images from authentic folk art of New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, the Hawaiian Islands, and Australia — among other locales. Includes geometric patterns, masks, wood carvings, images of the mysterious giant statuary of Easter Island, Australian rock paintings, tapestries, pottery, and much more.”



A WOMAN IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC / Sheree Lipton. Hawaii : B& D, 2009? ISBN 978072342087 USD45.00

“An engaging account of life lived in and around the south Pacific at a pivotal time in its history. Sheree Lipton escorts us into an intimate journey to islands meeting fascinating cast of characters, rogues, cannibals, kings and great beauties. This is an amazing journey and a remarkable book with evocative photographs that have captured moments that are fast fleeing and some moments that have past.”

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