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# EDITORIAL

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## FROM LABASA TO USP LAUCALA TO CALIFORNIA!

- 1 The quality and value of the paraprofessional library qualification offered by the USP has been reaffirmed on a number of occasions by the success of its graduates who have migrated overseas.
- 2
- 3
- 5 Our graduates can be found in public, special and academic libraries in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the US and the UK and the Pacific region and often in supervisory positions.
- 7

The need for qualifications began back in the early 70s when the Fiji Library Association and the USP Library offered a library certificate course held after work hours over two Christmas vacations by professionals who volunteered their time. Those humble beginnings gave rise to an

academic certificate in library studies (ended 1992) and diploma that is ongoing and a vocational certificate that is now part of the USP Pacific TAFE.

In this edition of *Libraries PacFika* is a story of one of our graduates who was born in Qelemumu in Vanua Levu and who, through hard work at the USP and commitment to library studies, now holds the position of Supervising Library Assistant at Berkeley Public Library in California.

The Library is proud of its staff who uphold the good name of the University and the Library.

*Elizabeth C. Reade Fong*

## GRANT TO PRESERVE SOLOMON ISLANDS RECORDINGS

The Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library has awarded a £10,704 grant to Dr Nick Thieberger of the University of Melbourne for the preservation of Solomon Islands analog recordings.

This project will digitize and list 200 audio tapes from the Solomon Islands Archives and National Museum, many of which are in languages with few remaining speakers. These are unique recordings that reflect the diversity of languages and cultural groups that make up the Solomon Islands. In Honiara, local staff will be trained and then involved in prioritizing the tapes and assigning metadata. The tapes will be digitized in Australia by the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC).

There are some 74 languages in the Solomon Islands, and there are few records of most of them. Tapes in the target collections include field recordings in local languages and recordings of customary knowledge. The recordings date from the 1970s and so capture snapshots of language at that time, many recorded with people who have since passed away, making them priceless records of aspects of national heritage that are not otherwise available. These unique recordings reflect the diversity of languages and cultural groups that make up the Solomon Islands. As analogue tapes in Honiara they are unplayable, but as a result of their digitization and description in this project they will become a base for future research.

These tapes are unique and have not been played for some time due to the lack of playback machines. They are in danger of becoming unplayable due to the tropical climate of Honiara and the lack of consistent climate control. Without this project the tapes are certain to become unusable.

The tapes were made by personnel of various Solomon Island agencies and visiting international researchers, and are in a range of local languages. Once available to listen to, it will be possible for the Museum and Archives to enrich the description of the collection, allowing speakers or their descendants to hear these recordings of themselves or their families for the first time.

Digital copies will be deposited with the Solomon Islands National Museum, PARADISEC, and the British Library. The original tapes will be returned to Honiara.

*Source: [http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview\\_project.a4d?projID=EAP693;r=17035](http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview_project.a4d?projID=EAP693;r=17035)*

## MORE PACIFIC IMAGES IN TE PAPA DATABASE

Te Papa, the National Museum of Aotearoa/New Zealand recently updated and expanded their Collections Online database. There are over 30,000 images of artworks and photographs that are downloadable (for free!). Over 14,000 of these images are available under a Creative Commons License which makes them free to use non-commercially. Even better, there are 17,000 images that are downloadable for any use at all, including remixing or adapting the image, or using it in advertising.

Collections Online contains many images of Pacific peoples, artifacts, and history. Go to <http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/> and search for a country name or topic and check the “with downloadable images!” box. Then you can legally use interesting images, like this one of King George of Tonga from 1884, in your own newsletters, web pages and displays.



King George of Tonga (aged 86) from 1884 (Dunedin, by Burton Brothers, Alfred Burton)

*Source: <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2014/06/03/free-downloadable-images-from-te-papas-collections/>*

# DEVELOPMENTS

## NEW ONLINE DATABASES AT THE USP LIBRARY

In November 2014, the USP Library subscribed to 4 new databases:

- Cambridge Journals: open access journals in dozens of subject areas in the humanities, social sciences and sciences.
- Edward Elgar Journals & Ebooks includes books, journals, handbooks, reference works and research reviews in the fields of economics, social sciences, geography, law, development studies, and interdisciplinary fields with the majority of the available content being eBooks.
- Oxford Journals are searchable by keyword in articles or browsed by the subject areas in the arts and humanities, law, medicine and health, science and mathematics, and social sciences. An alphabetical listing of journals is also available.
- Sage Journals cover four main fields: health sciences, life and biomedical sciences, materials science and engineering, and social science and humanities.

Visit the Library Databases webpage at <http://www.usp.ac.fj/?id=14250> and select the above resources from the A-Z database list.

## REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

### LAUCALA LIBRARIAN TEMPORARILY AT ALAFUA CAMPUS IN SAMOA

USP Reader Services Librarian, Shirley Devi arrived at the USP Alafua Campus Library in Samoa on 9 February and will be working there until 2 April. Shirley brings a wealth of training experience to this temporary appointment and in particular to the Library's Information Research Skills (IRS) program and intensive workshops for postgraduate students.

Whilst at Alafua, Shirley is supervising and up-skilling library staff, providing reference services and advice to academic staff along with managing other services and collections.



### LIANZA MAKING A BID FOR IFLA WLIC 2020

The LIANZA (Library and Information Association of New Zealand) Council will be making a bid to host the annual IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) Congress after polling and receiving an 85% vote in favour of making a bid. The New Zealand Government has in place funds for attracting conferences to New Zealand, and Tourism New Zealand will assist LIANZA with a financial feasibility study.

Although the IFLA conference rotates between world regions to ensure varied attendance, it has only been held in the Oceania region once before; in Sydney, Australia in 1988. The next southern hemisphere site is scheduled for 2020, so even if New Zealand is unsuccessful in their bid, the conference that year will likely be the closest for attendees from the Pacific.

Past IFLA conferences in the Asia/Pacific region have been held in Manila, Tokyo, New Delhi, Seoul, and Bangkok. The most recent Asia/Pacific IFLA conference was held in Singapore in 2013.

*For more information, see: <http://www.lianza.org.nz/lianza-making-bid-ifla-2020>*



# REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

## VIJAY: USP LIBRARY PAVED THE WAY FOR HIS DREAMS!

By Vilimaina Vakaciwa, USP Regional Librarian.

Whenever Vijay Nand's name is mentioned it brings a smile to the faces of his former workmates at the USP Library and there was great excitement when Vijay walked into the Library on one of his holiday visits to Fiji.

Vijay Nand now lives with his wife and daughter in Berkeley, California where he works at Berkeley Public Library as a Supervising Library Assistant in Circulation Services.

Vijay hails from Labasa, Vanua Levu, in the north of Fiji. Most part of his life during his growing years was spent working his family's farm whilst he attended school. When he completed his secondary education at Naleba College in 1983 he continued working the farm until the end of 1987 when Vijay moved to Viti Levu in search of a career. "It was not at all easy to find decent work in Suva; I kept on thinking that having been a farmer all my life and with no qualifications & experience, I had very little to offer."

The lack of these did not dampen Vijay's determination to find a paid job in an office. His wish came true when he was hired as a temporary messenger and photocopy technician with the USP library in 1988. "I thought farm life was over for me when I left Labasa, but on Viti Levu I lived on a farm in Wainibuku with a cousin where I looked after a duck, poultry and rice and pineapple farm in return for free stay at his place. I envied most of my workmates then because they lived very close to USP."

Vijay's day started at 4am with the feeding of the ducks and chickens. He then walked a 2.5 mile stretch of feeder road to the main road to catch the bus to work. "I worked the farm again after coming back from work until very late in the evening."

He waited until the family went to sleep to do his library studies. From a messenger/photocopier technician, he became a library attendant in 1990 and pursued the USP Certificate in Library and Information Studies (ended 1992) which he completed in 1992. With this qualification he was eligible for a library assistant position and applied and was appointed library assistant in the Pacific Collection in 1992.

Vijay's career with the Library saw him work as a library assistant in Reader Services from 1993 to 1995; Serials from 1996-1998 and as a cataloguer from November 1998 to July 1999 prior to his migration to the United States.

By this time Vijay had married and had a daughter Sangita. With his little family Vijay had no idea what to expect of life in the US. It was the first time he was leaving Fiji. "For the first three months in the US I stayed with the distant aunt and after two weeks I moved to an old friend from Flagstaff, Suva. I obtained a driver's license and got a job with the Barnes and Noble Book Store as client assistant."

Vijay also took up a series of part-time jobs in Richmond Public



Library, Barnes and Noble, MCSE (Microsoft Certified Computer Engineering) Network Bytes Private School and Berkeley Public Library. After further paraprofessional studies which he undertook in 2002, he became full-time library assistant and supervising library assistant in Circulation Services. "I want to become a trained librarian one day," Vijay said with a smile.

Born in the small settlement of Qelemumu Vijay saw a glimpse of big opportunities awaiting him. Vijay went for it and there was no turning back. "Despite the great life in the States, I must say I miss the leisure and relaxed time shared with family and friends in Fiji. There is no family support and it can be a lonely life as we are away from everyone else."

The cause of migration was by chance for Vijay. He was a winner of the "green card" lottery and for Vijay it came at the right time as Fiji was in political turmoil following the 1987 coup.

"It is the solid start at USP library - work ethics and professionalism I'd say shaped me well. I must acknowledge the support given by Libby (Elizabeth Reade Fong), she was my mentor, she paved the way and it was my choice to follow it or not...I did and I never regretted the choice. I would like to come back to USP Library if I ever return to Fiji" he said.

## USP LIBRARY ETHICS AND MOTIVATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

By Ela Qica, USP Senior Librarian, Customer Services & Vilimaina Vakaciwa, USP Regional Librarian.

Seventy five USP Library staff gathered from Friday November 28 to Saturday November 29, 2014 at the Shangri-La's Beach and Spa Resort for a workshop on ethics and motivation and to work on action plans to align the Library's vision and mission with the USP Strategic Plan.

The first day's session on ethics and motivation featured guest speaker, Mr John Pickering who began the session by highlighting that ethics was about right and wrong decisions. The word is rooted from the Greek 'ethos' meaning standards; right and wrong choices and decisions based on goals. This concept is tied to relationships, remembering the words of John Donne that 'No man is an island'. He said "We should strive to ensure that choices and decisions are always made in consultation with others or a community, for the good of others." Mr Pickering then contextualized ethics for library staff based on 3 questions: Why are we here? What have we come to do? and What do we hope to achieve? To answer these, he explained that we needed to self-reflect and consider how the questions applied to us as individuals and to gauge a basis for understanding 'self'.

Participants were introduced to 4th Century Greek Philosopher, Socrates, who said 'The unexamined life is not worth living'. John highlighted the 3 questions for individuals to self-reflect upon: Who am I? Who ought I become? How do I get there? John added that people cannot give what they do not have and do not understand. So to better understand ethics, it is best to begin with answering the above questions. Only then can we understand that ethics is a movement towards achieving our goal and how we as individuals can contribute to the mission of the USP Library which is The USP Library: the premier academic library and leader in information provision and services in the Pacific Islands.

Case studies based on the conceptual framework of ethics in the workplace were distributed to group participants to analyze and discuss. This practical application contributed to a greater understanding of ethics and its place in both work and personal lives.

Below are some staff responses to the Workshop:

- "This workshop also taught us the importance and value of teamwork, at the same time reminding us of the importance of ethics in the workplace, and how 'unethical' practices can affect our performance and consequently affect our services."
- Ethical issues are very important in this real world. Because of challenges faced in the working environment, people need to be very careful in making decisions and what is wrong and what is right. But end of the day you need to see that you have made a good decision considering other people being part of the group. It should not be for one's own benefit but the group as a whole. Believe in what is right as this will be you at the end.
- "The importance of understanding ethics is to help us apply the true meaning of trust and honesty and justice in the workplace by simply doing work related duties during working hours."
- "It was interesting going through the case studies only to realize that some of the examples are reflected in our workplace."
- "Very much part & parcel of life and career/job. An individual's beliefs determine his/her destination. Religious and cultural beliefs do contribute to the moral values displayed anywhere – home, work etc. Workshop was good to remind me as part of USP Library of my role and goals as a part of the library family."
- "I found this workshop helped me to understand work ethics and the need to be honest and abide by the work rules. It has helped me understand who I am and who we are as a team in fulfilling the mission statement."





# TRAINING & WORKSHOPS



Day 1 ended in the evening with a 'USP Library's Got Talent' show where library staff showcased their hidden talents and creativity on stage. With Mr. John Dyer as MC, the workshop participants were entertained by their colleagues with a variety of items, including a Bula international opening by the PIMRIS group, the Bollywood dancers of Fiji, a Marshall Islands/Fiji mix performance, the shortest rendition of the frog leap dance, the women rappers of USP Library, a catchy Polynesian drum tune, the Samoan siva and a song from our guest speaker Mr. John Pickering.

Day 2 focused on the Library's Strategic Plan and accompanying annual plans and began with Vice-President, Administration, Dr. Dilawar Grewal examining the Library's role in the University. In doing this he asked whether the Library has kept up with the information age and shared his thoughts on its two-fold role as he saw them. The first he said is to improve undergraduate academic performance and thus qualifications and the second to increase research stressing that these are both achieved through access to information which he also linked to retention rates. He informed the Workshop that research has found that retention rates are affected by two major factors, namely student loneliness and a bad first year experience and that the USP was not exempt from these. Thus, the Library's role in ensuring access to information and assistance in the use of information for research could assist greatly in students completing their programmes.

Staff were grouped into sections to discuss the six priority areas of the Library Strategic Plan and asked to map out and prioritize strategies for each: Customer and Information Services, Information Resources and Collection Development, ICT and Equitable Access, Physical and Work Environment, Partnerships,

Quality Assurance. To assist staff, Dr. Grewal asked each group to think about where they want their section to be in 2 years' time. Several participants were interviewed at the end of day two and the following are select responses to questions posed.

What is it about the workshop you found interesting and challenging? Why?

- Interesting – the atmosphere created to make people confidently speak out of their otherwise enclosed comfort and protected zones. Why – the responses received were engaging and this would not have been, if we had to discuss this same issue in familiar surroundings.
- Challenging- For the topic in particular; identifying, doing, sharing and teaching what is ethical versus the unethical is still a challenge because we tend to 'always have a way around it' so to speak. Whether this is an ethical or unethical stance remains to be answered.

What are your thoughts about the Saturday workshop on annual and strategic plans? What areas did you find useful? What areas do you think can improve?

• The Strategic Plans are long-term plans for the period 2013-2018. Instead of looking at the routine plans; we need to concentrate more on cutting edge/unique/out of the norm initiatives (new things that stand out and would capture our interest) we would like to see achieved in the years ahead.

• The plans that addressed these initiatives are the useful ones. For example, we should look at our plans from the eyes of a corporate strategist and take our business (if you like) to where the majority of our customers will be. It will cost us extra but that is exactly it – strategic plans are meant to be expensive because they are likened to rare jewels.

• Even before identifying what we can improve, we need a workshop on devising strategic plans so that those writing the strategies are working from the same platform.

What do you want to see included in future all staff workshop/retreat?

• The possibility of including other campus library staff as they are 'us' out there in the region.

The Library acknowledged the University's grant under its Incentive Programme that made it possible for all Laucala staff (full time and part-time) and three from the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Marshall Island campuses to discuss library developments and to take greater ownership of these.



# CONFERENCES

## PACIFIC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MAJURO IN JULY

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) is proud to announce the 29th Pacific Educational Conference (PEC) to be co-hosted with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ministry of Education and the College of the Marshall Islands in Majuro. Pre-ceremony activities will begin on July 27th, 2015 with the opening ceremony dinner on July 28th, 2015, where the 2014 PREL Teacher-of-the-Year award will be announced. The three-day PEC conference will be held from July 29th to the 31st.

Please visit <http://www.prel.org/signup/> for 2015 PEC registration and program updates, as well as other PREL news.

## PEOPLE



### MS. VAROMUE FESAITU IT TECHNICIAN

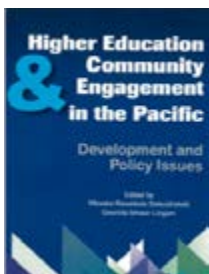
Ms Varomue Fesaitu joined USP library on 9 February 2015 as its IT Technician. Varomue formerly worked with Total (Fiji) Ltd as a systems administrator and then as an IT systems officer before joining the Library. She was born in Tavua (on the Western side of Fiji) but was raised in Suva. She replaced Shalvindra Reddy.

### OBITUARY

Mrs. Mereia Karavakibau passed away on Friday 6 March 2015 and her funeral service was held at the Calvary Temple on 11 March 2015 and attended by some of the current staff who had worked with her. Mereia worked with the USP as a Library Attendant from 1972 to 2002 and in the latter years she visited and took part in Library activities. She was 61 years old.

USP library administration and staff send condolences to her family.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



**HIGHER EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE PACIFIC: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY ISSUES** / edited by Mesake Dakuidreketi and Govinda I. Lingam. Suva, Fiji: USP Press, 2014 ISBN: 9789820109087 216 p. USD 17.95

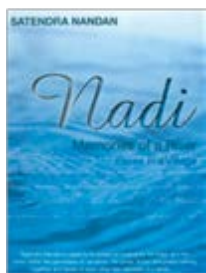
This volume provides a unique resource for scholars, policy makers and practitioners in the Pacific region with a particular interest in the value and contributions of higher education in the developing island world of Oceania.



**LORD, HERE COMES THE FLOOD: INVESTIGATING THE CHAINS OF CLIMATE CHANGE DISCOURSES IN KIRIBATI** / Lasse Kolbon Anke Hansen. Suva, Fiji: USP Press, 2014 ISBN: 9789820109155 USD 17.95

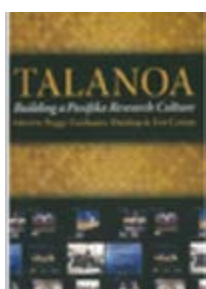
This thesis is aimed at uncovering the chains of climate change discourses in Kiribati and building a theoretical and analytical framework from literature on accountability and responsiveness.

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS



**NADI: MEMORIES OF A RIVER: FACES IN A VILLAGE** / Satendra Nandan. Suva, Fiji: Oceania Printers, 2014 ISBN: 9780992498900 180 p. USD 30.00

Nadi: Memories of a River is a unique composition of art and memory in prose and poetry. Satendra Nandan creates a vivid world of lyrical beauty and personal remembrances that shine like ripples in a river on a moonlit night. It's really about growing up in a village in Fiji after the Second World War: a childhood and youth remembered on the island of Viti Levu in the village of Votualevu next to Nadi international airport. On the banks of the Nadi two worlds meet in the river's flow - 'nadi' in Hindi means a river. Satendra weaves an extraordinary tapestry of Fijian life with deeply personal and warmly affectionate recollections of a vanished world of his girit grandparents, family and neighbours across the river in a koro. Faces in a Village was Satendra's first collection of poems, printed in Fiji in 1976.



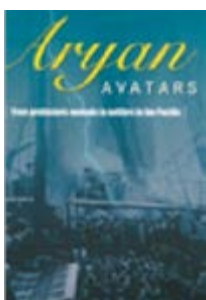
**TALANOA: BUILDING A PASIFIKA RESEARCH CULTURE** / Peggy Fairbairn- Dunlop & Eve Coxon. New Zealand: Dunmore Publishing, 2014 ISBN: 9781927212141 224 p. USD 40.00

This selection of papers presents a rich sample of Pasifika postgraduate research subjects and methodologies employed. The audience for this book is all those interested in developing deeper knowledge of the Pacific Islands and their Pasifika peoples, and specifically for Pasifika post-graduates in the social sciences to learn and gain confidence through a sharing technology (Access Grid) that has been designed to strengthen their research skills and their commonalities and reduce the isolation of being a group that is small in number and spread over various institutions.



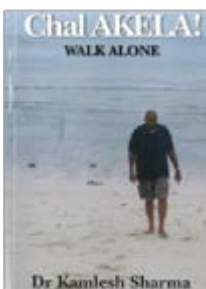
**ARTS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS** / Anna D'Alleva. USA: Yale University Press, 1998 ISBN: 9780300164121 176 p. USD 73.50

In this comprehensive survey of the art of the Pacific Islands, including the Melanesian, Polynesian, Micronesian, and New Guinean traditions, author Anne D'Alleva explains the significance of these artworks by contextualizing them within each island's unique culture and practices. In the process, D'Alleva examines the biases of both artists and Western viewers, telling an important history of both people and ideas through a detailed analysis of sculpture, paintings, textiles, dance, jewelry, and architecture.



**ARYAN AVATARS: FROM PRE-HISTORIC NOMADS TO SETTLERS IN THE PACIFIC** / Mahendra Sukhdeo. India: Zorba Publishers, 2014 ISBN: 9789381239469 225 p. USD20.00

Unveiling ancestors and discovering roots are a frequent dream of every descendant whose inheritance is linked to the gravy train of slavery, convictism, indentured labour, boat people and asylum-seekers. This book is a graphic account of rural Indian laborers who left their rustic homeland in search of their El Dorado in distant colonial outposts. Linked with reflections on his Aryan roots and his animated days in Bombay (now Mumbai), the author describes his typical journey in 1961 to his ancestral village near Nepal-India border. As Fiji transitions itself from a military dictatorship to a more democratic route, the author predicts the shape of the political construction that is likely to emerge.



**CHAL AKELA = WALK ALONE** / Kamlesh Sharma. Suva, Fiji: Quality Print, 2013 ISBN: 9780975802823 188 p. USD 15.00

This story documents the experiences of a Fijian youth growing up on Viti Levu, the largest island of Fiji. The story describes the way of living in Fiji prior to the general elections of 1987 and the unforgettable military coup drama that unfolded. Chal Akela is a book that talks about controversial issues and tries to start the healing process to bring closure to wounded hearts and souls.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LIBRARIES PA-C-FIKA REPLACES CENTRE LIBRARIES UPDATE AND PIC NEWS.

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY REGIONAL LIBRARIES AND PACIFIC COLLECTION, USP LIBRARY

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