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EDITORIAL

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HEALTH IS WEALTH

1

Sometimes our health and wellbeing are put on the back burner of our daily lives when it should be a priority. The challenges brought about by the current pandemic are a reminder of the importance of our health especially as workers in the information profession where service continues in a 'new normal'. Boosting our individual immunity systems play an important role in overcoming COVID-19 and I wish to share with you The NEWSTART acronym for an overall good-health programme.

2-3

N: Nutrition: Proper nutrition is the foundation of good health and recovery. We are reminded to eat healthy and include cereals, fruits, nuts and vegetables in our meals. Foods to avoid include highly processed foods, added salt and sugar and refined grains.

3-4

E: Exercise: Exercise helps tone and strengthen our muscles and improves our overall health. It reduces stress, combats fatigue, improves performance and leads to fewer workday absences. Try brisk walking, stretch exercises, a workout in the gymnasium, or swimming.

4-7

W: Water: The body is 70% water, so keeping it well hydrated and knowing what and when to drink are essential to health. It is advisable to drink 2 to 2.5 litres of water at various intervals each day for proper functioning of our bodies.

8

S: Sunlight: Sunlight is important for the body's metabolism and hormonal balance. We must take some time to walk outside where the sun can shine on the face, and other parts of the body.

8

9

T: Temperance: Enjoying good things moderately and avoiding the 'bad' is obviously wise, yet often hard to practice. Too much of something can be detrimental to the health- for example too much work and inadequate rest. It is advisable that we establish a timetable of activities and try to adhere to it.

A: Air: This is the body's most essential resource. Proper breathing and pure air are fundamental to good health. We should keep our work areas and home well ventilated to allow circulation of fresh air.

R: Rest: Sleep allows the body to restore and renew itself. Many types of rest are important for health, but the sweetest rest follows work. The saying "Early to bed and early to rise makes a person healthy, wealthy and wise" rings true. On average, but dependent on one's age, an average of 7-8 hours of sleep a night is recommended.

T: Trust in the Divine. It is believed that trust in Divine Power is linked to physical health and completes the cycle.

As information professionals we need to be healthy and this NEWSTART programme is a suggestion!

Liviana Tabalala

REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

USP RANKED 11TH IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT AMONGST THE TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD UNIVERSITIES REAL IMPACT (WURI) RANKING SYSTEM AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY USP WITH A VIRTUAL THANKSGIVING EVENT

The University of the South Pacific (USP) was ranked 11th in the area of Crisis Management by the World Universities with Real Impact (WURI) 2021 global ranking that was announced at the global ranking presentation during the WURI online conference 2021 held on June 10, 2021.

USP entered in the category of “Crisis Management” from the assessed perspective of ‘thrive rather than just to survive’ and provided the details of how it has responded to COVID-19 in 2020. Its submission, titled Continuity of Education amidst COVID-19 Pandemic was submitted in December 2020. WURI assessed USP on how it dealt with external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and technological breakthroughs (e.g. artificial intelligence) “to thrive rather than just to survive”.

USP’s Acting Vice-Chancellor and President, Dr. Giulio Masasso Tu’ikolongahau Pāunga said USP was extremely pleased and proud to be included amongst the best Universities in the world in ensuring the continuity of learning and teaching in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

“This worldwide recognition is a great and timely gift, received during one of the most challenging periods in the University’s history. This is not just the University’s achievement but a proud moment for the entire region,” he said.

“I acknowledge the hard work of all staff, both academic and support, who rose to

the occasion, successfully responding to the challenges and ensuring that the University performed as well as other bigger and well-resourced universities around the world.”

“I acknowledge the students for their ability to easily adapt to a new learning modality in a very constrained environment. Students and their parents and sponsors, should be proud that their University has been recognised worldwide as one of the best universities in learning and teaching.”

To celebrate the University’s WURI 2021 global ranking award, the USP Management in collaboration with the USP Chaplaincy organised a virtual thanksgiving event for all staff and students. Speaking during the event, the President of Nauru and Chancellor of USP, His Excellency Lionel Aingimea mentioned that “given the disruptions caused by COVID 19, the University has instead continued with online education with precision and also a vindication of the management’s efforts to rescue the University during its difficult financial times.”

Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Jito Vanualailai, whose team was instrumental in the USP’s successful submission to WURI mentioned that “the COVID 19 had impacted learning and teaching, however, the University remained committed and despite the circumstances, it ensured there was continuity of learning and teaching”.

A thanksgiving statement acknowledging the academic staff of the six Schools of the USP and all professional sections was given by the University Librarian, Elizabeth Fong who is also President of AUSPS. She acknowledged the “God-given” gifts and talents of the academic, professional and administrative staff across the University network whose innovative responses and dedication to providing academic, professional and administrative support contributed to the receipt of the WURI award. Whilst expressing gratitude to all professional sections she highlighted the role of the Library in this pandemic environment in relation to expanding equity of access to information services across the USP Library Network of 27 libraries.

Elizabeth added that, “The academic and professional staff of the University are committed to ‘Shaping Pacific futures’ as we work to build the capacity of our people across the USP Region to bring about higher standards of living whilst retaining our Pacific cultures and values which bind us together as a people. To receive two awards of recognition recently calls for celebration at a time in the world when there is little to celebrate. The current COVID status of Fiji is a major concern for us but today we take a little time to focus on celebrating our achievement and to offer thanksgiving for the WURI award.”

Source: [<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/story.php?id=3408>] ■

FIJI BOOK DRIVE (FBD)

Fiona Luth is the founder and CEO of the Fiji Book Drive (FBD) which started in 2012.

One of the pictures shows Fiona reading the Fijian language book she helped produce and distribute throughout Fiji, in partnership with Twinnies Brand (Bookstore).

“Fiona’s experience as an English teacher allowed her to recognise the scarcity of children’s books published in the Fijian language. The books she has produced promotes language and cultural learning, as they show characters in a traditional Kadavu setting.”



Vunisea kindergarten



Fiji book drive Yawe



Vunisea school



Fiona Luth,
Founder and CEO
Fiji Book Drive

REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

Fiji Book Drive is a NGO registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission. It has Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) status in Australia and financial contributions are tax deductible.

Since 2012, the organisation has donated 190,000 books to 98 primary and secondary

schools and 28 kindergartens in Fiji. The mission of FBD is to improve educational outcomes and life opportunities for students of Fiji through increased access to educational resources, predominantly focused on literacy.

“As a former English teacher, Fiona believes she is uniquely placed to make appropriate

book and educational resource selections. Taken into consideration when packing a library are factors such as: the cultural context, academic level and the fact that English is the second language of the students.”

Source: [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1774458775975145/posts/4074784662609200>] and [<https://www.fijiobookdrive.org/>] ■

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VANUATU

Legal Framework for Library Services



National library Vanuatu

In 2018, the National Library of Vanuatu embarked on a journey to develop a legal framework to guide Library Services in Vanuatu. The

journey commenced with an application made to the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission (VLRC) resulting in an Issues Paper that was submitted and approved. In 2019, a Concept Paper was developed followed by a nationwide consultation in 2020, with generous support from VLRC, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and Vanuatu Agriculture College. The findings of the consultation are finally out in a report presented to the National Library on Friday 4 June 2021. “The journey has barely started but this is an important milestone to celebrate and look forward to the progress yet to be made.” said Margaret Austrai, Chief Librarian, National Library of Vanuatu.

Source: [URL:<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1774458775975145>] ■

TUVALU NATIONAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES FOR LITERACY AND NUMERACY

The Tuvalu National Library continues to advocate, promote and coordinate literacy and numeracy initiatives for children in primary schools each Wednesday despite the challenges associated with recognition and support from the Government.

Source: Noa Petueli Tapumanaia [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1774458775975145>] ■



Tuvalu National Library



Tuvaluan children reading activity at the Tuvalu National Library

DEVELOPMENTS AND FEATURES

USP SOLOMON ISLANDS

Stori Kam Seminar Series: a success



Stori Kam Seminar at the Solomon Islands National Museum Auditorium

The USP Solomon Islands Campus with the USP Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies (OCACPS) under the School of Pacific Arts Communication and Education (SPACE), successfully hosted the Stori Kam Seminar Series at the Solomon

Islands National Museum Auditorium in Honiara.

Stori Kam draws together local researchers, academics and artists to share information gathered from their various fields of research to students, other researchers, academics and the public in general. It is a live seminar platform that encourages open dialogue between the storyteller and the listener.

The series is expected to continue with one episode on the last Thursday of every month to July 2021. Two episodes have been hosted since it started.

Topics selected are derived from various current issues applicable in the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Island's USP Campus Director, Dr Billy Fitoo, was one of the presenters in the first June seminar. He spoke on the importance of using the Wantok system as a framework for nation-building.

Stori Kam has bridged the gap whereby researchers and academics now have a platform to discuss their research and findings with University students and the general public.

The series is supported by the Solomon Islands Department of Culture, under the Solomon Islands Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Source: [<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/story.php?id=3410>] ■

DEVELOPMENTS AND FEATURES

WRITERS ON SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK

“For one children’s author, using her Sāmoan language is an act of decolonisation. For another group of Sāmoan writers, it’s a means to reconnect to home,” says Reina Vaai, a Samoan lawyer, a freelance journalist and now children’s author. The celebration of Samoan Language Week for Reina is the simple act of speaking her mother tongue, which has powerful ramifications. “When our parents first migrated here, they were trying to assimilate - so speaking Sāmoan was not a good thing,” she said.

Reina claims that there is a huge revival from second-generation Sāmoans wanting to reclaim their language by speaking in Sāmoan.

The Samoan criminal barrister has authored four books for children, all written in the



Reina Vaai, Samoan lawyer, freelance journalist and children's author

Samoan language complimented with colorful characters and her culture.

Ms. Vaai added that as an author, she was inspired by the need for more island children to see

themselves reflected in the stories that they read.

“It is so important for Pacific children to see characters that look like them, characters that they can relate to and characters that tell a positive story” she said.

Her books are distributed in schools and libraries both in Auckland and back in Sāmoa and are helping Samoan families in both worlds, connecting and rediscovering a love for their language.

“Growing up I wasn’t allowed to speak English at home, as my parents were huge on knowing my culture. And it’s really helped to guide me, as it’s been a foundation for my life as the language is a tool for me to better navigate different pressures as well as support my family.”

Source: [<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/443981/rekindling-memories-and-righting-wrongs-writers-on-samoan-language-week>]

KOLOVAI PUBLIC LIBRARY - TONGA’S FIRST

Kolovai Public Library is Tonga’s first public library officially opened on October 11, 2019. A surprise to some, although Tonga has never had a proper public library, the kingdom is full of keen readers with a 99% literacy rate.

The library is automated through a free-of-charge hosted Koha (Open source integrated library system) installation for the next five years.

When Tonga was badly hit by Cyclone Gita in 2018, Kahoa and Brendon Corbett of Auckland New Zealand, the founders of the library project, saw that schools in Tonga

were in need of books. This inspired their effort to source, collect and ship books across to Kolovai.

On one of their trips home to Tonga, Kahoa noticed an unused fale in the village and took the opportunity to ask about using it for a library. They were able to send their first shipment to Tonga in May 2018 with the assistance of their local New Zealand library. Since then, the library collection has grown to include over 20,000 items and has received donations in the form of laptops, bikes for hire, paint, and hands-on help from members of the local community. Plans were underway to extend the library services to Nuku’alofa with a second branch.

The latest development is accessing free



Kolovai Public Library

internet on Saturdays from 10am to 3pm.

Kolovai is a village on the Tongan island of Tongatapu, with a population of approximately 4,267 people. Situated approximately 18km west of Nuku’alofa, it is home to a colony of flying foxes, the traditional lakalaka dance of Tonga, and the koka tree which is said to be where the Tu’i Kanakupolu title (recognised ruler) was conferred. ■

PEOPLE AND FOCUS

FIJI DELTA VARIANT OF COVID 19 LOCKDOWN:

USP Library Staff Insights

The second wave of the COVID 19 virus in the form of the Delta variant which hit Fiji on 21 April 2021 forced libraries on Viti Levu to close. Working people and students are locked in their household bubbles. Health and medical authorities are working tirelessly to prevent the spread of this life-threatening pandemic. Fiji nationals are informed daily through mainstream and social media to adhere to health and safety protection protocols to prevent the spread

of the Delta variant, a more spreadable and deadly one than the virus of March 2020.

The severity of the pandemic on lives, health and economy is undoubtedly straining and threatening. Non-essential businesses and services including libraries have been affected and school and university students have been at home for over 40 working days. Working people are making every effort to reorganize their daily routines,



USP library staff

find workspaces within the vicinity of their homes and for children, studying and learning spaces.

There is uncertainty all round and just how the future will pan out no one is sure except that life is changing. Our institutions and the library profession have, since 2020, continue to rethink practical work strategies measures and new paradigm of hybrid work patterns and environments that include working from home as we respond to the needs of those we serve.

In this issue of PacFika, three USP Library Staff shed some light on their work from home experience(s) and the challenges in balancing work and home demands in a

home environment. Their responses to the way forward are worthy of pondering on. Of course, this will also depend on the decisions made by the USP and Government.

We asked the following questions to Laucala based staff and thank them for their responses.

Question 1: *What are some of the changes you have made at home to accommodate work and home life in the lockdown?*

Question 2: *We have been away from the Library since April 21, 2021. What library work have you been able to continue with from home?*

Question 3: *What are the challenges faced which you felt impacted your ability to perform library work effectively from home?*

Question 4: *What do you think will be the new norm of living and working in this pandemic era?*

Question 5: *Our role is to provide learning support library and information services to students and academics in support of online learning and teaching. As library and information specialists, how can we facilitate this and why? ■*

Gwen Mar Rounds, Pacific Collection Librarian



Gwen Mar Rounds

A few restrictive measures and practices we had to impose and adhere to during the period of lockdown at home. Only one person was designated to go on shopping trips whilst the rest of the family stayed home and only essential trips were allowed. Children were not even allowed to go on car rides even if they promised to stay in the car whilst the one parent went shopping. Exercise was running up and down our long straight driveway and to venture further was against the home rule.

One crucial part of the work I do within the vicinity of the library walls and which I could continue doing from home was

issuing ISBNs and CiPs with the assistance of ISBN International, based in London, in generating ISBN barcodes. Working from home in fact provided the opportunity to work on tasks and minor projects that were put on the back burner during normal times due to too many tasks and too few working hours. However, there are challenges that hinder my ability to perform library work effectively from the precinct of home. One, the lack of easy access to documents and files saved on the library server. Two, juggling work and homeschool requirements for my two primary-aged children and third, was not getting quick and uninterrupted internet access.

Working from home is definitely a new norm with minimum backward glances as this pandemic has forced us to rethink activities, both work and personal, which we took for granted. There will be moments

of discomfort and nostalgia and many opportunities to revise and better processes and choices, both professional and personal.

As librarian operating from home during this lockdown, I think there are changes that need addressing in order to facilitate effective 24/7 online support learning for students and teaching staff. To replace desktops for senior staff with docking stations and laptops and work saved via cloud storage to streamline work in the office and work from home. It is also crucial to provide increasing access to online resources. In terms of the Library's Pacific Collection, its physical collection is its most prized resource so whilst digitizing for archival purposes is important, providing access to users and researchers needs to be well thought out due to intellectual property rights and copyright issues. ■

Sanjana Kumaran, Library Assistant, Cataloguing & Regional Libraries



Sanjana Kumaran

No doubt there were changes made to the routines at home during this lockdown period. COVID 19 protocols were observed to ensure that we stayed indoor at most times and avoided unnecessary movement outside the home. I had to reorganize my home living setting to accommodate a work-space environment. The biggest challenge was trying to adapt to new work lifestyle within the home.

There were tasks done in the library which I was able to do from home, I was able

to access, retrieve and respond to official emails through the USP webmail facility. Accessing databases on USP library website and reading work related online articles. Meeting and communicating with work colleagues through zoom video conference.

The challenges I faced working from home included: the lack of technical support tools to enable accessibility to resources that could help with cataloguing work; poor and low connectivity and the psychological and emotional effects of the current deteriorating pandemic which resulted in panic attack, anxiety, fear and low concentration to work effectively.

Assessing the rate in which the world is going there is of course a new norm at hand, which is fully technology oriented of which the bulk of the work and processes are online and face to face work in the office is very minimal and less needed. The demand and need for people to work from home will be high. Therefore, it is crucial that organisations start rethinking new work patterns and higher levels of proficiency in terms of the latest gadgets and apps.

I would like to think that USP library could introduce a live chat platform on its website so queries could be addressed in real time and at any-time around the clock. ■

Jonetani Jioji, Senior Library Attendant

The changes made included: adhering to the restriction of movement, particularly to the workplace and complying with COVID 19 health protocols; storing of adequate food supply to ensure that there is sufficient supply as there was a lot of uncertainties in the way things were moving; ensuring that the lockdown doesn't affect mental health and well-being with physical activities like backyard gardening and early morning walks. The positive change from the lockdown is more quality time spent with the family.



Jonetani Jioji

Almost all the library attendants' duties are carried out within the vicinity of the library. However, as supervisor I continuously update team members of any new developments that may affect our work at USP library.

The main challenge for library attendants is that we are not able to carry out our work from home. As the nature of work is hands-on and physical: from spine labelling and tattle taping of print resources, scanning, printing and photocopying, shelving and

re-shelving of books, manning check points and policing the library.

It is evident from this pandemic that it gives birth to a "new order" or a new norm which place heavy restrictions on movement and challenges to compliance with health and safety protocols. In education, online learning will be

encouraged with minimal face to face physical contact. Due to uncertainties, individuals will need to think and have a back-up plan for their way forward in case issues that can affect employment arise.

Being part of the library community, our primary role is to ensure learners and academics get adequate learning and teaching information support tools and resources that will enable them to achieve their goals. The following are suggested to facilitate effective online learning and teaching support services to our University community:

(i) Library in collaboration with ICT to make available more laptops to be borrowed, given the uncertainties in face-to-face learning -

this is an area that needs to be addressed. As Acting DVC (Education) stated on FBC news of 31st May, "most likely close to 9000 USP students are facing challenges accessing more than 800 courses and will likely fall through the cracks because they do not have access to the technological devices (laptops and computers) needed to engage in online learning."

(ii) Library to introduce a mobile library or request for a small minivan that can be used to distribute items requested via phone or email to our users during the lockdown period. All normal borrower requirements need to be in place before item is loaned out. Staff doing delivery will need to comply with all the necessary requirements by OHS and relevant authorities - (a home delivery system). When the situation normalises, the vehicle could be used for transportation of evening staff, mail runs and other errands for the library. We have a few library attendants who have a driving license and could be rostered for this work. The operation will be closely monitored or supervised to avoid abuse of use. ■

DEPARTURES

The Library bid farewell to three of its senior staff in May.

Three USP Library Senior Staff Left in May 2021



Ela



Daniel



Martin

Ms. Ela Qica, Senior Librarian Customer Services decided on an early retirement after serving USP library for 25 years. Mr. Daniel Ferrer, Library Systems Manager and Mr. Martin Burrows, OSIC Coordinator both returned to the US at the end of their respective contracts. With COVID protocols in place it was not possible to farewell these colleagues in true Pacific fashion but with emails words of thanks the University Librarian conveyed the Library's appreciation to Ela, Daniel and Martin for their unique contributions to the Library in their various areas of expertise. With COVID protocols in place it was not possible to farewell these colleagues in true Pacific fashion but in an email the University Librarian conveyed the Library's appreciation to Ela, Daniel and Martin for their unique contributions to the Library in their various areas of expertise.

INTERVIEW

Ela Qica Says Goodbye to the USP Library

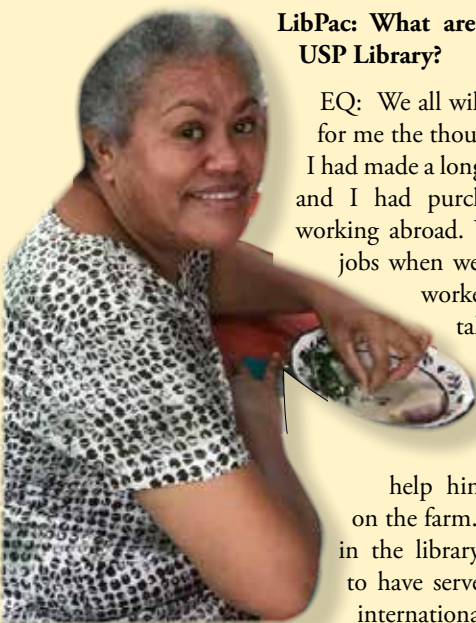
Ms. Ela Qica, Senior Librarian Customer Services at the University of the South Pacific Library concluded her library career on 31 May 2021 to go on early retirement, a decision she had planned some years ago. Ela served in the library profession for 31 years, first with the University of the South Pacific from January 1990 as a librarian to 2000 when she joined the United Nations also in a librarian position and later as speech writer to the Deputy Secretary General at the UN Headquarters in Geneva. Ela rejoined the USP Library in 2007 as librarian in charge of the Systems section and the Digitization project - the online USP these digital library on Greenstone digital platform. This was an initiative which she managed and successfully completed within one year.

Ela's diligence and commitment to the library profession is proven by her pursuit of excellence in both customer and technical areas of library operations and at management level. Ela reached the peak of her library career and on many occasions, acted in library management positions as Deputy University librarian as well as University librarian. She also served as the managing editor for Libraries PaCfika for three consecutive years (2017-2019) in her term as acting Deputy University librarian.

Attaining an undergraduate degree in Library and Information Studies (University of Canberra, Aust.) and a Masters in Management Information Systems (RMIT, Aust.) reflected Ela's strong passion and interest in personal development for her library career. She is currently

the President of the Fiji Library Association.

Libraries PaCfika acknowledges Ela's willingness to respond to these reflective interview questions.



LibPac: What are your reasons for leaving USP Library?

EQ: We all will leave our jobs one day and for me the thought of leaving was a decision I had made a long time ago when my husband and I had purchased farmland whilst still working abroad. We had agreed to leave our jobs when we reached 50 years of age. It worked with my husband having taken early retirement at 50 and returning home to work the farm. I have worked another 4 years but now need to retire early to help him with our family projects on the farm. This year would be my 31st in the library profession and I am glad to have served the USP region, and the international community in a profession for which I have formal undergraduate

and post-graduate qualifications.

LibPac: How would you rate the job you are leaving in terms of:

(i) job itself

EQ: For me this job strikes a balance between the required operational or routine tasks and decision making. It can be if you like a 'gopher' job because it acts as a go between the 2 levels of staff in the Library or the user and the rules that govern the service we provide. At any time of work you can be asked to attend to users or staff in terms of queries that require responses that you may have knowledge of or expected to know at the level. At other times you are collating reports to help management in their decisions, or heading the team proposing an issue for management approval. I cannot say it is boring like a daily routine job because it is in fact an interesting one and gives you a platform to use your creativity too in terms of 'thinking beyond the box'.

(ii) job satisfaction level

EQ: I believe that any job we have taken on must be satisfying to us otherwise why stay in that job? I enjoy my work and can honestly comment that I have great satisfaction in my job which is why I arrive to work so early and am able to organize myself for the day before 8am. Someone once told me that I needed to 'work smart' because I worked too hard and the commitment I put into it was clearly seen. Sadly, I realized too late the real meaning of this when I began to get frequently sick. There was balance in my work but not so my health and well-being which I have tried to improve only 2 years ago.

(iii) responsibility level

EQ: I can say having been on the job that it requires its share of responsibility like every other job. Responsibility for the decisions made and actions taken whether good or bad. In my view it is a very responsible position because you are actually vetting issues, documents and ideas before they are put on paper to be approved by management and then formalized by the Library Advisory Committee, a Committee of Senate. Sometimes the thinking process for an issue could take a while from considering its importance and priority against the Action Plan, the meetings to be scheduled, the impact it would have on policies and procedures, the resources available and time on hand to complete

the documentation.

(iv) duties clearly defined

EQ: The duties are clearly defined but they change too and need to be reviewed as a result. The duties are clearly defined in a document 'Job Description' and lists the duties ranging from management related to operational or routine tasks which are required.

LibPac: How would you rate your overall employment experience?

EQ: I have enjoyed every bit of my experience working as a librarian here in Fiji and abroad. When I compare my experiences in both libraries, I can say that the opportunity in Fiji lends one to be a 'master of the trade' because you need to be multi-skilled in all facets of the librarianship trade. You need to know how to catalogue because you have the knowledge of dealing with 'meta-data' for the new formats of information in creation; you need to know how to index because of the KWIC, KWOC and tools like the thesaurus that exist – otherwise how can you claim to know how to teach a searcher of information when you do not know the basic tenets of information sources; you have to know the pillars of a library integrated system otherwise you have difficulty trying to work around every electronic gadget and application that involves the timely sharing and publishing of information which is much in demand today.

I have been able to learn so many issues from the discussions with professionals, consultations, membership to library groups, interest readings and personal research.

LibPac: Highlight your key achievements that gave you a deep sense of pride and fulfillment which benefitted the University?

EQ: The key achievement I can affirm have included the library team who had prepared documents, scanned and edited documents, input documents, and digitized documents for the Theses Digital Collection accessible from the library website. It was because of their commitment and hard work in following the scheduled plan; a digitized collection was birthed. I have always reminded myself that if I can teach a student or staff a life-long skill to research, work smart and save time completing the research well, I am happy because I have been part of a process to deliver a research skill I hope they can share with others.

LibPac: What needs improving in light of services, policies and rules, staff development, HRM, building infrastructure, facilities, equipment and ICT?

EQ: I feel that the issues stated above currently serve their purpose well as when compared to 20 years ago, the services and face of USP Library was very different and many processes still manual. The only improvements I would recommend would be to: (i) empower the library staff so they can take ownership and responsibility of the many tasks to be completed daily. Weekly reports by individual staff should be encouraged and shared with their teams so that they are well versed with operations and issues that involve them and their work, (ii) provide an app or software that can do the task of an online log of activities/tasks in real-time for all staff to log on to and work from which would help improve work process. Something similar to LibAnswers so that all are in sync with the work being received, actioned and pending for which reasons are given and made known. Especially in this 'new norm' of doing things and people are working from home, the Library will have to coordinate its activities online so that users' queries are answered and problems are still solved in real time. The physical collection may be closed but the work continues because most of our resources to support students studying and lecturers teaching through zoom are online.

Libraries PaCfika thanks Ela for sharing her professional insights and acknowledges her immense contribution to the library profession which is deeply appreciated. We wish Ela a happy retirement! ■

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

LIBRARY 2.0 ORGANISED A SECOND FREE ONLINE MINI-CONFERENCE: "REINVENTING LIBRARIES FOR A POST-COVID WORLD," ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2021.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, librarians have been faced with an array of challenges as they have worked to bring their services, resources, and events into the virtual realm. Unsurprisingly, librarians have not only met the challenges but thrived in bringing new dynamic digital content, engaging virtual programming and instructional events, and exciting online activities such as virtual book clubs, gaming tournaments and makerspace activities to their patrons.

REGISTER HERE in Library 2.0 to receive the recording links of the post conference and join Library 2.0 network to be kept updated on this and future events. Everyone is invited to participate in our Library 2.0 conference events, which are designed to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among information professionals worldwide. ■

BOOK REVIEWS

LIVING LIBRARIES: THE HOUSE OF THE COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD (2021)

/ Curated and edited by Diederick Slijkerman and Ton van Vlimmeren ISBN 978-94-64026-75-7

<https://www.bibliotheekutrecht.nl/dam/2020Website/Collectie/living-libraries---the-house-of-the-community-around-the-world--.pdf>

...reviewed by Natasha Skeen, Librarian USP Library

This book was the brainchild of now retired director of The Public Library of Utrecht in The Netherlands. Originally it was to be a conference however Covid prevented that from happening and so instead the conference became a book. The theme was the cultural significance of the library or the library as Third Place (the first and second places being home and work). As well as being a celebration of van Vlimmeren's career the introduction is broken into three sub-headings which also inform the themes that each of the chapters fall under: The Reforming Power of Libraries, Libraries as Hub for Democracy and The Library as a Learning Centre.

The chapters are written by friends and professional contacts the editor has made throughout his career. They depict a global snapshot of libraries, from Qatar to Canada. There are also five chapters devoted to the Pacific, more of which later. This reviewer was impressed with Philadelphia's Culinary Literacy Centre which aims to improve health and social-cohesion outcomes through delivering programmes from its in-library teaching kitchen. Considering the issues of NCDs in our region perhaps this could be replicated in libraries here. The Belgian chapter on library advocacy – who to speak to and what to say when trying to get governments, NGOs, etc. to engage with or increase funding for libraries – was particularly inspiring.

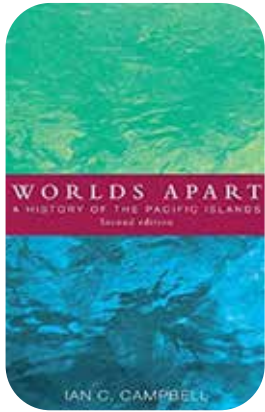
The Papua New Guinea chapter looks at the decimation of public libraries since independence in 1975 and how the new director general plans to achieve his 10-year strategic plan to revitalise them.

The Timor-Leste chapter also looks at their libraries since independence and are a lot more optimistic than PNG. The author speaks of his achievements so far including the events put on in libraries and the special library that focuses upon human rights and the independence struggle.

The Fijian chapter is written by USP's own Lorin Pai and traces the history of public libraries in Fiji as well as looking at collaborations, advocacy and working with communities. A well-researched chapter!

The New Caledonia chapter focuses upon modern developments during a time of relative political stability. It has provided many opportunities to develop libraries outside of the capital and develop collections in the Kanak language.

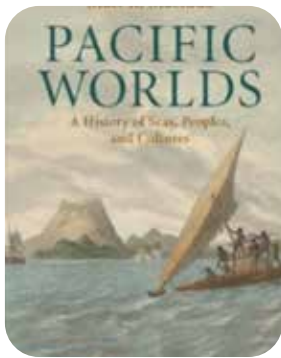
Overall, the book is an eye-opening read, reminding us that we are all part of the same library community with the same concerns. It provides solutions as well as insights into what is possible regarding the role of libraries in modern society. The contents page tells only the author's name and the country; this layout could have been improved perhaps by grouping the chapters under each of the three headings outlined in the introduction, that way the reader could go to exactly what they were interested in. Each chapter averages about 10 pages, so there are plenty of quick and easy reads packed with loads of references. Every Pacific Island library should carry a copy of this book. ■



Worlds apart : a history of the Pacific Islands / I.C. Campbell 2nd ed., Christchurch, N.Z. : Canterbury University Press, 2011. ISBN: 9781927145029 391 p. ; 23 cm. USD35.00.

“Spanning the social, political, and economic history of the Pacific Islands—which include Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia—this book provides an overview of this complex and changing area. It has been updated to detail the first settlement of the islands by raft and canoe voyagers, presenting a new theory. It then covers the centuries of Western contact, cultural influence, colonialism, and the coming

of independence. Including key political changes that have occurred in the first decade of the new millennium, this new edition brings into focus the rich past of this diverse region.”

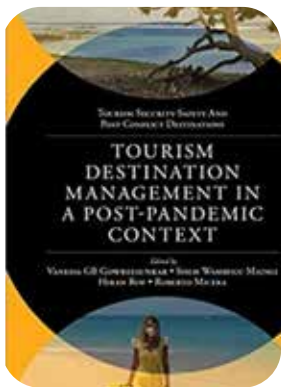


Pacific worlds : a history of seas, peoples, and cultures / Matt K.

Matsuda Cambridge; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0521715669 454 p. ; 23 cm. USD35.00 (Format: print & eBook)

“This essential single-volume history of the Pacific traces the global interactions and remarkable peoples that have connected these regions with each other and with Europe and the Indian Ocean, for millennia. From

ancient canoe navigators, monumental civilisations, pirates and seaborne empires, to the rise of nuclear testing and global warming, Matt Matsuda ranges across the frontiers of colonial history, anthropology and Pacific Rim economics and politics, piecing together a history of the region.”



Tourism destination management in a post-pandemic context /

Vanessa GB Gowreesunkar... [et.al., editors] UK : Emerald Publishing, 2021. ISBN: 978-1800715127 424 p., ; 24 cm. USD105.00 (hardcover)

“*Tourism Destination Management in a Post-Pandemic Context* gives an enriching insight into the issues and challenges faced by tourism destinations during and after the pandemic, exposing emerging trends and proposing novel management solutions in order to develop coping capacities of destina-

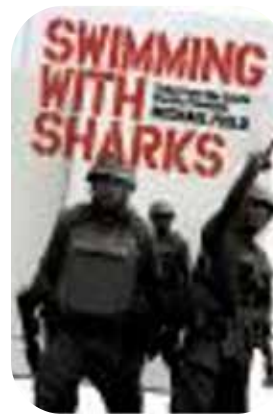
tions and build resilience against the effects of potential future pandemics. Drawing on lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, this expansive collection presents cases and competency frameworks to advance theoretical and empirical knowledge in the management of destinations post-pandemic.”



Offshore : Behind the Wire on Manus and Nauru / Madeline Gleeson Coogee, N.S.W. Publishing, 2016. ISBN : 9781742234717 352 p., ; 21 cm. USD30.00 (paperback)

“What has happened on Nauru and Manus since Australia began its most recent offshore processing regime in 2012? This essential book provides a comprehensive and uncompromising overview of the first three years of offshore processing since it recommenced in 2012. It explains why offshore processing was re-established, what life is like for asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru

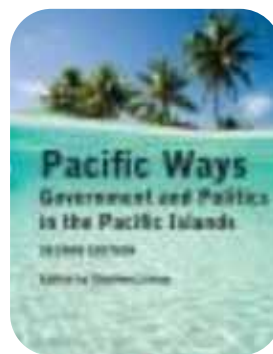
and Manus, what asylum seekers, refugees and staff in the offshore detention centres have to say about what goes on there, and why the truth has been so hard to find. In doing so, it goes behind the rumours and allegations to reveal what is known – and what still is not known – about Australia’s offshore detention centres.”



Swimming with sharks : tales from the South Pacific frontline / Jennifer

Michael Field Auckland, N.Z. : Penguin Books, 2010. ISBN: 9780143203735 256 p. ; 24 cm. USD30.00 (Format: print & eResource)

“On the last day, we flew out to Manono aboard an RNZAF Iroquois. The doors were open and the beauty of Samoa was literally beneath our feet. I have always known it to be a fragile kind of place: tsunamis, like all the other disasters, big and small, show that we have a pact with nature to enjoy ‘paradise.’”



Pacific ways : government and politics in the Pacific Islands / Stephen I

Levine Wellington, N.Z. : Victoria University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9781776560684 284 p., ; 21 cm. USD25.00 (paperback)

“Examining the politics of each Pacific Island state and territory, this well-researched volume discusses historical background and colonial experience, constitutional framework, political institutions, political parties, elections and electoral systems, and problems and prospects. Pacific Island countries and

territories included are the original seven member states—New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Nauru, and the Cook Islands—along with all the new member states and organizations. A wide-ranging political survey, this comprehensive and completely up to date reference will appeal to Pacific peoples and anyone with an interest in politics.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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