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CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & PUBLICATIONS....

EDITORIAL

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Empowering First-Year Students: The Critical Role of Library Information Research Skills Session

The transition to university life marks a major milestone for first-year students, filled with new academic challenges and unfamiliar expectations. One of the most essential tools for navigating this shift successfully is information literacy — the ability to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively. Academic libraries, through targeted information literacy sessions, play a pivotal role in equipping students with these vital skills early in their academic journey.

1. Building a Foundation for Academic Success

Information literacy sessions teach students how to navigate academic databases, distinguish credible sources, and avoid misinformation — crucial skills for conducting effective research and completing assignments. These sessions also introduce them to citation standards and academic integrity, helping students avoid unintentional plagiarism and fostering responsible scholarship.

2. Reducing Research Anxiety and Increasing Confidence

For many first-year students, academic research can feel intimidating. Information literacy workshops demystify the process by offering hands-on guidance on how to use library catalogues, evaluate digital content, and structure research questions. As students gain familiarity with user methods relating to usage of tools, their confidence grows, leading to more engaged and independent learners.

3. Promoting Lifelong Learning Skills

Beyond immediate academic needs, these sessions nurture lifelong learning habits. Students learn how to critically assess information sources — a skill that extends beyond the classroom and is increasingly valuable in today's digital and information-saturated world.

4. Enhancing Equity and Inclusion

Not all students enter university with the same level of academic research experience. Information literacy sessions help level the playing field, offering all students regardless of background equal access to essential research skills. This promotes a more inclusive learning environment where every student has a fair chance to succeed.

5. Strengthening Student-Librarian Relationships

These sessions also introduce students to librarians, who can be approached as knowledgeable partners working side by side in their academic journey. This early connection often encourages students to seek help proactively, fostering a collaborative and supportive academic culture.

Library information literacy sessions are not just a service — they are a strategic investment in student success. For first-year students navigating the complexities of higher education, these sessions provide the foundation for academic achievement, personal growth, and informed citizenship. As such, they deserve a central place in every University's first-year experience programme.

Liviana Tabalala

ENGAGING USP REGIONAL CAMPUS AND CENTRE LIBRARIES

Vanuatu Campus Library welcomes New and Ongoing Academic Students at the Campus Orientation week

Library orientation plays a crucial role in shaping the academic journey of both new and continuing students. As universities and colleges continue to emphasize independent learning and research skills, the library continues its role as a vital hub for academic support. An effective orientation helps students understand the full range of resources and services available, laying a strong foundation for academic success.

For new students, library orientation serves as an essential introduction to information literacy. It equips them with the skills to locate, evaluate, and use scholarly resources effectively. This initial exposure reduces anxiety associated with research tasks and builds confidence in completion of academic tasks. Students become familiar with catalogue systems, databases, citation tools, and other support services critical for successful completion of required coursework.

Emalus campus for example held a two-days orientation session in February which consisted welcoming of more than a thousand students walking through their corridors. Similarly, for Tafea Centre, library assistant Neljalyne James advocated the role of the library and the significance of using its physical and e-resources, while library assistants Shannon and Morris assisted other students.

Ongoing students on the other hand benefitted from refresher sessions or advanced workshops that kept them updated regarding the use of new tools and resources. These deepened their research skills and encouraged continued engagement with the library, especially as academic tasks became more complex.

Library staff also created an awareness of the A-to-Z library databases offered in person and through the library webpage, Search@ USP Library portal. Library orientation for this group of students encourages greater use of academic resources, enhances knowledge of research methods, use of quality resources, and promotes lifelong learning.



Photo Credit: Neljalyne James, Library Assistant

It fosters independence, critical thinking, and a deeper connection to the academic community, making it an invaluable component of higher education.



Photo Credit: Shannon Kombe, Library Assistant

Responses from the students were positive because they had frequented the library spaces to use the physical and virtual collections, seek guidance on printing documents, locate textbook for their courses, much more. *Written by Acting Senior Library Assistant Shannon Kombe and Library Assistant Neljalyne James - Vanuatu Campus.*

Labasa Campus Library contributes to a knowledge society: the long-term impact of book donations on library resources



Photo Credit: Pacific Polytech Students and Library Officer Mukesh

In an inspiring gesture of community engagement and support, the University of the South Pacific (USP) Labasa Campus made a significant contribution by donating a set of library books to the Labasa Pacific Polytech. This initiative aimed to enhance educational resources, promote literacy, and foster a culture of learning and growth among individuals who have limited access to library materials.

The donation reflected USP Labasa Campus's commitment to the community. The collection includes books on a wide range of subjects, such as literature, history, science, and social studies, catering to the diverse learning needs of the institution's students.

It is just one example of how USP Labasa Campus actively works to make a positive impact in the community. Through such efforts, the campus continues to uphold its vision of promoting knowledge, understanding, and opportunity for all. *Written by Mukesh Chand, Library Officer - Labasa Campus.*

Sharing Pacific Knowledge Through Collaboration

Collaborative visits between external universities and local national libraries and archives play a vital role in preserving and promoting Pacific knowledge. These partnerships offer opportunities to document oral histories, traditional practices, and indigenous languages that are at risk of being lost.

In March, Tuvalu National Library and Archives welcomed students and faculty from Columbia University, New York. The visitors were greeted with a formal traditional ceremony and given a tour of the history of the Tuvalu National Library and Archives, collection and its preservation processes related to digitizing their records.

By working together, researchers and local knowledge holders strengthened the preservation of cultural heritage, as Pacific communities are no longer just subjects of research — they are recognised as custodians and contributors of valuable knowledge systems. This approach helps decolonise research practices and ensures that knowledge is shared ethically and respectfully.

Such partnerships go beyond academic interest. They contribute to sustainable development by applying traditional knowledge to current challenges like climate change and biodiversity conservation.

DEVELOPMENT & FEATURES

ENGAGING USP REGIONAL CAMPUS AND CENTRE LIBRARIES



Photo Credit: Tuvalu National Library and Archives faculty from Columbia University, New York.

These efforts improve the long-term care of important cultural collections and make them more accessible to Pacific communities.

Eventually, these visits foster lasting relationships that strengthen Pacific heritage, empower communities, and ensure that the voices of the Pacific continue to be heard, valued, and protected for generations to come.

Cook Islands campus hosted the official Launch of Marjorie Crocombe's: "E Va'ine Toa, E Rangatira. E akangateitei'anga: A tribute to her life and work"



Photo Credit: close families gathered to celebrate the launch of "E Vaine Toa: E Rangatira"

On February 25th March, the University of the South Pacific (USP) – Cook Islands campus hosted the official launch of Marjorie Crocombe's: "E Va'ine Toa, E Rangatira. E akangateitei'anga: A tribute to her life and work". This book not only celebrates her life and legacy but honours her immense and unwavering dedication to Pacific education, literature, and history which has left a long-lasting mark on our region.

Mama Marjie was a true visionary, passionately encouraging Indigenous storytelling and fellowship at a time when Pacific voices were often overlooked. The launch brought together family, friends, and scholars to reflect on her impact and ensure her legacy continues to inspire future generations.

We say Meitaki Ma'ata to her son, Tata Crocombe and family for their generous donation of copies of the book, which have since arrived at our main library at USP Laucala Campus. These books will be distributed to each USP library across all the regional campuses. *Written by Senior Library Assistant Vaine-Tutai Parima – Cook Islands Campus*

University of Fiji and local government Recreational Reading in the Park Campaign

The "Recreational Reading in the Park" is now a national campaign. In collaboration with the University of Fiji and Ministry of Local Government particular City and Town Councils, a park was set aside for this reading activity to take place every Saturday 2pm to 5pm where book lovers, avid readers and book worms from the community could come together and read. It is envisaged that a community of readers will build-up itself from the park. The reading spaces in the park have been set aside for every Saturday and because it's a public space we don't take statistics of attendance, its there to be used by anyone who would like to/wishes to read outside and enjoy the environment at the same time.

It can be likened to a Picnic spot/resting spot by the roadside for the public. It is always there for that purpose, and no one takes numbers down of usage etc.

Currently, the person in charge of it is Ms. Verenaisi Bavadra. We have invited Town Council Librarians involvement too in the spaces. We go every Saturday to read our book outdoors in the space, sometimes we have some readers and other times none...but it's important that people know that there is space set aside outside for this leisurely activity.



Photo Credit: University of Fiji Library - Syria Park, Nausori.

We are trying to bring back the act of reading and enjoying a book in this digital era, as those who succeed at school, university and at work are readers! The knowledge they acquired was gathered from reading a book. So, it is important that we foster and encourage reading so that we are not only breeding a group of readers but national thinkers who can contribute to improving our nation develop, address health issues and youth problems, deal with the challenges we are now facing as a nation.

On the other hand, the lack of people using the space also narrates a story that we in Fiji are just not readers! And we're wondering why we're in a mess with all these uncontrollable drug issues when our population is still under 1 million.



Photo Credit: University of Fiji Library at Sigatoka Amphitheater

As Librarians, we must educate the public on the importance of reading not only at the school and tertiary level but include the community at large. If we don't begin sometime like now, who will? The 'social ills of society' is blowing in this digital era, and we are here to redirect this wind of change for the good of nation and its futures; our children and grandchildren who come after us when we are gone. Reading is a game changer that strengthens one's knowledge base allowing a person to do 'exploits' *Written by Ela Qica, University Librarian UoF*

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."

Andrew Carnegie

USP Library welcomes Elenoa as part time junior library assistant.



Elenoa Seigaga Cirikidaveta is 22 years old from Nabaitavo, Naitasiri and she shares maternal links to Namuka, Nakelo, Tailevu. She graduated with a Certificate in Library Information Studies in 2023 and is currently pursuing her Diploma at the University Pacific TAFE. Elenoa looks forward to learning and gaining new skills.

DEPARTURES... Goodbye & Moce Mada... Meme!



USP Library said its goodbyes not just to a dedicated library assistant, but to a dear friend whose quiet strength, compassion, and unwavering support touched countless lives. Known to many as Meme, she has been for years the heart behind the circulation desk guiding students, lifting spirits, and bringing calm to our busiest days. Her humour, laughter, patience, and kindness turned her workplace into a family.

The library is saddened by her departure; however, it celebrates Mere's courage to embrace new opportunities and chase dreams beyond these walls. Library Vuvala sends Meme not just with best wishes, but with deep gratitude and confidence, knowing that she has made a positive difference and will be deeply missed but, never replaced.



LIANZA 2025 is a wonderful opportunity to bring people together from across our diverse library and information sector.

The conference will be held September 23 - 24, 2025 at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre in Pōneke Wellington.

To register visit : <https://www.lianza.org.nz/lianza-2025-registration-fees/>



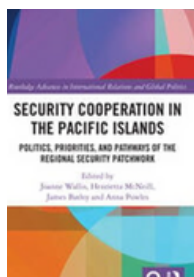
Congress Registration Information

Standard Registration deadline: 15 August 2025, 24:00 CEST

Onsite Registration: from 17 August 2025

Visit : <https://kit-react.de/portal/react/profile/start;jsessionid=ONQl61pPr5I4AAfCMPZnjMLYYDEXKBIIxRyUmo5.node3>

New eResources added to the USP Library Network Collection!



Title: Security cooperation in the Pacific Islands : politics, priorities, and pathways of the regional security patchwork

Author: Wallis, Joanne, editor.

ISBN: 9781041011149

Publication Information: Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY : Routledge, 2025.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003613190> Abstract "Wallis, McNeill, Batley, Powles and the contributors examine the dynamics of Pacific."

Abstract

Islands' security cooperation, analysing how it helps address regional security challenges amid the broader strategic competition between China and the United States that is increasingly playing out in the region. Pacific Island countries do not want to become pawns in this competition, but its impacts are inescapable, creating new security challenges. This book addresses partner states' interests in the region, how these interests and Pacific priorities align, and if not, what the possible consequences may be. It also analyses successful areas of security cooperation and tackles how underdeveloped or underperforming areas may be



Title: Pacific way 50 years on: proceedings of the conference: October 18-20, 2022, Punaauia - University of French Polynesia

Author: Pacific Way, 50 Years On, (2022: Punaauia, University of French Polynesia).

ISBN : 9782493616128

Unique Identifier (TCN) : 1396681

Pacific Collection : DU 28. P335 2025

Abstract

This book brings together the papers presented at the Pacific Way, 50 years on conference, held in October 2022 at the University of French Polynesia. The presentations were given in French or English. This publication is translated and have been presented in French. All the chapters were finalised before the end of 2023 with the aim to produce an educational tool that would be useful to all students and researchers of the Pacific. The symposium, and the book has brought together historical studies on the development of the Pacific Way theme since 1970 and studies on the contemporary period, bringing together the political, sociological-anthropological and economic dimensions which reflect the richness of this reference to the Pacific Way.

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