



FIJI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P O BOX 2292, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji Islands

Issue 2, April 2010 ISSN 1016-9997

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Bula and welcome to the second issue of the FLA newsletter for 2010. I hope you have been enjoying reading our newsletters so far. In this, issue we have more news and more articles for you.

As you maybe aware our AGM is scheduled for 24th April 2010. This means that this is the last newsletter to you by the 2009 Council. I hope you all have benefited from our work for FLA in the past 9 months. It has been a pleasure serving you and the FLA.

I would like to take this opportunity thank all of my Council members and all those who assisted us in any way during our term as FLA office bearers. Vinaka vakalevu. I would also like to give thanks to our Auditor, **Arun Narsey** from A M Narsey & Co, now in his third year as auditor for the Fiji Library Association. Arun provides his auditing service free of charge and is very thorough and careful in his investigations.

Best wishes and pleasant reading!

FRANCIS R. ALI | PRESIDENT.

FLA NEWS

National Library Week 2010

2010 National Library Week will be held from 8th to the 16th of May. The theme is "Communities thrive @ Libraries." For more information please contact Merewalisi Vueti at Library Services of Fiji.

IFLA grants

Gwen Mar and Sharmila Pillay from USP Library are the two Fiji recipients of grants for Pacific Region participants in the 76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly: "Open access to knowledge - promoting sustainable progress" to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, 10-15 August 2010. Gwen and Sharmila will receive assistance for registration, hotel and some additional expenses. Assistance comes from Stichting IFLA Foundation, Swedish Library Association, de Gruyter Saur Publishers and Axiell Library Group AB.

News from ECREA

Recently, ECREA was visited by the Library of Congress (LoC) staff Dr. James Giambatista and a colleague. As a Publisher, LoC visits ECREA on a Bi-annual basis collecting materials for the Congress. ECREA as an organisation was fortunate to have its works disseminated to the world through LoC. It is also ECREA's offering to the World Information Society whereby issues raised from the research are also known to some other communities around the world who must be facing similar issues. This year LoC gathered publications such as

Blessed are rich; Culture and conflict : its implications on young people among others. Dr. Giambatista was not only impressed by the work of ECREA but admired the amount of research and the work on the grassroots level. LoC shared a little bit about their work in the region, collecting works around the region and these are available at various LoC's locations. One of ECREA's contributions to the Education system here in Fiji was the national campaign on the rise of the Bus Fare late last year, government As a social justice organisation, ECREA continues to work on issues such as poverty alleviation, community development, ecumenism, peace building and conflict transformation, Intercultural awareness among others.

Recently, ECREA Resource Centre hired a new volunteer: **Flo Waibuta** to monitor media articles that relate to our work, especially organizing it to make it accessible to all staff. Media we currently monitor are: Fijivillage.com, Fijilive.com, fbcl.com.fj, fijitimes.com.fj, fijisun.com.fj, rnzi.com.nz, fijidailypost.com etc. Flo comes with a background in Management and Public Administration.

Australia 2010 Endeavour Executive Awards

Sonny Vikash Chandra Fiji received one of Australia's 2010 Endeavour Executive Awards and is expected to be in Australia for training until August 2010.



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Tsunami affected School Libraries (Samoa)

FLA has been in discussions with the Library Association of Samoa to assist in the redevelopment of the libraries in two schools destroyed by the September 2009 tsunami. It is expected the schools will be rebuilt sometime this year, and we hope to contribute useful educational resources, and we are seeking the support of members. Watch for announcements on the FLA discussion list.



Library of Congress: Fiji Visit

Dr. James Di Giambatista and Dr. George Dixon visited the Suva-area for the week of March 19-27 on behalf of the U.S. Library of Congress. The purpose of their visit was to obtain for the Library of Congress the publications of Fiji that have been issued since their last visit here In April 2008. The

pair have been visiting Fiji for the Library since 1987. They have served as the Library of Congress' Agents for the Pacific Islands region since 1986.

Many people are unaware that the U.S. Library of Congress gathers publications globally. Dr Di Giambatista and Dixon's responsibility is to know what of significance is being published in the Pacific Islands and gather those titles for the Library in Washington, D.C.

"It's a more complex task than many people understand," says Di Giambatista. "There is no complete bibliographic tool for the islands, although we do refer to several, such as the Pacific Collection at the University of the South Pacific. We look for serial publications on the basis of titles that we know were published in the past. Then we visit places that are a hub for publications such as the USP Bookcentre. We also pay special attention to NGO organizations because they often present differing views of society,

this includes organizations like ECREA, UNAIDS, and the Fiji Women's groups. We had a particularly fruitful visit with Susanna Tuisawau, Director of the Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women. We had never visited this office before and found that they were carrying out a strong and important line of research."

"We visit a few libraries and librarians such as Ms. Soro Talemaicolo at the Ministry of Finance and Ms. Fane Buadromo and Ms. Salote Ravuca at the Parliament Library, but the large majority of our contact is with organizations and offices that are engaged in publishing activities. Our goal is to create at the Library of Congress a strong legacy of publications that will serve researchers for many years to come."

Di Giambatista and Dixon also visited American Samoa and Samoa as part of their travel in the region. They visit the Pacific at least every two years.



PEOPLE UPDATES

Life Membership

The President of the Fiji Library Association congratulates Sonny Vikash Chandra for becoming a Life member of FLA as of March 2010.



Sonny is currently the Principal Librarian of the Fiji National University.

Sonny has been an active member of the Fiji Library Association since 1999 and has served on the FLA

executive council since year 2000.

He has served the Association in various capacities as Council Member, Vice President, Assistant Secretary and Newsletter Editor

He also served on the 2005 strategic planning committee, conference and various workshops committees. Mr. Chandra has organized and conducted several Host evening and has also conducted workshops as well.

Sonny has represented the Fiji Library Association locally, regionally and internationally. He has been an instrumental member of the FLA Council.

Sonny started his career at the Fiji Institute of Technology in 1999.

He has also worked at the Fiji College of Advanced Education as Assistant Librarian, Central Queensland University Fiji International Campus as Library Manager and Fiji Human Rights Commission as Assistant Librarian / Information Research Officer.

He has recently completed his Master of Applied Science (Library and Information Management) from Charles Sturt University, NSW, Australia. He also holds an Undergraduate degree (Double majors) from The University of the South Pacific.

The FLA Executive Council congratulates Sonny for his life membership status and recognizes his contributions to the Association and wishes Sonny a rewarding career. | *Francis R. Ali*

Libby moves on | continued from



previous issue.

Libby Cass first arrived in Fiji back in 2001. After living and working in Sydney as a librarian, she applied for and got a job as volunteer librarian at the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA) under the Australian Volunteers International organisation, and worked there for three years. From her arrival in Fiji, Libby was active in library development. 2001 was the year that Libby joined the FLA and the year she attended her first FLA Biennial conference, held that year in Pacific Harbour.

During her time at ECREA along with colleagues at the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre she secured funding for the automation of both NGO libraries (Softlink LMS). This project saw trainers from Softlink travelling to the country - many Fiji users of Softlink benefited from training provided under his project. It was during her time at ECREA that Libby along with Christina Tuitbou organised the first FLING – Fiji Library Information Network Gathering, this saw a busload of FLA members touring Suva visiting libraries and learning from each other.

In 2004 Libby joined the PRIDE Project as Information Specialist. As the Information Specialist for the Project, Libby was responsible for the strategic direction, development and management of the PRIDE Resource Centre and the project's information, research and communication policy and practice. A key result area (project deliverable) of the PRIDE financing agreement is strengthening regional and national capacities. The establishment of the online Resource Centre was a key activity.

As part of her innovative approach to knowledge sharing with the project and across the region, Libby was responsible for the development of the Network of Pacific Educators (NOPE), see www.usp.ac.fj/nope. NOPE is an on line network of 700+ Pacific educators. Libby was also responsible for the first

community of practice (CoP) for Pacific Educators and the Pacific Archive of Digital Data for Learning and Education (PADDLE), which provides access to key education policy, planning and development material, see www.paddle.usp.ac.fj.

Libby was FLA President from 2005 to 2007, and during that time was instrumental in organising the 2005 Biennial conference, which saw the development of the FLA first strategic plan. Along with FLA colleagues, Libby secured funding from the USA Embassy for the *READ Fiji* campaign and from UNESCO for Fiji's *Information for all* Symposium. Along with SPC colleagues the FLA online discussion forum was set up. As President Libby ensured that the LIANZA invitation and registration sponsorship for the FLA President was also made available to a worthy FLA member.

Since her arrival in Fiji and the Pacific Libby has been an active and outspoken library advocate, this was recognised in 2007 when Libby was elected to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Asia and Oceania Section Committee (IFLA RSCAO). Since then Libby has been vocal in ensuring that the reality for Pacific librarians is understood and was always agitating for change.



Participants at the 2005 FLA Biennial Conference

Libby's work at PRIDE gave her an opportunity to travel to many countries and engage with the Pacific library community. As PRIDE was an education project, as an advocate Libby was able to get school libraries onto the Pacific education agenda. As she puts it: "Through my involvement in the FLA and my travel in the region, I became aware of the desperate situation of school libraries in Fiji and the region. School libraries and their services are inte-

gral to the goals of schools and the aims of the school curriculum."

She adds: "The school library and staff should play a role in ensuring the school community's access to an organised collection of teaching and learning resources and services designed to meet the educational, recreational and cultural needs of that community. Those that work in schools libraries should play a role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of educational policies, curricula, outcomes and programs, with particular reference to the development of students' information literacy"

While at PRIDE Libby was instrumental in assisting the Ministries of Education in the Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Palau, Samoa and Fiji in improving school library infrastructure, including books, ICT and human resource development.

While the PRIDE Project continues into 2010, the PRIDE Resource Centre will not be extended. Key services of the PRIDE Resource Centre have been integrated into USP library activities. This was a decision by the USP Senior Management Team based on a paper presented and discussed at a PRIDE Management Committee meeting. This is in line with the PRIDE financing agreement which states: "On project completion, regional support to Pacific APCs through USP's Institute of Education will continue in the areas of ... information sharing and maintenance of the online regional resource centre..."

As part of this integration, books from the centre have been integrated into USP Library and the USP Tonga Campus library. The two unique databases: *PADDLE* and *Directions* will stay online, care of USP Library. The Network of Pacific Educators will be managed by IOE staff in Tonga.

Libby's contract with PRIDE ended 31st December and she is currently enjoying spending time with her family, while job hunting. Although her future is not yet decided, Libby intends to stay connected to libraries in the Pacific and internationally.



Action for Development through Libraries:

A short course | Praveena Shyam, Fiji National University

I was honored to receive the *Action for Development through Libraries* scholarship from International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) to attend a four weeks course on Information Literacy and Information Technology based at the School of Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand during November and December, 2009.

There were 10 participants from Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, Lebanon, Vanuatu, Samoa and Fiji. The workshop content included basic Information Literacy (IL) skills, critical thinking and independent learning, defining information needs, Dreamweaver web development skills, database structures, web search engines, evaluating information and web sites, citing information resources and ethical use of information, evaluating the IL programme, managing and marketing an IL programme. The sessions included both theoretical and practical aspects of IL. Theoretical learning was based on critical thinking and independent learning, defining information needs, citing and evaluating the IL programme. Practical sessions included search strategies, web creation, web sites and developing web teaching skills.

The workshop sessions were well conducted and presented by facilitators and gave us extensive understanding of the IL programme. Apart from classroom teaching, we were privileged to visit various libraries in Wellington.

Some of the libraries we visited were: Wellington City Public library, Victoria University library, Na-

tional Library of New Zealand, The Parliamentary Library, New Zealand Chartered Accountants Library (special Library), Telecom Service (special library), Industrial Research Limited, The Open Polytechnic library and Upper Hutt public library.

From my personal point of view, I found Wellington libraries were more technically advanced and resourceful. Academic and public libraries have numerous computers with e resources for the convenience of the students and the public. There were



Praveena Shyam with the participants

also a diverse range of books, serials, CD-ROMs, periodicals, videos, monthly bulletin, and electronic databases available. Public libraries largely focused on customers, thus employed Public Relation Officers for promotion and marketed their services.

They held projects and events on customer education such as awareness programmes, seminars, advertising, community and business group talks, and women's group for promotion. Customer oriented staff provided door to door services for elderly citizens, including those unable to attend libraries but still interested in reading. They could borrow and return books even from their home with the assistance of mobile libraries. Another challenging aspect of their services was offering various electronic databases through a network of academic,

public, and research libraries. Each library in collaboration contributes share of funds to lease out electronic databases covering many relevant subjects for use in their own libraries.

The Professional development training supported through this workshop enhanced my knowledge and allowed me to explore future career prospect in the library discipline as well as creating a network of the participants from other countries. The sharing of ideas and suggestions by participants enhanced my knowledge of library management and daily operations. This opportunity was a breakthrough in my career as it is an ideal opportunity to learn about people from different cultural backgrounds. Meeting people of diverse cultures was uncomfortable at first but when we lived together, shared each other's food; jokes and the very funny things we did together certainly brought us closer and formed a network that kept us in touch until today.

I would like to acknowledge and give my appreciation to Professor Gary Gorman, Dr. Don Dorner, Dr Philip Calvert, Brenda Chauwner, Rohini Biradavolu and all the wonderful staff at Victoria University. A big Vinaka Vakalevu to you all for your generosity and warm welcomes.



OOOO

Libraries: New Beginning with Mobile Technologies | Vilimaina Vakaciwa.

Librarian. The University of the South Pacific.

Are libraries in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) ready to leap into a new dimension of technological advancement: the use of mobile technologies for library services? Some libraries may have mapped it in their strategic plans; and is a featured topic in meetings and brainstorming sessions, but it is still a dream for others. While libraries in the developed world are taking a giant leap maximizing the potential of mobile technological devices, libraries in developing island nations are lagging far behind. Many Pacific Island libraries lack proper infrastructure, funding and appropriate resources - perhaps the technology may not befit the local service context. Regardless of our differing approaches, mobile technologies are a global trend at the cutting edge of Information Communication Technologies (ICT). These technologies have been invented and reinvented that connect people and time in a split second. People young and old are hooked, and impact our daily lives, both socially and culturally.

If these hand-held technological devices are penetrating speedily, what can developing libraries in Pacific Island countries do? Are we ready to embrace the transition and re-adjust the way libraries operate? Undeniably, libraries are under utilized by our young people: less reading, more texting is their lifestyle. The love and joy for reading is fading, and mobile technologies revolution is sweeping the globe. A new direction for peoples and institutions alike: walk, talk and think digital.

These emerging technologies force Pacific libraries into paradigm shifts, questioning traditional library practices. We need to deliver services that library patrons think and feel should be; not what librarians believe them to be. Libraries are steeped in their own status quo, reluctant to transform and dare for new beginnings. With such a rigid attitude, can we fully embrace the needs and demands of users?

Trends in mobile tools and applications for libraries are rapidly changing. The mobile market is flooded with hand-held devices: mobile phones, blackberry curve, iPhones, iPod touch, Kindle, RADIUS eReader, Sony Playstation portable, and devices running

Google's "open" software operating system Android. These have multimedia features: text, photo/picture, spoken (interactive voice response), location based & gesture access. Mobile phone users can access library operations and services; opening hours, and activities like story-telling time. Information Literacy tutorials can be transmitted via SMS messaging. Mobile web lets us search library catalogues, read reviews of new books, check our personal records for books borrowed, overdue fines or recall notices. The iPod touch of visual & sound features can host a virtual library tour. Referencing service can be delivered through interactive voice access or texting. Libraries can choose from a rich array of mobile technologies.

Mobile technologies boost best practices and encourage effective learning in our young people. The time is now, a new beginning for Pacific libraries.

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FIJI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS

Look back in FLA History to those who steered FLA from 1972 till now...>>

Find out more @: www.fla.org.fj/about us

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The Secretary
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Encourage a friend or colleague to join, or rejoin, our Association.

Remind them of our membership benefits: scholarships, FLA newsletter, workshops, seminars, member discounts and more!"

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FLA IS NOW ONLINE
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WWW.FLA.ORG.FJ



FLA Website works best with Microsoft Internet Explorer

CONFERENCES

Building Bridges in Amsterdam: 16–17 August 2010.

IFLA Satellite Meeting. Amsterdam public library after IFLA in Gothenburg

Building Bridges for Children's Access Rights: Effective cooperation of children's and school libraries. Building Bridges is about empowering children & young adults through school-library partnerships. The theme includes school libraries in the educational context, services for school libraries by public libraries, co-location, 'brede school' joint facility in community centre, including other services: health centre, cultural centre, kindergarten etc.

The conference will bring together experts and colleagues from schools and libraries to work on a better understanding of professional values and practices and present concrete examples of successful bridge building projects. Includes creative on-site learning visits in small groups to innovative children's libraries, school library services and child focused programmes.

Full programme: www.debibliotheken.nl/home/NLSatelliteIFLA2010

Early registration: <http://www.meles.nl/smd/nl/html/algemeen/actueel/satellitemeetingwlic2010inamsterdam.pshe>

M-Libraries

Third International M-Libraries Conference is now confirmed for 11th – 13th May 2011 at the Brisbane

Exhibition and Conference Centre, hosted by the University of Southern Queensland.

Conference flyer: <http://library.open.ac.uk/mLibraries/2011/index.html>

Join their Facebook group for the Call for papers and other updates:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7719700810>

LIANZA Centennial Conference, 28 Nov – 1 Dec 2010, Dunedin, New Zealand

Call for Abstracts

The LIANZA Centennial Conference 2010 Committee invites abstract submissions for oral presentations, workshops, poster or "other" presentation formats for the next LIANZA Conference. Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Programme Committee to decide who will be invited to present at the Conference. Deadline for submitting abstracts is Friday 25 June.



Review criteria include relevance to the Conference theme, originality of ideas, significance of results, accuracy and quality of presentation. Authors should submit abstracts online and as early as possible, but no later than Friday 25th June.

For more details please go to LIANZA Conference 2010, or contact the Conference Secretariat:

Helen Shrewsbury, Conference Innovators Email: helen@conference.co.nz

Brisbane 2010! 14th International Forum on Research in School Librarianship

International Association of School Librarianship Association (IASL) and School Library Association of Queensland

Four strands:

- Developing curriculum
- Delivering excellence through standards
- Supporting the digital education agenda
- Building literate communities

Early bird registration for the SLAQ / IASL 2010 Conference is open until 30 April 2010

Information: <http://www.iasl-online.org/events/conf/2010/>

Registration: <http://www.slaq.org.au/events/2010/registration.htm>

Clearly Brisbane is the place to be...

