

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE 22ND Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania

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Name of Country/Region : Cook Islands
Name of Library : Cook Islands National Library
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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The strategic objective of the National Library is to preserve, perpetuate and enhance the Cook Islands cultural heritage. At the same time ensuring that the National Bibliography is enhanced, expanded, increased and readily accessible to the public.

The National Library has two full time staff who basically manages with library duties as well as assisting with the Ministry of Cultural Development's four main events in cultural performances. Assisting other libraries on the island of Rarotonga (including the schools) is also one of the services that the National Library offers.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

In October 1992, the Cook Islands Government established a National Library which is accommodated in the Sir Geoffrey Henry National Culture Centre/Te Puna Korero complex under the umbrella of the Ministry of Cultural Development. However, it was not until April 1993 that the National Library Service became fully operational.

The National Library is guided by the Ministry of Cultural Development (MoCD) Act 1990

Part II, 4, 1 (a):

"Preserve, perpetuate and enhance the Cook Islands cultural heritage in order to uphold tradition and develop an appreciation for this important national resource"

and

Part II, 4, 2 (d):

"Carry out or oversee as appropriate all activities of the Library and Museum, Archives, Anthropological Services, National Arts Council, Constitution Celebrations, Audio-Visual Recording Unit and such other related responsibilities as may be added from time to time and be prescribed in any enactment"

Today, it holds over 8,000 books consisting of:

- Cook Islands and Pacific Collections,
- Theses and Reports about the Cook Islands or Cook Islanders,

- A small collection of children's fiction and non-fiction,
- Adult non-fiction books and other reference materials.
- Cook Islands Act
- Rare Books about the Pacific and the Cook Islands

Primarily the National Library serves Rarotonga, the main largest island and capital of the Cook Islands. It performs a dual function, firstly that of a National Library and secondly as a public lending library.

It is our hope that our Pacific and Cook Islands collection will expand gradually as the focal point of reference for Cook Islanders and Researchers. Amongst the Cook Islands collection, we have copies of theses and reports written by Cook Islanders and Non-Cook Islanders.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

The National Library has a staff of 2 and a collection consisting of Cook Islands, Pacific and Reference. The National Library also hold a very small collection of rare books and reports. A number of visitors and researchers come to the National Library to read newspapers, research and other services provided. We have an average of 150 people per month.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

The National Library is currently in the process of drafting a Legal Deposit Bill to preserve the Cook Islands cultural heritage and national identity. Once the Bill is passed through Parliament, it will contribute to the rapid increase of the Library collection.

The National Library hopes that the Legal Deposit Act will be passed in Parliament by June 2015.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

The National Library looks forward to digitising the the whole collection in the near future.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

The National Library started using the open source software KOHA in 2008 which became available online. Unfortunately, the database could no longer be accessed as the server no longer works since 2010.

In 2012, the national bibliography was partly extracted from the KOHA database and converted into a Microsoft word document with the hope of making it available on the Ministry website for public access. However, the website was hacked early this year and is currently unavailable.

Therefore, the National Library is now operating with access of information manually.

7. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS (LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS)

- The National Library have worked with a number of government departments on Rarotonga assisting them with setting up of their libraries
- The New Zealand Government have in the past funded for a staff to attend short-term trainings in New Zealand Libraries:-

2004: Alexander Turnbull Library and the National Library of New Zealand, in the areas of library services and cataloguing, focusing on the Cook Islands collections in their libraries;

- 2012: Auckland Council Library, Auckland , New Zealand focusing on Digitisation
- 2014: An invitation from the National Library of Australia to attend the 22nd CDNL-AO meeting was sent to myself and I am grateful for the wonderful opportunity as this will be a learning experience to better the services and

standards of the National Library of the Cook Islands. A big thank yo to the National Library of Australia.

- 2014: The National Library of New Zealand has offered to fund my travel to Australia to attend the 22nd CDNL-AO meeting this year. I woulk like to say thank you very much to the National Library of New Zealand for this opportunity. Without your help I wouldnt be here to witness and learn new ideas to help me and all of us in the National Library oc the Cook Islands. Thank you again to everyone at the National Library of New Zealand.

8. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND PUBLISHERS IN YOUR COUNTRY/REGION

The National Library works together with the authors an publishers of the Cook Islands helping them to get ISBN and ISSN