

National Library Service of Papua New Guinea Annual Report
For the 22nd Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
27 February 2014

Name of Country/Region:	Papua New Guinea
Name of Library:	National Library Service of Papua New Guinea
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1. General overview

National Library was established in 1975 by Cabinet Decision 11/75 and its functions were broadly outlined. It is responsible for the development of library and information services of the country. The branches and sections provide a wide range of support services to other organisations as part of its national development obligations.

The functions of this Service as directed by Cabinet included;

- To maintain and develop a national collection of library materials, including a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Papua New Guinea and its people;
- To provide library services to Parliament and to Government departments, authorities and institutions;
- To promote literacy, encourage reading and disseminate information and ideas by the establishment of public libraries, mobile library services, rural library services and by other means;
- To advise on, coordinate and rationalise the resources and services of government libraries;
- To make available such other services, in relation to library materials (including bibliographical services) which the National Library Service thinks fit;
- To cooperate in library matters with authorities or institutions concerned with library matters, whether in country or elsewhere.

The National Library Service of Papua New Guinea with the National Archives and Public Records Service and the National Literacy & Awareness Secretariat form the Office of

Libraries and Archives. It is a division of the Department of Education. The Office is headed by the Director-General and is responsible directly to the Minister for Education. The Office is governed by the National Library and Archives Act 1993.

- One of the most needed developments began last year when the Government allocated some funds for an integrated library management system. There is a possibility of having the library management system up and running by end of this year.
- Another development is the Government's funding support to develop school libraries which was administered by the National Library from 2011-2012.
- National Library continues to organise reading promotion and awareness through book week. In 2013, the National Book Week was held from 5th – 9th August with the slogan: ***Learn To Read, Read To Learn*** where 75,000 posters were distributed nationwide through one of the daily newspapers.
- The most recent development is the American Corner which was opened on 26th September by Ambassador Walter E. North, the Ambassador of USA to Papua New Guinea. The purpose of this Corner is to serve the general public on information on USA including education and study opportunities in USA.

2. Relationship to government

- National Library Service as branch of the Office of Libraries and Archives is a division of the Department of Education. It is under the Ministry of Education. All funding for the Office of Libraries and Archives is controlled by the Dept. of Education.
- National Library Service as part of its national development obligation provides advisory support to all school libraries for schools under the Government's education system, including training of teacher librarians to manage school libraries.

3. Key facts and figures

The 2013 figures are;

- Budget: PGK1.3 million (Est. A\$500,000.00)
- Staffing: 23 staff ceiling
- Holdings: 100,000 volumes
- Visitors: 7,292
- Membership: 2,760

4. New developments in creating and building collections

- National Library Service continues to promote the awareness on the Legal deposit provision of the National Library & Archives Act through the use of ISBN to publishers and authors. This has encouraged writers and publishers to deposit their materials in the national collection.
- Continues the campaign on the importance of reading, books, and libraries through the Book Week activities has shown school authorities eager to develop their school library collections. This has cascading effects on bookshops and book suppliers.
- The development of school libraries for all schools under the government's education system encourages local authors and publishers into writing children's books.

5. New developments in managing collections

- General Collection (Lending Collection)
Continue to maintain the lending collection for users to have the privilege of borrowing materials.
- Special Collection (Public libraries)
Support the provincial public libraries under Provincial Governments to maintain and develop their special collections.
- Special Collections (School libraries)
Since 2011 the Government funding for school libraries started the development of special collections in school libraries for schools in the government education system.

6. New developments in providing access to collections

- Access policy
The Access policy has been revised to allow for more secure to the materials due to a lot more demand or request on certain materials causing handling issues.
- Library Management System
The process on discussions of the library management system is progressing well.

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums)

- Cataloguing sharing
Records were shared with the Michael Somare Library, University of Papua New Guinea to minimise duplication, the practice ceased. Discussions are in the pipeline for continuing this sharing. The Michael Somare Library is one of the country's repositories.

- Professional associations

In 2011 the PNG Library and Information Professional Interest Group was formed in collaboration with Michael Somare Library at the University of Papua New Guinea and the Library, Pacific Adventure University to revive the PNG Library and Information Association, it has since died due to an ineffective executive.

8. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and publishers in the country/region.

- Papua New Guinea International Standard Book Number (ISBN) Agency
The purpose of this Agency is to promote the use of the ISBN scheme in the publishing industry. The Agency allocated ISBN to the publishers who in return deposit legal deposit copies to the National Library.
- Cataloguing In Publication (CIP)
National Library Service through the ISBN Agency provides the CIP for publishers who request for the service.