



FIJI COUNTRY REPORT

CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS NATIONAL LIBRARY IN ASIA OCEANIA, 2015

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

1.1 Establishment of Memorandum of Agreements with Municipalities.

The department of Library Services of Fiji (LSF) has over the year's established verbal partnership with 3 municipalities (Nausori, Nadi and Ba), in 2012 our Ministry of Information, National Archives and Library Services of Fiji signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Sigatoka Town Council who opened a new Library with the assistance of LSF.

Fiji has 13 municipalities, LSF have branch libraries in 3 municipalities (Lautoka, Savusavu and Rakiraki). However, in other 2 municipalities (Suva and Tavua) there are 2 libraries in operation 1 for the council and the other is our branch library. This is where an MOA/MOU needs to be established to avoid duplication of processes and encourage sharing of resources.

1.2 Community Libraries.

In light of the government's mandate in creating a knowledge based society, the department has over the years from 2011 to 2014, established 30 community libraries in schools and villages in remote rural areas. This, however also resulted from the community outreach services and radio talk back show that the department has engaged itself in.

These community libraries work as homework centres in the evenings with the involvement of parents and youths to assist and supervise children. They have two different sessions and time slot for lower primary level, upper primary level and secondary level. This establishment is also to address the increasing rate of school dropout in rural areas.

1.3 Fiji National Bibliography

This publication was lapse for quite a number of years. In 2010 the department was collating accession listing from other depository's institution and was shelved since the retirement of my predecessor who was spearheading this project, however, this year we are targeting to at least collate some content (70%) of the FNB and wish to publish it by 2017.

1.4 School Library Proper Organization

The department played an important role in overseeing the development of school libraries. The department has been given budget for the provision of furniture and relevant resources, and to oversee the progressive improvement of school library facilities that will boost the intellectual capacity of the students in Fiji. Every academic year, LSF has established 100 school libraries in the remote rural areas, and able to facilitate workshops for teachers on how to maintain and sustain their school library services.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The initial establishment of LSF by the British Council in 1964 was to establish a kind of Government experimental station which will do research into the problems and methods of bringing about the overall development of libraries in Fiji.

After 51years of existence, the Department of Library Services of Fiji has been governed by the policies and ACT that governed the Ministry that LSF was assigned under. In 1972 Government took over administration and was assigned under the Ministry of Housing and Social Welfare, and over the years was providing free access to research and information material.

LSF now assumes the responsibility of coordinating the development of libraries in the public and Government Departments; and in 1982 it assumed the responsibilities of coordinating the development of school libraries. It became part of the Ministry of Education and remained until August 2009 where it was relocated to the Ministry of Information, National Archives & Library Services of Fiji. In 2014 the Department was appropriately relocated under the Ministry of Education Heritage and Arts and remain since.

2.1. National Library ACT

There has not been any National Library established for Fiji, therefore LSF assume the role of a National Library by overseeing the development of Public, School, Community and Government Department Libraries.

In 1969 a plan for National Library was submitted by D.G. Edwards. It was shelved by Government,

In 1972 Kanti L. Jinna submitted a new National Library Plan but it was not included in Development Plan 6 by the Central Planning Office.

In 1975 K.L. Jinna prepared a draft 'National Library Services Act' and also drafts 'Rules of the National Library Service of Fiji'. Apparently there was no response from the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Social Welfare.

In 2010 concept paper to establish the National Library was submitted and presented to the Development Sub Committee (Permanent Secretary's forum), the outcome was not a priority at the time. However, the proposal is anticipated to be re-submitted.

This year, consultation has been undertaken with various stakeholders for the Establishment of the National Library ACT.

2.2. Library Deposit ACT

The two depository institution in Fiji is the University of The South Pacific and the National Archives of Fiji which is under the Ministry of Information, National Archives. LSF has submitted a proposal to review the Library Deposit ACT with the inclusion of LSF as one of the depositories; however this was shelved for some unknown reason.

2.3. Government's OUTCOME

There are 4 outcome of Government that our Ministry align its operation to, 3 of which LSF effectively contribute.

2.3.1. Education and Training.

LSF's major contribution to the policy objectives of this outcome is to create a-knowledge based society. The provision of Library Services is the output that addresses this outcome, strategising on the relevant information dissemination, oversee the progressive development of library facilities in-terms of public, community, schools and Government department libraries and ensure appropriate resources placed in libraries are accessed by users and able to meet the informational demand of its users.

With regards to Training, workshops are conducted to enhance teachers' skills in maintaining and sustaining the school library service and the importance of information literacy skills.

With the change in curriculum to resource based learning, we see the opportunity to work holistically with Ministry of Education in providing and supplementing resources that will assist in the resource based learning process of students, thus, creating a-knowledge based society.

2.3.2 Gender Equality and Women in Development

LSFs contribute to the policy objectives output in providing skills based training or functional literacy training that will encourage and enable women to function in a complex society.

Secondly, the provision of training in information literacy skill will enhance their knowledge and enable them to assist their children's research, enable them to understand the importance of reading, which will positively contribute to improving livelihood.

2.3.3 Poverty Alleviation

LSF's contribution to the policy objectives of this outcome is to ensure that all categories of poor have access to any library facilities near them and to have access to information that will assist them in improving and building their intellectual capability. Therefore LSF has extended its community outreach services and ensure that information needs are identified and community library established to address this outcome.

Skill based training (book based) is also one of the output that LSF is conducting in terms of up-skilling women and youths in remote rural areas to enhance their livelihood and also to enable them to produce product from books and foster creativity that they can supplement their household income.

Moreover this will enable citizen to make informed decision about their lives, thus contributing to the reduction of social problems and crime rate.

2.4. Key Performance Indicator (KPI)

Library Services of Fiji (LSF) is under the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts. Therefore LSF align its vision (Quality Education for change peace and progress)

and mission (Library Services serves the advancement of literacy, teaching, learning, research and skills acquisition within Fiji by meeting the diverse information needs of the communities, targeting the disadvantage rural communities through efficient, effective and innovative services for lifelong learning) to the Ministry.

In totality, there are eight (8) KPIs; **Formulation of policy documents on priority areas** (Library Policies), **Resource Management** (Acquisition, Cataloguing and classification and distribution), **Loans Management**(User education services and Reader Services), **Advocacy and marketing** (co-ordinate national and international event to advocate on the importance of reading and libraries, its roles and services, participate in radio talk back show on all radio station (English, Itaukei and Hindhi), **Library establishments** (Community libraries), **Libraries enhancement and proper organisation** (Schools and government departments), **Training and community development** (Teachers and School librarian training, functional literacy training targeting women and youth, literacy camp targeting primary school level), **accountability** (School and community library auditing and stock take of public libraries)

The above KPIs has quarterly targets and achievements are monitored by the Strategic Framework for Change Co-ordinating Office (SFCCO) under the Prime Minister’s office

3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES

3.1. Libraries in Fiji

The number of Libraries in Fiji as at 31st December, 2014 is **996** libraries. **14** public and municipal libraries, **27** special libraries, 30community libraries, **25** academic libraries and **900** school libraries. The bulk of the number is in the schools, however, there are classroom collection existed in schools due to lack of facilities, thus the need to re-organise school libraries.

3.2. Membership in LSF libraries and libraries in Fiji

Tabulated below are the memberships of all libraries in Fiji as at 31st December, 2012

YEAR	TYPES OF LIBRARIES	
	PUBLIC LIBRARY	ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

	MUNICIPALITIES	LSF LIBRARIES	COMMUNITY LIBRARIES	
2014	27,787	26,804	12,206	95,000

- School Libraries membership cannot be determined as libraries are only accessible by students and staff depending on the school roll. Also their collections supplement their curriculum and fictional materials are mostly available in school libraries to assist in their literacy development especially in Primary School Level.
- Special Libraries membership cannot be determine, as their library is reference library with resources specifically for the roles they play.

3.3 Usage of LSF libraries service and collection

YEAR	LAUTOKA		TAVUA		RAKIRAKI		SAVUSAVU		NASESE		REFERENCE LIBRARY
	ADULT USERS	JUNIOR USERS	ADULT USERS	JUNIOR USERS	ADULT USERS	JUNIOR USERS	ADULT USERS	JUNIOR USERS	ADULT USERS	JUNIOR USERS	
2014	17,604	14,647	7,063	4,417	6,968	6,803	5,712	4,856	5,335	9,111	6,204

The tabulated numbers above is mainly for LSF branch public library services, and the reference library that is house in the National Archives building.

3.4 Schools Assistance and Resource Distribution for 2014

Type of Libraries	BOOKS		Library Tables		Library Chairs		Book Shelves	
	No. Of Titles	Cost (\$)	No. Of Tables	Cost (\$)	No. Of Chairs	Cost (\$)	No. Of Shelves	Cost (\$)
School library (56 assisted)	8,370	81,869.08	34	13,323	194	9,312	40	11,900
Community Library (6 established)	1,045	14,019.97	6	2,325	34	1,632	16	5,040
1 new public library established	317	2,444	2	687	10	480	4	1,260
5 branch libraries	1,972	34,413.02					30	9,950
TOTAL	11,704	132,706.07	42	16,335	238	11,424	90	28,150

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

5.1 Improveselection criteria – obtaining list of Curriculum Support Materials from the Ministry of Education for books to be purchased for Primary/Secondary Schools in the rural and remote areas.

5.2 Improving selection policy – amending the current selection policy to suit the current needs of users.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

6.1 Standardise classification of materials for all Branch Libraries.

6.2 Provide training for all Branch librarians/Schools & Community libraries

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

7.1 Providing catalogue drawers for catalogue card to all branch libraries

7.2 Train Public Librarians on updating catalogue records.

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

8.1 Collaboration between other librarians (Police Force, Reserve Bank, FLA) on matters relating to Library Awareness.