

Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
Annual meeting of 2016 – at the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington NZ

Annual report of *Avalogo Togi. Tunupopo*,
[National University of Samoa]

Period covered by this report: January 2015 – February 2016

Name of country: Samoa

Name of library: NUS Library

Name(s): Avalogo Nanai Togi A. Tunupopo

Name of contact person for international liaison: same as above

Mailing address: NUS Library, Toomatagi Street, Vaivase. PO Box 1622, Apia,
SAMOA 0002

Telephone: +685 – 20072 exts. 300 / 366 / 370

Fax: +685 – 25489

Website: <http://www.nus.edu.ws>

Email address for international contacts: ttunupopo@nus.edu.ws

1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:

- NUS Library is the leading library in Samoa in organizing library courses with the Ministry of Education for foundation students. It was through MESC, that NUS manages to conduct institutional strengthening programs to provide short term certificate training for School Librarians from 2005 to 2010. It was at this stage, that the Ministry took a serious look at the development of school libraries in their ten year strategic plans and this became the impetus to develop and promote librarianship and telecentres. The Librarian also assisted the MESC in pushing for a legislation on Records management and as a consequence the Public Records Bill came into fruition in 2011. The Librarian is a Board member of the National Archives and Records Authority (NARA) committee and meets annually to discuss relevant issues in the profession. The Librarian is a key speaker in advocating for the importance of libraries and information centres in Samoa. He is also a founding member of the Literacy Week committee since its inception in 2012.

2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

The National University of Samoa was developed by an Act of Parliament in 1984.

- 1997 – the University (NUS) shifted to its new campus at Vaivase
- NUS Act [2006] allows for the merger of the Library and former Samoa Polytechnic, as well as developing a Library Statute and new structure.
- Total annual operating budget in the 2015 /16 year is SAT\$70,000, 98 percent proportion of budget received from Government versus two percent proportion received from external sources, total staff (FTE) is 13. (Note: three of the library staff currently have graduate or post-graduate library qualifications and nine with qualifications in other disciplines);
- 49,800 total volumes of physical items in collections, plus 20,000 volumes of Journals plus a 300 total number of preserved digital objects in repository.
- Other statistics (200 number of visiting active library users to reading rooms per day and 120 number of website visits per month),and 10 number of interloans request provided per month .
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3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

- (i) Public Records Bill 2011
- (ii) 15th Parliamentary Assembly disestablish in Feb 2016, in preparation for the General Elections in March 2016

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:

- (i) New Parliament Building to begin construction in 2016
- (ii) NUS has submitted a Proposal for a New University Library in May 2015 to the Cabinet Development Committee of Parliament

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:

- (i) Some of the key libraries such as the SPREP, USP School of Agriculture, NUS Library, Apia Public Library, Parliamentary library, National Archives, Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration, several private school libraries have undergone respective digitization projects to manage and provide new access to their individual collections.

Many libraries struggle with the lack of expertise and staff who are committed to working in libraries and information centres.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:

There is rapid growth in the development of School libraries and programmes to improve the literacy levels of children in schools.

Another major development visibly making a difference in Samoa is the supply of Office and School stationeries and Books for libraries from two Bookshops namely the Samoa Stationery and Books Company and the Business Systems Limited. More innovative and excellent access to school and library supplies of equipment and books is improving the development of smaller libraries.

7. NOTES ON YOUR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS IN YOUR COUNTRY:

I have a relatively easy access and a good network with the Libraries in general directory and other related institutions such as Museum and Archives, Ministries and local independent organizations.

We undertake to meet every two years on a general conference and meeting basis as it is costly to operate an annual general meeting. Membership are hard to maintain and people are only interested in joining for short term benefits and do not appreciate long term support.

8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:

- For example: formal arrangements for cooperation with another National Libraries.
- The Library Association of Samoa (www.las.org) subscribes to the LIANZA and IFLA, but are also finding it difficult to keep its financial payments sustainable.

We have in the past been fortunate to develop Library staff training from winning projects and funds from IFLA and some regional organizations.

(Revised template October 2015, NL_#562055)

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