

**Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania  
Annual meeting of 2018 – at the National Library of Myanmar  
(Naypyitaw), Myanmar**

**Annual Report of National Library of Vanuatu**

Period covered by this report: (2016-2017)

Report compiled by Chief Librarian, Margaret A. Terry

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**Name of country:** Vanuatu

**Name of library:** National Library of Vanuatu

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**1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:**

The establishment, maintenance and administration of the National Library of Vanuatu is mandated under the Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act # 30 Of 1985 and its subsequent amendments; specifically Section 5 of the Act which specifies that the Council under which the Library operates is established:

(a) to support, encourage and make provision for the preservation, protection and development of various aspects of the cultural heritage of Vanuatu;

(c) to support, encourage and make provision for the establishment, maintenance and development of public libraries;

(d) to establish, maintain, administer and make provision for such national institutions as the Council shall consider necessary and appropriate for the purposes of its objects including (but not limited thereto) the following national institutions

(g) to foster co-operation in matters related to the provision of museums, libraries and international relations between the Council and governments, organisations and bodies interested therein.

(i) the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, including the National Museum, the National Library, the National Film and Sound Unit and the National Cultural and Historic Sites Survey.

The Vanuatu National Cultural Council was enacted through this act which took over as the over-arching statutory body responsible for the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta) VKS, the National Museum, National Library, the Port Vila Public Library as well as the National Archives of Vanuatu (which has its own act as well)

The VNCC since 1985 had been operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs till 2016 when it was transferred to the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services.

The National Library of Vanuatu does not have its own act however it was established and operates as per requirements set out in the following legislations:

Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act

[http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol\\_act/vncca362/](http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/vncca362/)

Book Deposit Act JR36 of 1974

[http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol\\_act/doba178/](http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/doba178/)

Also of relevance is the Archives Act 13 of 1992

[http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol\\_act/aa98/](http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/aa98/)

At this stage Vanuatu has yet to develop library related policies which projects a challenge for any nationwide library development initiatives, however the National Library is hoping to make a marked improvements in the next few years.

## **2. FACTS AND FIGURES:**

Condominium Post Independence period

1950—1980

The origin of the National Library of Vanuatu and the Port Vila Public Library began in the late 1950s when the French and English governments decided to jointly build a centre that would house indigenous cultural arts and crafts. In 1961, the centre was opened and a small book collection was established as part of the New Hebrides Cultural Centre, which after Independence in 1980 became the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta - VKS).

The VKS building at that time housed a library and a cultural centre that held local artefacts, many of which remained part of the current collections exhibited at the Vanuatu National Museum and the National Library of Vanuatu. The library collection grew and eventually branched into two, giving birth to two separate collections, the Vanuatu Collection and the General Collection.

In 1995 the Vanuatu Collection was relocated to the new Cultural Centre Complex and was renamed the National Library of Vanuatu. It continued to develop in the space provided at the Cultural Centre Complex..

In 2013, a new Archives Building was completed, through Australian funding. Upon completion, the National Library moved into the top floor and has shared the building with the National Archives of Vanuatu since.

The National Library does not have a government grant specifically appropriated for its operations and staff. It's operations and staff are covered by the National Archives government grant, which currently stands at a total of VT10,400,000 (USD 99,440.00). Operations budget excluding staffing is VT3,286,465, an equivalent of USD31,422.00.

The National Library has 2 fulltime staff plus 1 finance officer and a cleaning staff who work for both the library and the archives.

The Chief Librarian holds a PGDip in Library and Information Management. The Assistant Librarian holds a Certificate in Librarianship.

## Statistics

### Collection

The total volume of our collection currently stands at 15,050.

A breakdown of the collection by publication type is shown below:

Article:	1467
Book:	4315
CD/DVD:	58
Conference/Symposium/Workshop Proceedings:	224
Handbook/Manual:	300
Manuscript:	60
Map:	1
Monograph:	1534
Newspaper:	355
Paper - Technical/Working:	1646
Periodical:	1731
Report:	3562
Review:	70
Thesis:	211

### Visitors

Visitors to the Library include researchers, students and parents, members of the public, government officials and tourists. In 2016 we received a total of 3584 visitors. This number decreased to 2868 visitors in 2017. This decrease is indicative of our outreach programs wherein staff brought events and activities from the premises, out into the communities.

### Short Loans

The Library offers short hourly loans only. 2017 statistics show a loan of a total of 1, 123 items lent throughout the year.

### **3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:**

The years 2016 and 2017 proved challenging, yet successful. Challenging in that the National Library, technically does not have a budget for its operations, staff and programs. However it had been another successful year because operating on the appropriated National Archives government grant, the National Library was able to engage in various events, programs and activities as well as offer new library services.

#### Staffing

2016 proved quite difficult as the first and second quarter of the year began with staff movement which included some termination, recruitment and resignation. By the third and fourth quarter, the staff team was stable, meeting challenges and making progress.

In 2017 staff were involved in a series of in-house training and the assistant librarian resumed tertiary studies on a part time basis and graduated at the end of the year.

In 2017, the Chief Librarian was elected into the IFLA RSCAO as a member.

#### Events and Activities

In 2016 Library staff assisted in setting up numerous exhibitions, engage in cultural festivals and assisted in a big way with the Cultural Centre events such as the 2016 Lapita Festival and the Tupunis Food Festival.

In 2017 Celebrated the International Archives Day: June 9 2017 held outside the premises as an outreach program in Erakor Village

Celebrated the Global Media and Information Literacy Week from October 30 to 1 November 2017 at the National Library

Library staff continued to assist in setting up numerous exhibitions and engage in cultural festivals and assisted.

In 2017, the Chief Librarian was elected into the IFLA RSCAO as a member.

#### **4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:**

Our collections are growing at a rather slow pace due to the fact that we do not have a book budget and as such, very rarely purchase new books. Our collection expands through the generous support of individuals and organisations.

That does not demean the quality of the collection though; it is small but very valuable and we do our utmost to maintain it with the highest level of care.

In 2017 the only change we made is the reclassification and re-shelving of the Thesis Collection, a much prized and much used collection.

#### **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:**

There has not been any major development in this area in the last 2 years although we continually add to the collection and continue to provide access to library user.

#### **6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:**

The National Library is hoping to contribute to improving the literacy rate of Vanuatu and as such developed a program called the School Libraries Support Program.

This program consists of:

- pre-training school library survey
- 3 weeks intensive hands-on training for potential librarians
- continuous professional support and
- follow-up visitations

The program was developed in 2016 and trialed in 2017. It proved quite successful however the challenge is to source funding for the follow-up visitation.

Our plan is to have this program supported by the Ministry of Education and political representatives of the schools constituencies. If that transpires, the program would transpire and hope would lead in developing libraries in outer islands and in the end improve attitudes to reading, with an end to improving the national literacy rate.

The lack of support to local publishers in terms of CIP and ISBN services results in many local published works being released without ISBNs and CIPs. In an effort to improve this lack and ensure local materials get on the global registry, the National Library now offers this services to all publishers in Vanuatu.

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

The National Library is located in the same building as the National Archives of Vanuatu since 2013. It operates with the financial support of the National Archives, whose establishment is mandated by an act of Parliament and therefore enjoys an annual government grant.

The National Library also works in very close collaboration with the National Museum, the National Film, Sound and Photo Unit, all of which function under the administration of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and the Vanuatu National Cultural Council, as well as the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, the ministry responsible for the sector.

Because of the size of the staff teams of these various institutions, effort, skills and expertise are shared to organize and host events and activities such as exhibitions, festivals and promotional programs.

The National Library is a member of the Vanuatu Library Association (VLA) so actively engages in VLA's activities.

We are also working collaboratively with other partners such as the Media Association of Vanuatu and the UNESCO's National Commission for Vanuatu, numerous diplomatic missions as well as community based groups involved in the preservation and promotion of the various aspects of culture.

Margaret Terry (Chief librarian) is also a member of IFLA RSC-AO.

## **8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:**

At this stage, there are no formal, signed and sealed international collaboration between the National Library of Vanuatu and other national libraries. However, there are informal correlations and shared initiatives established with other national libraries through contacts made via regional trainings, programs and other work related networks.

Examples of these include:

1. Who:  
With the Library Services of Fiji (LSF) starting in 2016

How:  
Through my participation in INELI as a member of its Cohort 2

What:  
Through a meeting convened at the Auckland City Library, contacts were made with librarians from around the region. The Head of LSF attended and it was during this meeting as well as another meeting (see NLNZ)

2. Who:  
With the National Library of Papua New Guinea (NLPNG) starting in 2016  
  
How:  
Through my participation in INELI as a member of its Cohort 2  
  
What:  
Through a meeting convened at the Auckland City Library, contacts were made with librarians from around the region. The Head of NLPNG attended and it was during this meeting the our network was established.
3. Who:  
With the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) starting 2017  
  
How:  
Through a CDNL-AO project which was aimed at strengthening the sustainability of national libraries around the Pacific Small Island Developing States, spearheaded by Mr. Winston Roberts.  
  
What:  
Through a meeting convened at the NLNZ, contacts were made with staff of NLNZ with their offer to assist in any way they could. At this meeting, contacts were also established with librarian from Fiji, specifically the LSF, Cook Islands and Samoa, specifically the University of Samoa Library)
4. Who:  
With the other Pacific Islands Libraries 2016  
  
How:  
Through my participation in INELI and through CDNL-AO  
  
What:  
Through a meeting convened at the Auckland City Library, contacts were made with librarians from around the region. The Heads and staff of numerous Pacific Island Libraries attended and it was during this meeting as the we established networks.

Thank you.

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