

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VANUATU

Country Report to CDNL-AO 2012

VANUATU

Ms. June Bela NORMAN, Chief Librarian

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General overview

Major growth at the National Library of Vanuatu within the past year is the progress work of the new National Library & Archives building. During the thirtieth Anniversary of the Independence Vanuatu in 2010 the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia gave a special gift to the people and the nation of Vanuatu, a new National Library & Archives building. This has been the major development in the National Library of Vanuatu.

Relationship to Government

The National Library of Vanuatu currently operates under the Vanuatu Cultural Centre which comes under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It works closely with Government Departments to ensure that all copies of publications around the country are submitted to the National Library. A Copyright and Related Rights Act has just been endorsed and commenced in February 2011. Other Acts that affects the library's operations includes the Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act; Archives Act; Deposit of Books Act; and Copyright and Related Rights Act.

Key facts and figures

The National Library has over 13, 000 catalogued items in its main Collection. The Library is being manned by two library staffs. Budget has been an issue for the National Library of Vanuatu until the recent development of a new building. The Library has been running on a zero budget for at least the past seven years. It is our hope that we will have our own budget when the new building is up and running. The library has recorded over 2000 visitors in the last year.

Development

The Library only depends on the Deposit of Books Act for the expansion and building of its Collection because there is no budget allocated for the National Library of Vanuatu. Overseas researchers and library friends have also been donating items to the National Library.

The National Library staffs are currently working on government reports making sure all issues are collected and kept in the National Library Collection. This will ensure that the library has complete collections of these reports. We are also giving out to schools double copies and making sure that the library has at least three copies of the publications.

Collaborations with Other Institutions and Professional Associations

The National Library of Vanuatu is the only national collecting institution in Vanuatu. We work closely and have a very good relationship with the National Archives of Vanuatu. The National Library & Archive are current members of PARBICA and participates with other libraries and archives around the country.

Education and Training

Staffs of the National Library have taken the Diploma course offered by the University of the South Pacific and have graduated from this. Hope the University can upgrade the course so that staffs may be able to increase their qualifications.

The National Library staffs are providing basic training to library users on how to use the catalogue and how to locate materials within the library. Library users can now access the library catalogue any time they wish when inside the National Library using any computers around.

From the National Library of Vanuatu we would like to wish all National Libraries around the world a successful year ahead and all the best!!!