



29th General Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania [CDNL-AO]

2023

Country Report
CDNL-AO Meeting in Qatar, Doha
31st October to 2nd November, 2023

[Report period: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022]

National Library of Vanuatu





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Name of Country	:	Vanuatu
Name of Library	:	National Library of Vanuatu
Name(s) of National Librarian,	:	Nelly Caleb & Betty Williams
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Facts and Figures

a) Operational Budget:

The National Library of Vanuatu (NLV) does not have a government grant or a separate budget but operates under the National Archives of Vanuatu (NAV) budget heads. The total budget for its operations and staffing cost is six million Vatu (6,000,000 VT) per annum which is approximately equivalent to 6,000-USD per annum. The main source of income or revenue is collected through requested photocopying and laminating services apart from book donations and book deposits.

b) Total Staff/ Qualification

The NLV is currently staffed with two (2) permanent staff member; an assistant librarian, who is currently Acting to the position of the Chief Librarian, and a trainee librarian. The Assistant Librarian holds a diploma in Library and Information Science from the university of the South Pacific accredited by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), while the trainee library is yet to enroll for USP library courses. The finance and administrative office matters is undertaken by the finance/administration officer of the NAV office. Although the NLV is currently understaffed, the two officers always ensured that basic roles and responsibilities of such an institution is effectively carried out. In doing so, they make sure that the collective knowledge of the Nation's Heritage is equally accessed and disseminated through induction programs and other support services so that all library users and covering; special touring groups, school field trips, community groups, private sectors and public at large are well informed and able to access information required or of interest. The work performed by these staff is well acknowledged and appreciated. These include support in terms of the "know how" to use the library catalogue search; the collection content knowledge; and how to navigate and locate a book, resource or an item in the collection within the National Library.

c) Collection Size

The physical collection of the NLV itself, is 15,600 items in total, a summary of which is outlined in the table below.



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Library collections in total

Items	Total
Articles:	1475
Books:	4323
CD's/DVD's:	58
Conferences, Symposiums & Workshops Proceedings:	227
Handbooks/Manuals:	305
Manuscripts:	64
Maps:	1
Monographs:	1534
Newspapers:	355
Papers- Technical & Working:	1651
Periodicals:	1747
Reports:	3582
Reviews:	70
Thesis's:	218

The COVID pandemic coupled with the frequent occurrences of severe tropical weather conditions has continued to pose threats and bigger challenges to the library collection. On the bright side, the NLV is fortunate to have received confirmation from UNESCO for funding support towards a Book-Eye High-Tec scanner that will enable digitization of the Library collection. This achievement and its subsequent implementation for digitization of the library collection is anticipated to start in early 2024.

d). Visitors Per Annum

The number of visitors in 2022 was quite low compared to the past years, due to the restrictions caused by Covid-19. Local visitors from around the communities, schools, other groupings, government officials and the general public made a total of 332 *visitors* for the year 2022.

Activity	National Library
Usage & Loan	114
Visitors	332
Researchers/Membership	293

However, this number has started to increase again when restrictions were lifted and the needs for research and information slowly picking up again. We anticipate to see some difference in this numbers for the year 2023 and going forward.

e). Inter-Library Loan

The NLV also provides short-term and hourly loans to interested parties. Record shows a total of 568 items were accessed and borrowed in 2022.



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Overview of Major New Developments in Library Building, Collections, Access and Services.

Tribute & Acknowledgement

Although the National Library of Vanuatu has experienced some major setback during the pandemic, the continuous joint collaboration between these two (2) institutions (NLV & NAV), resulted in the delivery of some successful major developments and initiatives for their buildings, collections, access and services. Unfortunately, these achievements also came with great loss. During the course of the great endeavors, the NLV also lost two of its great pioneers and strongholds – the Chief Librarian and the Preservation & Digitization Officer. The team is indebted for the efforts, contributions and passion displayed by these two and wishes to deeply acknowledge their hard work, dedication and perseverance. Late Mrs. Margaret Austrai Terry and Late Mr. George Wilbur have both left footprints that will be hard to forget and shoes too big to fill.

Some of the major developments and initiatives undertaken so far, and which the two late pioneers have been instrumental in its success, are outlined below:

1) Fencing and Lightings

The property housing the NAV and NLV facilities is located close to a nation public area, known as the Saralana Park, where most national and regional events usually take place. Given its close proximity to public gatherings, there was a need for proper fencing and lighting to be installed to secure the property. Funding support was secured which enabled the erection of security lights to provide enough lighting and night security around the vicinity as well as a proper fencing around the buildings with the installation of a secure gate at the front where public could only access during working hours.

2) Book donation

Individuals and groups who remained very good friends of the library continue to generously donate books and information resources to the collection. Professor Matthew Spriggs donated 600 items from his personal library collection and the British Friends of Vanuatu donated 4 boxes of resources such as books, thesis papers, Pacific journals (in full volumes), rare old Newspapers, Vanuatu very old and rare books of Christianity Missions and Explorers to the islands back in the 1800 – 1900s.

3) Exhibitions

The library also runs its exhibition programs to commemorate major events throughout the country. These exhibition activities continue to pose a very important component to active learning about the Nation's collections, besides the ongoing school development program and community awareness programs. The exhibitions held so far continue to yield successful outcomes from initiation through to execution and dissemination of information.

A list of Exhibition programs carried out by the NLV are outlined below:

1. The inaugural coronation of the King – exhibited at the National Library facilities and also at the foyer of Hotel Chantilly's along the main street of Port Vila town.



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2. Public Services Commission (PSC) Career Day – promoting the different tasks and functions carried out by PSC – Convention Center
3. Vanuatu Independence Day – Exhibition and Library talk (Struggle for freedom)
4. Celebrating Fr. Lini’s Day – The history and biography of Fr. Walter Lini, First (1st) Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu.
5. Cultural Event – Slow Food – Promoting Indigenous cultural and traditional knowledge and developing healthy eating habits.

4) [Cultural festivals and events](#)

During Cultural festivals and events, NLV staff also took the liberty when travelling to rural communities for these engagements; to visit rural communities and library schools to conduct school library awareness programs and run short training/workshops to teachers, teacher librarians and library attendant in the rural communities.

5) [Vanuatu National Library Services Policy](#)

In the past two (2) years, the National Library worked closely with the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission (VLRC) and the Vanuatu Library Association (VLA) in establishing the country’s National Library Policy. While the final draft for the proposed Vanuatu Library Services Act is still pending; a formal letter was drafted and delivered to all government Ministries and Departments to comply with the Book Deposit Act (Cap. 88). As a result, the NLV is now receiving annual reports and other literature works from departments, researchers, and local authors to add to the National collection.

Collaborations with Libraries, Archives and Museums in Vanuatu

The NLV is always passionate about collaborating with other libraries, archives and museums around the country and internationally. We remain an active member of the Vanuatu Library Association (VLA) and also keep our close working ties with the cultural center which includes the National Museum and the National Archives.

The NLV continues to maintain good relationship and collaborate well with the special library of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu, as well as the Emalus campus University Library. The Emalus Campus Library normally sends their Distance-Learning Students for work attachments at the VNL.

We are always open to receiving invitation from other overseas Libraries, Archives and Museum to form partnership or collaboration.

