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Trip Report

Suva, Fiji

8 – 18 July, 2018

Summary

The main purpose of the trip was to:

- Complete digitisation of Pacific Theological College student theses
- Facilitate workshop with staff and students at University of the South Pacific

Pacific Theological College Library

I originally planned to visit Fiji in May, after attending the *Ke Au Hou: Generations of Pacific Librarianship* conference at the University of Hawaii in Manoa. Much to my frustration, a few broken bones in my foot meant delaying all travel for at least three months – all fieldwork was postponed and my colleague Eve Hadow stepped in at the last minute to deliver our paper in Hawaii. This delay meant arriving in Suva in the middle of winter, but a Fijian winter was sweet relief from the frosty Canberra winter.



I arrived at the Pacific Theological College Library on Monday 9 July, aiming to finish digitising the Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Theology student theses that I had started in September 2017. Only a few years of theses were remaining and I managed to get the digitisation done in four days. More experienced with the camera this time around, I worked more quickly than last year, but still have a lot to learn about image capture in the field, particularly in fluctuating light. This is a large collection which I'm aiming to have released as PMB MS 1427 later in 2018.

I spent my final day at PTC looking through a box of photos. It turned out that many of these photos were from the Hilda Steadman collection and had been microfilmed by the Bureau back in 1994. I opted to crosscheck the photos against microfilm [PMB MS 1074](#) using a great old Indus Super Carrel microfilm viewer



The Indus Super Carrel

rather than PTC's more modern machine. It was so great looking at these images and manuscripts on the big old screen.

Once again I would like to thank the staff and students of PTC for giving me such a warm welcome. Particular thanks go to Suliana, Ana, Nalini and Prof Holger, and to the staff of the Jovili Mission Centre where I was accommodated for the week.



From the lounge room of the Jovili Mission Centre, PTC

University of the South Pacific, Laucala campus



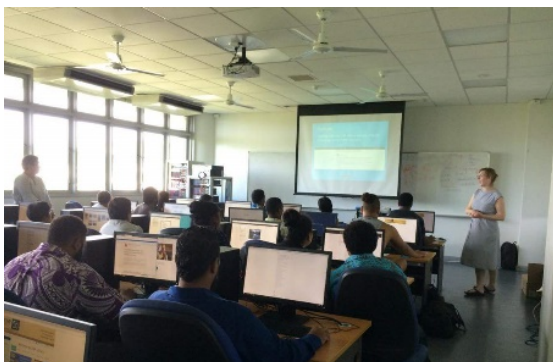
USP Library

On Tuesday 17 July I facilitated an interactive workshop for staff and students at USP Laucala campus on searching the PMB catalogue. Much to my delight the computer lab filled up with academics, students, and staff from USP library and archives. After giving some context of how Pambu operates, what is held in our collection and what USP students are able to access (digital collections), we delved into the catalogue itself. Using examples and hands on exercises, we worked through the following topics:

- Catalogue structure (collections/parent and items/children)
- Understanding collection metadata
- Interpreting and sorting search results
- Word vs phrase searching
- Filtering search results
- Advanced searches – Boolean operators and wildcards

Workshop participants were engaged throughout and about half the group stayed on for an extra half hour beyond the lab booking! Interacting with participants as they worked through the various exercises, it seemed that everyone was picking up new, useful bits of information, with many using the time to search for collections aligned with their own personal research interests, which is great! I found it a very rewarding session and I hope the participants did as well. I hope to facilitate more workshops in 2019 at ANU and UPNG.

You can read what *The Fiji Times* had to say about the workshop [here](#).



Staff and students during PAMBU catalogue workshop. Photo credit Jamie Bloss.



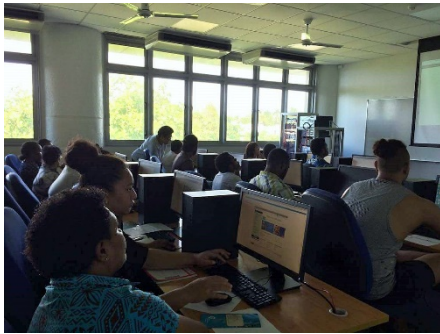


Photo credit Jamie Bloss



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In the afternoon I met with USP Archives staff to discuss ICA AtoM and the USP archive. I was excited to see plans for their new repository which promises to be a great facility for USP.

A very big thank you to all the staff and students of USP Laucala campus who made me feel so welcome – it is always such a pleasure to visit your campus! Particular thanks to Gwen Rounds and Nic Halter for organising all the workshop logistics, and to Morgan Tuimalealiifano, Jacqueline Ryle and Jason Fello for your time and assistance during another enjoyable visit. Vinaka vaka levu!



Departing sunny Nadi for frosty Canberra

Kari James
Executive Officer
Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
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