

Annual report of Library Services of Fiji

Period covered by this report: calendar year 2016? Other period? (Please specify)

Name of country: Fiji

Name of library: Library Services of Fiji

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1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:

- Library Services of Fiji (LSF) is governed under the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts and the legislation which affirms the Library contribution to the education sector is stipulated in the Education Act which is currently under review. The departments relations with the National Archives is that we operate under the same Ministry, however there are two institution that have the Depository Act and that is the National Archives and the University of the South Pacific.
- The Department has the responsibility of overlooking the development of 736 primary school libraries and 180 secondary school libraries in Fiji and also the Public Libraries in Fiji in which it has 5 branches around the country and had 3 partnerships with municipal libraries.

2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

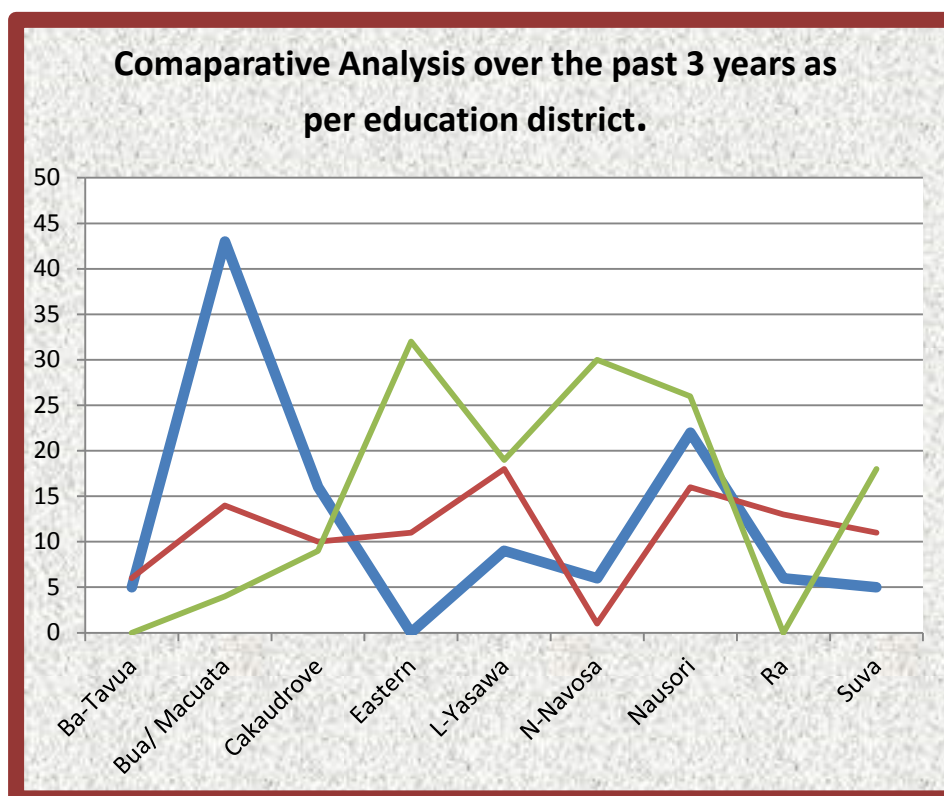
- 1964 – Established by the British Government
- 1972 – Fiji Government took over administration.
- 1975 - The department was assigned under the Ministry of Urban Housing and Social Welfare.
- 1982 – The Department was assigned under the Ministry of Education and remains since August 2009.
- August -2009 – the Department was relocated to Ministry of Information, National Archives and Library Services of Fiji until 31st Dec, 2013.
- 2014 – The Department was reassigned back to the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts and remains since.
- 2015 has seen the increase of our total annual operating budget of 1.75million and we have projects funded by Australian Direct Aid and Fiji Water of about FJD400, 000, and there was an increase of \$FJD2.5million in 2016.
- We have a total of 36 staff of which (1 staff have master degree in a different discipline, 3 post-graduate in other discipline, 1 undergraduate degree in Management 2 staff have undergraduate degree Library and 7 staff have Para-professional library qualification with Certificate or Diploma, the rest are the support staff)
- We have a total of 92,000 collections in print, DVD and Audio.

- BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY AROUND FIJI

BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARIES		1 ST Qtr.	2 nd Qtr.	3 rd Qtr.	4 th Qtr.	TOTAL
WESTERN REGIONAL LIBRARY	LOANS MANAGEMENT	1772	2853	3377	5901	13,903
	VISITORS	3118	2500	3528	3329	12,475
	REFERENCE QUERIES	77	86	69	109	109
TAVUA PUBLIC LIBRARY	LOANS MANAGEMENT	758	962	634	993	3347
	VISITORS	2100	2750	2573	2870	10,293
	REFERENCE QUERIES	320	578	739	555	2192
RAKIRAKI PUBLIC LIBRARY	LOANS MANAGEMENT	2000	1983	2063	2207	8253
	VISITORS	512	1003	1987	503	4005
	REFERENCE QUERIES	250	561	617	819	2247
SAVUSAVU PUBLIC LIBRARY	LOANS MANAGEMENT	2120	2234	2170	2415	8939
	VISITORS	700	712	750	931	3093
	REFERENCE QUERIES	198	213	227	270	908
NA SE	LOANS MANAGEMENT	1008	1250	1258	1807	5323

	VISITORS	420	312	320	470	1522
	REFERENCE QUERIES	230	212	215	264	921
TOTAL		15,583	18,209	20,527	23,443	77,530

SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSISTANCE AROUND FIJI: A comparative analysis over the past 3 years (2014 -2016)



Education District	YEARS			TOTAL
	2014	2015	2016	
BA/TAVUA	5	6	4	11
BUA/MACUATA	43	14	4	61
CAKAUDROVE	16	10	9	35
EASTERN		11	32	43
LAUTOKA/YASAWA	9	18	19	46
NADROGA/NAVOSA	6	1	30	37
NAUSORI	22	16	26	64
RA	6	13		19
SUVA	5	11	18	34
TOTAL	112	100	138	350

3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

A recent major development was the streamlining of processes, especially from manual cataloguing to automation. The Department was established in 1964 and after its 51 years of existence, finally Library automation processes was introduced in December, 2015.

This project will be on phase basis, beginning with our main Suva office, which is a Central Processing Unit and holds master catalogue records of resources that has been distributed to all public libraries, school libraries and community libraries around Fiji, however in the 2016 Budget announcement, The Department has been given an extra budget for further development into supporting digital literacy. This year it has seen the extension of our automation process into our Public library, in which our Lautoka and Savusavu office have been automated, however, it is the data input that is a challenge.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:

The Library Services of Fiji has acquired an e-platform where all our eBooks are purchased and downloaded into our library systems. Our Liberty system has been very helpful in-terms of managing our collections and has helped us to purchase the relevant resources need for students and citizen of Fiji.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:

In terms of providing access to collections, the department has purchased and made available e-books into our system which can be viewed and accessed on our OPAC.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:

In terms of new developments in other services, the Department of Library Services has reached out to the community especially into the hard to reach community who has been deprived of having access to information. We have been setting up community libraries cum homework centers to help provide the space for the children and community members those that are continuing their study through Technical colleges or Distance and flexible learning through universities.

Functional literacy has been very effective in some of our community library. This programme or activity focuses on assisting the development of community members to be able to function in a complex environment or community. Lifelong book based skills are taught to the women in the community, some books are being translated to help them acquire and develop book based skills that will enable them to supplement their household income, thus contribute effectively to the eradication of poverty.

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

Library Services of Fiji have 5 branch libraries in some of the municipality around Fiji, and have partnership with 4 other council libraries around the country, also it works closely with other libraries like Reserve Bank of Fiji, The University of the South Pacific and importantly with the Fiji Library Association.

The National Archives of Fiji and the Museum are also under the Ministry of Education hence other departments are always supporting the Museum during Open day at the end of every month.

In addition, LSF departments work closely with these two departments, including the University of the South Pacific forming the Memory of the World Committee.

8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:

International collaboration is minimal; however LSF would be grateful if we could be assisted in terms of assistance for training attachment / exchange work programme / study visit or further professional development that will enhance capacity building in the Library Services of Fiji.

Malaysian Government usually had training for library staff, if they could re-introduce their training programme that some of us in Fiji has benefitted. India has assisted us with training of two of our personnel in modern library practice courses and we look forward for more of this from other advance countries.