

Annual report of National Library of Papua New Guinea

Period covered by this report: February 2017

Name of country: Papua New Guinea

Name of library: Waigani

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1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:

The National Library and Archives of Papua New Guinea is a Government Agency under the Ministry of Education, It operates as an entity on its own with the Act of Parliament passed in 1993. The organization has two main functions that are (1) the national library deals with the National Collection and coordination and management of library services throughout the country, (2) the National Archives manages all the public and nonpublic records for country.

In the past (before 1985) the country use to have public libraries throughout the country but when the Law on Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government came into force it transferred all the functions from the national level to provincial Government. By then most of the services collapsed but only six survived. The national archive only has a branch in one province (Lae, Morobe Province),

The organization now has a ten year plan called the National Library, Archives and Records Services 10 year strategic Plan 2016 to 2025. The plan focuses on reviving or restoring all library and archival services in all provinces even reaching down to the district and community levels.

2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The national Library was given as a gift to PNG in 1958 and in 1975 the government recognized it as an entity. The National Archives was also established in the same year but was managed by a different entity of the government until 1975 it became a branch within the education ministry....
- The total annual budget for the National Library and Archives is 3 million kina approximately 1 million US Dollars which is insufficient to support the organization.
- There are almost 30,000 collections in our main collection however, our challenge is how to preserve these collections.
- There are 300 visitors who come to the national library every day and weekly is 1500 visitors.

3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

The National Library and Archives is now re-organizing or restructuring to provide services throughout the country as the result of the new policy directions. The plan focuses on reviving or restoring the all 23 public libraries and archives, 89 district libraries and 1300 school libraries and home libraries. The task is quite huge which we might not achieve all targets by 2025, but at least some progress has to be made in these areas.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:

In the ten year plan, there is a planned activity to improve the existing infrastructure to accommodate all needs. There is a plan to expand and develop new infrastructures to cater for all needs and construction will begin in 2020.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:

The ten year plan enables access to library and archives records and collections. Currently many people travel into the national headquarters to access information which is very costly. In the plan we are taking the information to the owners.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:

The other developments that the organization is looking into is to have all the development partners to establish their libraries or corners within the national library for that the people of PNG can learn different cultures, climate, politics and economics. Other who wants to pursue studies in various fields can tap into the variety programs offered in developed countries.

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

Office works with National Museum on programs that relates to heritage, since there are no other achieves in the country the office receives many request from organizations both private and public to help them on archival training and services.

8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:

- The national Library and archives currently have connections with National Archives of Australia where many of our historical records are kept and preserved.