

Annual report of Solomon Islands National Library Service

Period covered by this report: January to December 2016

Name of country: Solomon Islands

Name of library: Solomon Islands National Library
Service

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1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:

The Solomon Islands National Library Service is a Division of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development. The National Library of Solomon Islands was established in 1974 with the aim of reorganizing existing library services and extending reading services to the entire nation. It was not until 1979, a year after independence, however, that the Libraries Act finally established the National Library Service and required it to provide an “efficient library service throughout Solomon Islands. The National Library moved into its present premises, built by the Government in 1981, from its earlier location at the Honiara Secondary School.

Initially, the role of the National Library Service covered two areas of service. The first being to support a national identity, it is responsible for the collection, preservation and exploitation of local and international publications on Solomon Islands including materials deposited under the Legal Deposit Act of 1972.

The second area of service was the organization of public library services throughout the country, the provision of technical assistance to the government departmental libraries and assistance in the organization of libraries in schools and other educational institutions.

2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

The Solomon Islands National Library was established under the National Library Service Act No.4 of 1979. It is situated in the capital city, Honiara opposite the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development.

The National library has two collections (Solomon Islands Collection (SIC) and the General Reference Collection) and is accessible free to all nationals, both to researchers and readers within the country and overseas. The Solomon Islands Collection housed at the National Library is a collection of national importance and the most important kind in the country. As the name implies, the Solomon Islands Collection consists of materials on Solomon Islands, featuring subject areas such as anthropology, history, World War II, education and government. Other publications in the collection include reports, statistics, thesis and dissertations on Solomon Islands and by Solomon Islanders. The SIC is the legal depository section of the National Library, a requirement of the Libraries (Deposit of Books) Act. It is a closed access collection and is mainly used by students and researchers. The SIC holds 12,000 items. The General Reference Collection holds about 7,000 items on all subjects including atlases, dictionaries, mathematics, accounting etc.

All funding for the National Library is controlled by the Ministry of Education. The total annual operating budget for 2016 was SBD586,976.

The National Library has nine staff. Two graduate with diploma in library and information studies, three with certificates and one without a library certificate. The other three are auxiliary staff.

We usually have an average of 400 people per month who come to the library to read newspapers, do researches and other services provided.

2. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

With the assistance of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development the National Library has gone through some renovation and re-furbishment. The public no longer have direct access to the two collections we have. The collections are now stored in two separate rooms and only the staff responsible has access to these collections.

Book Donations

In 2016 we received three consignments of books from Rotary Australia and New Zealand. The consignment consists of books for Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary schools. Though we received quite a huge number of requests from school principals requesting for library books, only fifty schools benefitted.

3. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:

- The National Library will continue to provide reading books and reference materials to schools throughout the country
- Continue to provide basic training for teacher librarians/volunteer. Conduct training for teacher librarian and library volunteers as to how books and collection can be preserved and looked after. Also taught them on basic library operations, basic cataloguing and classification.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:

- Library Management System

Since installation of Koha Library Management system in mid 2015 a total of 800 books have been catalogued.

Total library collection as at 31st December 2016 stands at 19,000. The acquisition for 2016 is at a cost of . The total acquisition includes printed materials only.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:

The National Library organized story-telling session for children ages 3 to 5 years every Tuesdays and Wednesday from 10 to 11am every week. This story-telling session was organized purposely for children who were not able to secure space in any of the Kindergarten schools in Honiara. Since the introduction of this story-telling session in 2007, the total enrollment increased drastically every year.

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

- After returning from the CDNL-AO meeting in Wellington, New Zealand in 2016, I tried several times to call a meeting to form the Solomon Islands Libraries Association but did not succeed.

7. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:

In December 2016 I received an invitation from the National Library of China to attend CDNL-AO meeting in Beijing which I am very honoured for this wonderful opportunity as this is will be my second time to attend this very high and important meeting.

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