

IFAP Principles in action in the Pacific, presented at Pacific IFAP Committee meeting, Wellington, New Zealand, 6 May 2008. Libby Cass

Introduction

Thanks to UNESCO New Zealand National Commission for inviting and funding my presentation at this meeting and for giving me the wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues face to face. I hope to build on the attendance of previous participants, Joan Yee, - University of the South Pacific (USP) Librarian, Margaret Austrai-Kailo - USP library Vanuatu, Dionisia Tabureguci – Journalist Pacific Islands Business, and Tamina Noddy - Papua New Guinea Telikom librarian.

To prepare for this meeting I consulted with previous participants mentioned above and other colleagues, including members of the following:

Pacific Islands Archives and Libraries Association (PIALA)

Fiji Library Association (FLA)

Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICSOC)

International Federation of Library Association - Regional Standing Committee on Asia and Oceania (IFLA RSCAO)

Institute of Pacific Studies (USP publisher)

My presentation at this Pacific IFAP Committee meeting will be informed by the work of others and my own experience as Information Specialist for the Pacific Regional Initiatives in the Delivery of basic Education (PRIDE) Project a regional education project funded by the EU and NZAID. I am fortunate that my work has given me the opportunity to visit many Pacific Islands countries, and talk information issues with many people. I have been asked to provide a short presentation on “translating IFAP information priorities into Pacific actions”, based on the five priorities (2007-2013) adopted at IFAP meeting in Paris (April 2008).

How we might translate these priorities into actions in the Pacific? My presentation will cover the 5 priorities and provide an understanding and assessment of their status in the Pacific. I have produced as an appendix¹ a table summarising selected past, current and future actions (both the real and the *possible*). I hope to prove that there is a need for *coordinated regional action to address information issues*² – with long term goals, maximum impact and action that is well supported and funded by development partners, national governments and regional organisations.

Information for development

Many Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) have signed up to the principles of the knowledge societies (equal access to quality for education, respect for cultural diversity, freedom of expression and universal access to information)³ through their own national development

¹ Appendix 1 for Table of selected past, current and future actions

² See Appendix 2 for draft outline of regional action

³ UNESCO Knowledge Society Principles as defined UNESCO (2006) Information for All Programme

plans, regional plans and international commitments and membership. For example; National Development Plans (see bibliography), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) (2006) *Pacific plan for strengthening regional cooperation and integration*, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) (2006) *Pacific regional digital strategy*, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) (2007) *Pacific Principle on Aid Effectiveness* (PPAE), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) (2001) *Forum Basic Education Action Plan* (FBEAP) PRIDE (2007) PRIDE Benchmarks for national strategic plans, Education for All (EFA), Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and UNESCO membership⁴.

“*Knowledge societies*” are not part of the development discourse in the Pacific, by governments or donors (development partners). There is I believe little understanding, emphasis and application of the principle of universal access to information. *The I in Information for All (IFA)*. The gap in universal access to information is evident in the same national and regional plans that I have just mentioned. If you read the plans there is little mention of the 5 priority areas of IFA or any emphasis of knowledge societies or knowledge economies. This presents serious challenges and many opportunities for IFA in the Pacific, in fact I believe that there is a critical need for a regional strategy/action⁵ to address this key principle of knowledge societies “universal access to information” and the wider goals of the Information for All Programme (IFAP). The Pacific Principle on Aid Effectiveness (PPAE) draws heavily on the Paris Declaration. The implementation of the PPAE will require information for development (I4D) and will provide new opportunities for advocacy and action on I4D. So again the opportunity to present at this meeting is respectfully acknowledged. And the role and work of this committee is crucial to translate these priorities into actions in the Pacific.

Education in many countries gets the largest national budget allocation. Many Ministries of Education (MoE) have responsibility of providing **BOTH** access to quality education and universal access to information (2 of the 4 principles of knowledge societies). This is due to the fact that many MoE also have under their portfolio their National Library and Archives or public libraries. (For example Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Palau, Fiji,)

However given the education needs in the region this has a big impact on *IFA* in the region. Given the challenges in providing access to quality education it is sad but not unusual find that the National Libraries and Archives and public libraries are poorly resourced – in human resources, collection development and services.

The Tuvalu National Library & Archives, through the MoE received a collection development budget of \$500 in 2006/7⁶. The Niue public library (under the Department of Culture) received a similar allocation. The Cook Islands National Library (CINL) has not had a budget allocation for 4 years⁷ (CINL is under the Ministry of Culture). Some PICs do not have a National Library or Archive (NLA). For eg, Nauru has no N Archive or Library and its public library burnt down many years ago, Yap’s public library roof

⁴ http://erc.unesco.org/cp/MSList_alpha.asp?lg=E

⁵ See Appendix 2 for draft outline of regional action

⁶ 2006, Tuvalu Ministry of Education Budget, , Tuvalu

⁷ Justina Nichols, 2007, National librarian 2007 (interview with author)

blew away in April 2004 when Typhoon Sudal struck and it still needs rebuilding⁸. There is no National library in Fiji; however the Ministry of Education through Library Services of Fiji have responsibility for the 6 public libraries and all school libraries. Suva City Library (managed by Suva City Council) has not had a book budget since 1987⁹.

ICT (the technology aspect) is in the Pacific and some members Pacific IFAP Committee present at this meeting are involved. Pacific regional digital strategy (200 is the key regional action for ICT it established the following priorities:

1. The improving access to communications technology
2. Reducing costs
3. Establishing higher bandwidth to the global ICT 'backbone'
4. Removing inappropriate regulatory environments in order to foster higher levels of investment
5. Strengthening ICT skills in the development of rural telecentres.

Examples of this strategy in action include the recent work of Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System (RICS) project¹⁰. There are exciting developments in the Pacific with the One Lap Top Per child (OLPC) pilot project that is being implemented in the SI (through SPC, PIFS and others). There is also the well established People's First Network (PFnet) in the Solomon Islands and community telecentres in Samoa. Community radio is also a small and important player. There have been several regional workshops and the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICSOC) meets annually and runs an active mailing list. There is of course print and other media in the Pacific.

An important consideration here is the cultural context of information in the Pacific. These include the regions oral traditions and the fact that it has 1,310 languages or 19.0% of the world's total.¹¹ PNG alone has 820 alone.¹² The Pacific's history of missionaries and colonialism and the growing emphasis of traditional knowledge, indigenous rights, information ethics and intellectual property means that the questions of; what information? who owns it? how can it be accessed? Are important and are still being debated.

Information literacy (IL)

IL knowledge and application in the Pacific context is low. While many countries claim good literacy rates¹³, *IL* as we in this room understand it is low. In my own regional education project we have regional [Benchmarks for National Strategic Plans](#) and IL is an indicator¹⁴. IL is not yet incorporated into the Pacific education curricula nor does it have an enabling environment. This was discussed at a PRIDE regional workshop *Rethinking*

⁸ Rungrad, Isabel, 2007. *Yap State Public Library-Coping with Disaster*, unpublished paper.

⁹ Sharif, Maureen, 2008 Suva City Librarian (interview with author)

¹⁰ http://www.spc.int/corp/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=227&Itemid=1

¹¹ http://www.ethnologue.com/ethno_docs/distribution.asp?by=area

¹² http://www.ethnologue.com/ethno_docs/distribution.asp?by=country

¹³ http://www.spc.int/prism/mdg/map_literacy.html

¹⁴ See indicators for [Benchmark 2](#) "Skills for life and work locally, regionally, and globally"

the teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy in the Pacific held in Tonga, May 2006. The paper has been published in Pacific Education Series, No 4 2007¹⁵. IL is not mentioned in the Pacific Digital Strategy or in the Pacific Plan. Nor in any (many) national development plans of PICs.

A major component of PRIDE is the implementation of sub projects within countries, in fact, more than half of the total allocation of funds from the EU and NZ is available for this purpose. These are developed and implemented by the countries. Through requests for technical assistance from participating countries, I have visited 7 of our 15 countries and am pleased that 5 have developed and are implementing sub projects to improve IL and libraries. In fact 4 staff members from the Cook Islands MoE are currently here in New Zealand as part of a training program to with the National Library School Services.

In 2007 I conducted an IL survey at Tuvalu High School (only government school 500 students 40 teachers). Both students and teacher believed that they had poor IL skills, 68% of teachers said rarely used the library to teach information skills to classes and a significant percentage of students (85%) rated their information literacy skills as poor or very poor. The IL environment was poor the library collection outdated and in poor condition (so to was the building). Internet (satellite) arrived early 2007; there are only 4 PCs for student access. Internet logs showed little use for teaching and learning (teachers were the worse offenders – bebo most popular site).

Tertiary institutes in the region have new students who have low IL skills. University of the South Pacific Library (USPL) have experience of students typing whole exam questions into Google. There are also academic concerns over plagiarism. USPL runs a very good IL program, however as student of USP myself this semester I know that my fellow students (and lectures) do not always take advantage of the training.

Information preservation

In the tropical island environment information preservation presents a huge challenge. Even to a well resourced archive, museum or library, but to PICs it is even greater. PAMBU¹⁶ provide a great service to the region, but more needs to be done to strengthen archives and record management in the Pacific islands as well as libraries and museums. This includes not only assistance in preservation (digital and traditional). Pacific Regional of the International Council of Archives (PARBICA) is the most informed and active network.¹⁷

Through PARBICA's regular surveys & reports, members have demonstrated concerns of near absence of qualified recordkeeping professionals. In this environment , members feel it is difficult to persuade decision makers that accountable and efficient recordkeeping is important, gain support for preservation of documentary heritage, design

¹⁵ IOE (2007) *The basics of learning : literacy and numeracy in the Pacific*, USP, Suva, Fiji

¹⁶ <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/pambu/>

¹⁷ http://www.archivenet.gov.au/archives/PARBICA/parbica_home.htm

the necessary systems and facilities, train those who will work with them and manage the day to day activities of archival institutions and registries.

During PARBICA 9 in Palau 2001: resolution 4

..members placed as great importance to establish an education program for smaller Pacific Island states...

UNESCO funded the report by Dr Laura Millar on behalf of the International Records Management Trust (IRMT). This was presented at PARBICA, 2003. The report recommends the need for new programme at USP to provide distance education in archives and records management. There was preliminary discussion with USP but the challenge to find the funding to write, develop and teach course work remains.¹⁸ In the interim PARBICA launched last year Pacific Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit, the toolkit is for Pacific Island governments to use to enhance the state of recordkeeping in their administrations. The toolkit was developed with support from AusAID through the Pacific Governance Support Program¹⁹.

Memory of the World (MoW) Pacific report by Alison Stevenson NZTEC, was tabled at PIALA 2006. Article published about the work in Pacific Island Business²⁰, by Dionisia Tabureguci a previous participant at a Pacific IFAP Committee meeting. Setarki Tale, Fiji National Archivist and President of PARBICA gave a presentation at the MoW conference in Canberra January 2008²¹. Since then Fiji has decided to form its own MoW committee, Setarki Tale, Fiji National Archivist is the Chair, secretariat is the Ministry of Culture. The importance of work MoW has been highlighted recently by reports of the finding in Fiji of part of the missing dead of cessation²².

The Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA) along with the Pacific Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS Pasifika) form the Pacific Heritage Network.²³ The two associations share a common purpose and mission to:

1. Develop communication links that bring together professionals and institutions in support of Pacific Islands Heritage management, including but not limited to publishing a regular newsletter and maintaining a website;
2. Enhance human resources through education and training;
3. Promote awareness of the local, regional and national cultural institutions in the Pacific about the safeguarding and preservation of Oceania's heritage and heritage places;
4. Disseminate cultural heritage information amongst the local communities of the Pacific Islands region;

¹⁸ PARBICA, presentation to CROP Librarians meeting, September, 2007

¹⁹ <http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/media-releases/2007/guidance-pacific-island.aspx>

²⁰ Tabureguci, Dionisia July 2007, Pacific Islands Business, http://www.islandsbusiness.com/archives/islands_business/index_dynamic/containerNameToReplace=Middle/focusModuleID=17535/overrideSkinName=issueArticle-full.tpl, accessed 3 May 2007

²¹ <http://www.amw.org.au/mow2008/mow/speakerPapers/TalePaper.pdf>

²² Fiji Times, (2008) April 09, Take pride in document's discovery: Bole

²³ <http://www.culturepacific.org/en/index.shtml>

5. Develop and promote a code of ethics and standards in Pacific Islands heritage management;
6. Advise and work with governments and other agencies in matters of heritage management and policy;
7. Facilitate the protection and restitution of tangible and intangible cultural property

Information ethics

Again the cultural context of information in the Pacific is important, particularly Pacific values and ethics and how these are understood and applied to information and knowledge. There has been recent discussion and debate of these issues in the Pacific. In 2006 USP held the Pacific Epistemology Conference. Recent meeting in Samoa – find out about this – was an ethics meeting. Additionally there have been publications by Pacific academics including Dr Seu'ula Johannsson-fua, Lia Maka and Frances Pene²⁴, Dr Unisi Nabobo-Baba²⁵ and Professor Konai Thaman²⁶.

PICs have weak Copyright enforcement challenges. AV piracy is high²⁷ so too is print²⁸ Access to information is important and essential to informed decision making and good governance. But it is no good without sound record keeping and information management in government, and professionals qualified to implement any legislation. IL is important as access is also about understanding. The legislative environment for information law needs improvement.²⁹ While many PICS have information legalisation there is little government (and development partners) support or funding for effective implementation. Countries lack the skilled human resources and this is compromising the development of information ethics.

Information ethics within the Pacific is faced with divergent complexity of indigenous knowledge and rights and intellectual property rights. The Pacific's history of missionaries and colonialism and the growing emphasis of traditional knowledge, indigenous rights, ethics and intellectual property means that the questions of; what information? who owns it? how can it be accessed? Are important and still be debated.

Information accessibility

The technological development that has occurred in the last decade has created greater access opportunities but also the digital divide, this is more evident in the Pacific context

²⁴ Maka Lia, Johannsson Fua, Seu'ula and Pene, Frances ed (2006) *Ta kupesi : emerging themes and methodologies from educational research in Tonga*, IOE, Suva, Fiji

²⁵ Nabobo-Baba, Unaisi (2006) *Vugalei : voices and silences of what and how we know : indigenous Fijian epistemology and implications for education*, *Knowing and learning : an indigenous Fijian approach*, Institute of Pacific Studies, Suva, Fiji

²⁶ Professor Thaman is the UNESCO Chair in Teacher Education and Culture see <http://www.usp.ac.fj/unescochair/>

²⁷ Fiji Times, (2008) April 29, Retailers monitor pirate DVD sales <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=87705>

²⁸ Fiji Times, (2008) April 8 Book pirating rife: Singh <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=85832>

²⁹ Appendix 2 National Information indicators

than any other. PICs face some of the world's highest ICT costs.³⁰ Access to information is a right under the UDHR. However the regulatory and legislative environment in of the Pacific is an obstacle. From telecommunication monopolies to lack of legislation (eg FoI, Copyright, and Book Deposit) to poorly resourced National Libraries & Archives and Museums, the Pacific is greatly disadvantaged.³¹ The Cook Island's recently passed the regions first FOI law in 2008. Both PNG and Fiji have a draft FOI bill. Fiji's draft developed by NGO; was going to be tabled by deposed government.

The *Pacific plan for strengthening regional cooperation and integration and the Pacific and Pacific regional digital strategy*, are important, however their weakness is that they are technology focused – little emphasis on content creation, information management and access.

There is a need to strengthen National libraries, archives, government record management and public libraries. To try and embed in the regions many telecentres as information focus, not just the technology. Need to support Pacific publishers like UPNG Press and USP IPS (which is currently under threat). Issues of economics include, small (delayed) print runs by National governments (they too have limited e presence), high cost of access (to both print and electronic).

Conclusion

In closing what ever happens with IFA in the Pacific, it must be owned by Pacific people. It must be supported and sustained by both the local and international leaders. I would again like to thank UNESCO New Zealand National Commission for facilitating my presentation at this meeting. I hope that my contribution has been of value. I look forward to working with you in the future to bring IFA to the Pacific.

³⁰ PIFS (2005) Pacific Plan: Digital Strategy, PIFS, Suva, Fiji

³¹ Appendix 3 National Information indicators

Appendix 1			
Information for development activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Future - POSSIBLE
1. 2003 Pacific representation at WSIS	1. The Pacific RICS project is aimed at providing affordable high-speed Internet access and radio to rural and remote communities. It is undertaken within the Digital Strategy and defined by the Pacific Plan approved by the Forum leaders in Port Moresby in 2005	1. 2008-2009 5 PRIDE sub projects ³² in several countries addressing I4D within the teaching and learning environment.	1. Suggest that there is a need to continue to dialogue and advocate with the PIFS and other CROP ³³ agencies and development partners to address I4D and KM4D. This could include following up with PIFS on the first letter from this committee with a second letter or some other action. 2. Perhaps there is a protocol that would allow the UNESCO New Zealand National Commission and the Pacific IFAP Committee to utilise their access to its own government and PIFS member to lobby for IFA on behalf of the region.
2. 2005 Pacific representation at WSIS	2. New public libraries in Nasinu and Tavua, Fiji through Commonwealth funded Local Government Project.	2. 2008 PRIDE Regional workshop, September 2008 on I4D and IL within the teaching and learning environment.	3. Ask for presentation at upcoming PIFS meetings eg PIFS ICT Ministers meeting, PIFS Education Ministers meeting (2009) and the 2009 Forum Leaders meeting.
3. FLA with UNESCO & USPL co hosted <i>Information for All - National Symposium</i> , 19 th September 2006	3. School library development in Cook Islands through PRIDE sub project		4. Send someone from this committee to upcoming Pacific Regional conferences eg; PICSOC conference <i>ICT for Quality of Life</i> , Cook Islands, 1-5 September 2008.

³² Fiji, Niue, Tuvalu, Nauru

³³ Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)

			<p>PIALA conference <i>New Beginnings: The Library as an Information and Resource Basket</i> Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), November 17 - 21, 2008.³⁴</p> <p>PARBICA, Brisbane 2009</p>
			<p>5. Begin to develop concept paper for a regional project³⁵ to strengthen IFA in the Pacific.</p>

³⁴ <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/>.

³⁵ Appendix 2

Appendix 1			
Information literacy activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Future - <i>POSSIBLE</i>
1. Past PIALA, FLA etc workshops have provided IL awareness and skills training	1. Current IL course offered by USP Library to students	1. 2008-2009 4 PRIDE sub projects ³⁶ in several countries addressing I4D an IL within the teaching and learning environment.	1. Suggest that there is a need to continue to dialogue and advocate with the PIFS and other CROP ³⁷ agencies and development partners to address I4D and KM4D. This could include following up with PIFS on the first letter from this committee with a second letter or some other action. 2. Perhaps there is a protocol that would allow the UNESCO New Zealand National Commission and the Pacific IFAP Committee to utilise their access to its own government and PIFS member to lobby for IFA on behalf of the region.
	2. IL training to MoE staff from Cook Islands through PRIDE sub project	2. 2008 PRIDE Regional workshop, September 2008 on I4D and IL within the teaching and learning environment.	3. Ask for presentation at upcoming PIFS meetings eg PIFS ICT Ministers meeting, PIFS Education Ministers meeting (2009) and the 2009 Forum Leaders meeting.
		3. IFLA ALP Short Course on Information Literacy and IT for Information	4. Send someone from this committee to upcoming Pacific Regional conferences eg;

³⁶ Fiji, Niue, Tuvalu, Nauru

³⁷ Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)

Appendix 1			
Information literacy activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Future - POSSIBLE
		Professionals in Asia and Oceania, Wellington, New Zealand, 17 Nov - 12 Dec 2008	<p>PICSOC conference <i>ICT for Quality of Life</i>, Cook Islands, 1-5 September 2008.</p> <p>PIALA conference <i>New Beginnings: The Library as an Information and Resource Basket</i> Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), November 17 - 21, 2008.³⁸</p> <p>PARBICA, Brisbane 2009</p>
			5. Begin to develop concept paper for a regional project ³⁹ to strengthen IFA in the Pacific.
			<p>6. UNESCO Training The Trainers in Information Literacy</p> <p>UNESCO HQ are interested in Pacific training, however little financial support is available</p> <p>http://www.albertkb.nl/pageID_5366125.html</p>

³⁸ <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/>.

³⁹ Appendix 2

Appendix 1			
Information ethics activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Possible – POSSIBLE
1. WIPO Fiji National Workshop on the Enforcement and Collective Management of Copyright & Neighbouring Rights, Forum Secretariat, Suva , Fiji, 26-28 February 2002.	1. Rethinking Pacific Education Initiative by and for Pacific People (RPEIIP), 12-14 May 2008, USP, Suva, Fiji (NZ AID funded)	1. Strengthening Public Records Management Project, This project is funded by the Public Sector Improvement Facility (PSIF) which is funded by both AusAID and NZ AID Samoa. The purpose of this Project is to strengthen records management across government for all paper and electronic records, and to preserve government records of permanent value as the national archives of Samoa.	1. Suggest that there is a need to continue to dialogue and advocate with the PIFS and other CROP ⁴⁰ agencies and development partners to address I4D and KM4D. This could include following up with PIFS on the first letter from this committee with a second letter or some other action. 2. Perhaps there is a protocol that would allow the UNESCO New Zealand National Commission and the Pacific IFAP Committee to utilise their access to its own government and PIFS member to lobby for IFA on behalf of the region.
2. Vaka Vuku: Navigating Knowledge, Pacific Epistemologies Conference July 3-7, 2006, at the University of the South			3. Ask for presentation at upcoming PIFS meetings eg PIFS ICT Ministers meeting,

⁴⁰ Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)

Appendix 1			
Information ethics activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Possible – POSSIBLE
Pacific, Suva, Fiji http://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=1351			PIFS Education Ministers meeting (2009) and the 2009 Forum Leaders meeting.
3. Pacific regional workshop on the Ethics of Knowledge Production, 12-15 November Apia, Samoa			4. Send someone from this committee to upcoming Pacific Regional conferences eg; PICSOC conference <i>ICT for Quality of Life</i> , Cook Islands, 1-5 September 2008. PIALA conference <i>New Beginnings: The Library as an Information and Resource Basket</i> Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), November 17 - 21, 2008. ⁴¹ PARBICA, Brisbane 2009
4. Code of Ethics for Pacific Islands Museums and Cultural Centres This new specialised Pacific Code of Ethics caters for professional museum work and is particularly			5. Begin to develop concept paper for a regional project ⁴² to strengthen IFA in the Pacific.

⁴¹ <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/>.

⁴² Appendix 2

Appendix 1			
Information ethics activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Possible – <i>POSSIBLE</i>
adapted to the values of Pacific Islands museums and cultural centres http://www.culturepacific.org/en/bm/bm~doc/pima-code-of-ethics.pdf			

Appendix 1			
Information preservation activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Future – POSSIBLE
1. PARBICA conferences and workshops.	1 Strengthening Public Records Management Project, Samoa. This project is funded by the Public Sector Improvement Facility (PSIF) which is funded by both AusAID and NZAID. The purpose of this Project is to strengthen records management across government for all paper and electronic records, and to preserve government records of permanent value as the national archives of Samoa.	1. PIALA conference <i>New Beginnings: The Library as an Information and Resource Basket</i> Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), November 17 - 21, 2008. ⁴³	1. Suggest that there is a need to continue to dialogue and advocate with the PIFS and other CROP ⁴⁴ agencies and development partners to address I4D and KM4D. This could include following up with PIFS on the first letter from this committee with a second letter or some other action. 2. Perhaps there is a protocol that would allow the UNESCO New Zealand National Commission and the Pacific IFAP Committee to utilise their access to its own government and PIFS member to lobby for IFA on behalf of the region.
2. UNESCO funded the Digitizing Samoa's Radio Archives ⁴⁵		2. PARBICA conference 2009 (Brisbane).	3. Ask for presentation at upcoming PIFS meetings eg PIFS ICT Ministers meeting, PIFS Education Ministers meeting (2009) and the 2009 Forum Leaders meeting.
3. Greenstone workshops (Digital libraries) ⁴⁶			4. Send someone from this committee to upcoming Pacific Regional conferences eg;

⁴³ <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/>.

⁴⁴ Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)

⁴⁵ http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=18282&URL_DO=DO_PRINTPAGE&URL_SECTION=201.html

Appendix 1			
Information preservation activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Future – POSSIBLE
			<p>PICSOC conference <i>ICT for Quality of Life</i>, Cook Islands, 1-5 September 2008.</p> <p>PIALA conference <i>New Beginnings: The Library as an Information and Resource Basket</i> Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), November 17 - 21, 2008.⁴⁷</p> <p>PARBICA, Brisbane 2009</p>
3. FLA with UNESCO & USPL co hosted <i>Information for All - National Symposium</i> , 19 th September 2006			5. Begin to develop concept paper for a regional project ⁴⁸ to strengthen IFA in the Pacific.

⁴⁶ http://wiki.greenstone.org/wiki/index.php/Greenstone_workshops

⁴⁷ <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/>.

⁴⁸ Appendix 2

Appendix 1			
Information accessibility activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Future – POSSIBLE
1. PARBICA conferences and workshops.	1. Strengthening Public Records Management Project, This project is funded by the Public Sector Improvement Facility (PSIF) which is funded by both AusAID and NZAID Samoa. The purpose of this Project is to strengthen records management across government for all paper and electronic records, and to preserve government records of permanent value as the national archives of Samoa.	1. PIALA conference <i>New Beginnings: The Library as an Information and Resource Basket</i> Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), November 17 - 21, 2008. ⁴⁹	1. Suggest that there is a need to continue to dialogue and advocate with the PIFS and other CROP ⁵⁰ agencies and development partners to address I4D and KM4D. This could include following up with PIFS on the first letter from this committee with a second letter or some other action. 2. Perhaps there is a protocol that would allow the UNESCO New Zealand National Commission and the Pacific IFAP Committee to utilise their access to its own government and PIFS member to lobby for IFA on behalf of the region.
2. New NLA building in Fiji		PARBICA conference 2009 (Brisbane)	3. Ask for presentation at upcoming PIFS meetings eg PIFS ICT Ministers meeting, PIFS Education Ministers meeting (2009) and the 2009 Forum Leaders meeting.
Greenstone workshops (Digital libraries) ⁵¹			4. Send someone from this committee to upcoming Pacific Regional conferences eg;

⁴⁹ <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/>.

⁵⁰ Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)

⁵¹ http://wiki.greenstone.org/wiki/index.php/Greenstone_workshops

Appendix 1			
Information accessibility activities			
Past	Current	Future – REAL	Future – POSSIBLE
			<p>PICSOC conference <i>ICT for Quality of Life</i>, Cook Islands, 1-5 September 2008.</p> <p>PIALA conference <i>New Beginnings: The Library as an Information and Resource Basket</i> Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), November 17 - 21, 2008.⁵²</p> <p>PARBICA, Brisbane 2009</p>
<p>FLA with UNESCO & USPL co hosted <i>Information for All - National Symposium</i>, 19th September 2006</p>			<p>5. Begin to develop concept paper for a regional project⁵³ to strengthen IFA in the Pacific.</p>

⁵² <http://piala.org.googlepages.com/>.

⁵³ Appendix 2

Appendix 2 – Draft Regional Strategy/Action Concept Paper

Introduction

This Draft Regional Strategy/Action has been developed to provide an example of what can (and should) be done in the Pacific region to improve the regions capacity to provide information for all.

Archives

“Archives constitute the memory of nations and of societies, shape their identity, and are a cornerstone of the information society. By providing evidence of human actions and transactions, archives support administration and underlie the rights of individuals, organisations and states. By guaranteeing citizens’ rights of access to official information and to knowledge of their history, archives are fundamental to democracy, accountability and good governance”.⁵⁴

National Libraries

“National libraries have special responsibilities, often defined in law, within a nation's library and information system. These responsibilities vary internationally but the general responsibilities are but are likely to include:

1. The collection via legal deposit of the national imprint (both print and electronic) and its cataloguing and preservation;
2. The provision of central services (e.g., reference, bibliography, preservation, lending) to users both directly and through other library and information centres; The preservation and promotion of the national cultural heritage;
3. acquisition of at least a representative collection of foreign publications;
4. The promotion of national cultural policy; and leadership in national literacy campaigns.

National libraries also often serve as a national forum for international programmes and projects. They may have a close relationship with national governments, may be concerned with the development of national information policies, and may act as a conduit for the views of other sectors of the profession”⁵⁵.

Museums

“Museums are recognised as integral partners in sustainable development, advocating a greater respect and understanding of the importance of heritage for source communities. Acknowledging cultural diversity forms the basis for developing strategies for the protection and promotion of heritage

⁵⁴ <http://www.ica.org/en/about>

⁵⁵ IFLA National Libraries Section <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/index.htm>

Many societies are media driven and the Internet acts as a contributor to a more widespread understanding of museums

Museums play an important role in our changing society, particularly in the global cultural cross-fertilisation of urban and rural environments

Deteriorating living conditions worldwide have led to political and social upheaval, and insufficient commitment to the developing world at all levels, including limitations on global travel

The financial environment for museums is volatile, and museums need to understand and adapt to market realities”

Global warming and the effects of climate change affect everyone⁵⁶

In the Pacific context National Libraries, Archives and Museums are not able to effectively meet neither their responsibilities nor expectations. Although legislation to regulate government recordkeeping is in place in almost 90% of Pacific countries, policies and systems to support key aspects of these frameworks are often lacking. This has been documented in recent publications for example; PARBICA (2007) Institutional, State and Country Reports presented at the 12th Biennial PARBICA conference, PARBICA (2001) Compendium of Pacific Archives Legislation, Canberra, Miller, Laura (2003) Education and Training for Records and Archives Management in Pacific Island Nations: A Needs Assessment and Report, PARBICA.

Similar reports and publications about Pacific libraries have been published recently. Williams, Esther (2003) Digital community services: Pacific Libraries and archives: future prospects and responsibilities: a report, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, Apia, Samoa, Best, Jill and Calvert, Philip (2007) A scoping studies of Fijis’ Public Libraries: Presented to Local Government New Zealand, Local Government New Zealand.

Similar publications about Pacific Museums include; PIMA (2003) Strategic Plan, PIMA (2006) Annual report 2006, Stanley, Nick Ed) (2007) The future of indigenous museums: perspectives from the southwest Pacific, Berghahn Books, New York and publications from ICOMOS Pasifika, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) International Scientific Committee of the Pacific Islands⁵⁷.

⁵⁶ http://icom.museum/2strat_plan_eng/scan.html

⁵⁷ http://www.culturepacific.org/en/bm/about_icomos/index.shtml

These documents provide a current analysis of the regions needs, with identified regional action. .

Currently in the region there some national projects being implemented that impact directly on information management and access issues in the Pacific. For example

1. Strengthening Public Records Management Project, Samoa. This project is funded by the Public Sector Improvement Facility (PSIF) which is funded by both AusAID and NZAID. The purpose of this Project is to strengthen records management across government for all paper and electronic records, and to preserve government records of permanent value as the national archives of Samoa.
2. Pacific environment information network [PEIN]⁵⁸ (Year)
3. Pacific Regional Initiatives in the Delivery of basic Education (PRIDE) Project⁵⁹ (2004-2009)
4. NZAID Work Programme in the Solomon Islands (cite) is assisting in the implementation of Provincial education action plans⁶⁰. These plans have as outputs several library related initiatives including;
 - Increased number well functioning libraries
 - Promote libraries and readership
 - Support to establishment and expansion of libraries and provision of reading materials.
 - A functioning library in provinces
 - Revive provincial libraries
 - Connect provincial libraries to Internet
 - Expand School Library Association with provincial representatives
5. Any regional cultural action MoW?

However these projects are happening in isolation from any coordinated regional action and appear to be disconnected with important regional action for example the *Pacific plan for strengthening regional cooperation and integration* and the *Pacific regional digital strategy* (PIFS 2006). Important partnerships with regional CSO and professional associations including PIALA, PARBICA and PIMA for example need to be established and strengthened.

Additionally the role of Pacific tertiary providers and their ability to meet the training needs of the region needs to be examined. There are also new regional activities like the OLPC that could benefit from Pacific regional and national development in information literacy for example.

About the Project

The Project will be implemented by xx. The Project is jointly funded by xxx and xx

⁵⁸ http://www.sprep.org/projects/irc_pein.htm

⁵⁹ www.usp.ac.fj/pride

⁶⁰ See bibliography

The Project serves; Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The purpose of this Project is to:

1. Strengthen records management across Pacific Island governments for all paper and electronic records, and to preserve government records of permanent value within the Pacific regions National Archives.
2. Strengthen National and public libraries within the Pacific to ensure that Pacific Islanders have equitable access to quality information and research services.
3. To build the capacity of National Libraries and Archives in the Pacific to ensure they are equipped with qualified personnel and the infrastructure (economic, legislative and equipment) required for them to fulfil their roles as leaders in library, archive and information issues.
4. Develop DFL courses for distance education in archives and records management and museum studies for delivery by regional tertiary providers
5. Review existing tertiary provision of library and information management to ensure the needs of the region are be met
6. Develop information literacy in the Pacific, fundamental foundation of life long learning

Overall Objectives

1. To enhance the capacity of Pacific National Libraries, Archives and Museums to effectively plan and deliver quality information and cultural heritage management and provide equitable access to information and cultural items.
2. To improve the coordination of development partners to assist countries implement their plans.

Purpose

To strengthen the development of good governance and knowledge economies within the Pacific through improved government recordkeeping and improved access to accurate, reliable and current and historical information and cultural heritage.

Expected Results

The project will result in strategic plans for National Libraries, Archives and Museums in all of the fifteen participating countries; each formulated through wide consultation with all stakeholders including, libraries, archives, museums and government, public and community and private sector groups. The project will also assist countries implement, monitor and evaluate such plans by way of capacity building activities at the national and regional levels, particularly through

distance learning programmes utilising existing video-conferencing and internet technologies.

Encouraging effective donor coordination at national levels will be an important project activity. The development of Distance and Flexible Learning (DFL) courses in archives and records management and museum studies (accredited) that can be delivered by the regions tertiary providers will be a key outcome. In addition existing tertiary studies in library/information management will be improved.

A key component of the Project will be the implementation of sub projects within country, based on the country's plans as developed within the project and their identification of their priority needs. This will develop regional capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate information strategic plans and projects and development initiatives.

Implementation of the Project

The Project will be implemented by the xx.

The activities for the Project will be contained in the Financing Agreement signed between the development partners and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (representing the 15 Pacific nations); the activities will be summarised in Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) for the project.

The Project is expected to successfully implement these activities by end of 2016. The project will be implemented through annual work plans. Project will be managed by steering and management committees, with implementation facilitated by a project team and in country project coordinators (within the relevant Ministry).

Possible development partners

EU – under the 10th EDF, PIFS as the Regional Authorising Organisation (RAO) are expected to develop concept papers by June 2008.

NZAID

AusAID

Commonwealth Secretariat

Commonwealth of Learning

PARBICA

IFLA

Appendix 3 Information for All indicators (National)

	National Library	National Archive	National Museum	Copyright Act	FOI Act	Public Record Act	National ICT strategy	National Library Association	National Development Plan
Cook Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Fiji	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
FSM	X	✓	X		X	?	✓	✓	✓
Kiribati	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marshall Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nauru	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓
Niue	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Palau	X	✓	✓	✓	X	?	✓	✓	✓
PNG	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Samoa	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓
Solomon Islands	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	?	✓	✓	✓
Tokelau	X	X	X	NZ	X	?	✓	X	✓
Tonga	X	✓	✓	✓	X	?	✓	✓	✓
Tuvalu	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Vanuatu	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	?	✓	✓	✓

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