My Brother’s Keeper

A case study for the incontrovertible value of professional associations and long term relationships

Prepared by Opeta Alefaio, Director, National Archives of Fiji
Delivered by Helen Walker Director International and Strategic Liaison National Archives of Australia
Pacific Archives Obstacles

- Information governance accorded low priority
- Poor resourcing – manpower etc.
- Building - Storage Conditions
- Capacity Building
- Challenging environment
  - tropical climate
  - natural disasters
  - Political upheavals

Fiji Central Archives 1969
“He waka eke noa – a canoe which we are all in with no exception”

• Archives ethos
  o Professional respect – Do not assume to speak for others
  o All voices heard
  o Toso vata - move together

• Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA)
  o Consultation and Collaboration
  o Biennial professional conferences, for networking and learn from world leading practitioners from Aust, NZ, and beyond
  o 2005 – 2011 Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit (AusAID, NZAID supported, over $AUD1m)
Impact

• 2012 Civil Service Reform
• Using knowledge and confidence gained through experiences with PARBICA
• Increased Staffing sixty two percent (62%).
  • From nineteen (19) in 2011 to thirty one (31) in 2015.
• Increased Budget one hundred and fifty eight (158%)
Quality Assurance

- Commence appraisal programmes (sentencing) to clear back logs
- Stocktake and cataloguing our Legal Deposit Collection
- High Return on Investment = National Birth Certificate
Salvaging heritage & revitalising culture

• Professional advice from SEAPAVAA
• Won $1m and Project managed the restoration and digitisation of 2000 hours of Fiji’s AV Heritage
• DAMsmart saved 97% of footage
• “Back in Time” Programme - This footage is being repackaged and released on free to air TV
• Footage is exposing younger generations to cultural practices which have passed from everyday life
• The Taukei Institute of Language and Culture
  o Identified footage that can be used to 1) “revitalise” dormant cultural practices, 2) support and increase awareness of other cultural practices
Archives = Community

Students arriving at the World Book Day in rural Tailevu

Student in traditional costume

Female students investigating at the archival display walls
Public Engagement Outreach

- Especially to rural and isolated communities
- Un budgeted activity
- Prioritised partnerships and joint events to maximise impact
- “Public Awareness” $20,000 allocation 2013
- Increased to $50,000 2015 budget
- 500% increase from 2012-2015
Rotuma Island

- Land records
- Publications
- Historical photos
- Historical AV
- Deed of Cession to Britain made into poster for homes and schools
- All given free

SDG 16.10 “Access to Information” – Rotumans seeing their land and genealogical records for the first time
150th Commemoration of Pacific Indenture Labour
“Without the presence of National Archives most of the descendants will still rely on the verbal history relayed to them through stories. They are now confident that what they know is something that was recorded during that time then and there and are reliable information. Many of them were so moved they had tears in their eyes when they returned from your tent.”

»Org. Committee Chair  - Paterasio Nunu
Social Media
Filling of registration forms, Namosi, 1962.
G533 - Beqa villagers traditional fish drive, 1947. May 7 was 2016 International Biodiversity Day. Theme: Maintaining Biodiversity; Sustain People and their Livelihoods.

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