

II. ICH Information Activities

A. National Library

The National Library is a unit under the National Records & Information division and is being merged with the National Archives. A total of 2 staff works in the National Library under the leadership of George Paniani, Manager for the National Records & Information division.

Library Officer: Odile Urirau
Email Address: website@oyster.net.ck

Library Assistant: Toni Moeroa

In October 1992, the Cook Islands Government established a National Library which is accommodated in the Sir Geoffrey Henry National Culture Centre/Te Puna Korero complex. However, it was not until April 1993 that the National Library service became fully operational. Today, it holds over 13,000 titles and continues to grow steadily. Primarily it serves Rarotonga, the main largest island and capital of the Cook Islands. It performs a dual function, firstly that of a National Library and secondly as a public lending library.

The National Library houses a small Pacific Collection, which it hopes to expand gradually as the focal point of reference for Cook Islanders and Researchers. Amongst the Cook Islands collection, we have copies of theses written by Cook Islanders and Non-Cook Islanders.

PACIFIC COLLECTION and COOK ISLANDS COLLECTION

In the National Library we have Pacific Collection including theses and rare books about the Cook Islands. Due to small space, it is our hope to focus on building our reference and pacific collections.

Because of the difficulty in replacing most of these books our Pacific Collection won't be available for borrowing however if need be then a fee of \$10 for adults will be required. Secondary and Primary School Students are not permitted to borrow from these collections.

The following books are available for sale at the National Library:

- The Ghost at Tokatarava and other stories from the Cook Islands
A book written by Jon Jonassen based on some legends or old stories of the Cook Islands
- Ana Takitaki: a tale of Atiu
A book told in poetry by William McBirney 1871-1956
- Early Immigrants to the Cook Islands
Compiled by Jon Jonassen, a genealogy of the Nicholas family in the Cook Islands
- Learning Rarotonga Maori
Written by Makiuti Tongia on how to speak the basic Cook Islands Maori language in ordinary situations
- Te Kakau Rangatira: Clothing of the Chiefs
Written by Upokoina Teiotu on how the tapa cloth is made in Atiu
- Visions of the Pacific Book
A book written about the 6th Festival of Arts that was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in 1992.

B. National Archives

The National Archives is a unit under the National Records & Information division and is being merged with the National Library. The National Archives has a total of 3 staff including the manager.

Manager: George Paniani
Email: archives@oyster.net.ck
Phone: (682) 24-493

Archives Officer: Tui Tupa
Archives Assistant: Tumutoa Henry

The first premier of the Cook Islands, the late Abert Henry was responsible for establishing the National Archives in 1974. The Archives was a division within the Premier's Department at the time. Initially, Takitumu Hostel at takamoia had been the Archives' temporary location. The Archives

Research Officer Tom Tixier administered the Archives, assisted by George Paniani.

In August 1975, the Archives moved to one end of the Library and Museum Society building. In April 1987, the archives under the control of Archivist George Paniani was moved to the Seismological Observatory at Takuvaine valley which is its present location. Kauraka Kauraka joined the Archives in 1988 as Principal Archivist, and remained there until he was transferred to the Anthropology Division in 1990. By that year the Archives had been brought under the umbrella of the Tauranga Vananga (Ministry of Cultural Development).

Legislation

As provided in the Public Records Act 1984, the National Archives was established for the better preservation of public records of the Cook Islands which were transferred from government departments or acquired by the Archivist. All public records 15 years or older were transferred to the Archives after consultation by the Archivist with the relevant Heads of Ministries/Departments or Minister, could authorise the routine destruction of public records which are 15 years or older.

Preservation

One of the major purposes of the National Archives is to preserve records of permanent value through the use of proper methods. This is achieved by controlling the deterioration rate of the materials using dehumidifiers (a machine for regulating humidity) in storage rooms; by fumigation; and other means. At present, the Archives has one dehumidifier.

Another way of prolonging the life of these records is by restoring or repairing damaged material. For example, photographs that are stuck together may be separated by soaking them in water. Archivist George Paniani is trained in the various methods of restoration and preservation.

Research

The National Archives contains private, public and government information in the Archives custody which can be available for research. For example, a person from the Education Department may want to find out the expenditure pattern of their department over a period of ten years.

C. Digitisation

The following are digitized contents on performing arts in Cook Islands and they are selling at the Ministry of Culture in our National Auditorium division.

- Te Maeva Nui 2012: A pack of 4 dvds consisting of the: Five nights of cultural performances, Choir and Imene Tuki competition, Tangi Kaara Competition and highlights of this year's float parade
- Te Mire Ura 2012 (Dancer of the Year of the Competition): A pack of two dvds consisting of the: Juniors, Intermediate, Seniors, Golden Oldies and Expats Dancers both in the male and female categories. Added to the package is a booklet with a profile of the top 3 winners in each category
- Te Mire Atu 2012 (Composer's Competition): A pack of 2 dvds and a booklet of this year's composers together with a profile on each with the lyrics to their compositions

DVDs for previous years are also available from the National Auditorium.