



# *APSIG Newsletter*

## *ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group*

*No. 92, November 2016*

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### **APSIG / ALRA Christmas lunch**



**When:** Wednesday 14 December, 12 noon  
**Where:** Lemon Grass Restaurant, Corinna St, Woden, ACT.

APSIG and ALRA (Asian Library Resources of Australia) members and friends are cordially invited to a joint Christmas lunch to celebrate the year's events and activities.

By popular request we are returning to the Lemon Grass Restaurant as the food is good, the locale attractive and there is convenient parking nearby.

We will have a Thai banquet consisting of two entrees, four main courses, steamed rice, dessert, coffee or tea for \$29 per head. They can cater for vegetarians - please specify any special dietary requirements when you book. Corkage is \$3 per bottle.

APSIG members and friends will join with our esteemed colleagues from the Asian Library Resources of Australia at our final function of the year.

RSVPs to George Miller please at [gmliller@grapevine.com.au](mailto:gmliller@grapevine.com.au) by COB Monday 12 December.

### **IFLA World Library and Information Congress – update from RSCAO**

This year's IFLA WLIC Congress was held in Columbus, Ohio (headquarters of OCLC) and the week proved to be very busy for members of the IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO).

In addition to the two Standing Committee Meetings, RSCAO held a very successful Open Session with the theme of *Access to*

information for sustainable communities, and held two joint sessions – one with the Social Science Libraries Section and the other with the Genealogy and Local History Section.



Members of the RSCAO at IFLA, August 2016

Loida Garcia-Febo, IFLA Governing Board member and Chair, Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP) was the keynote speaker at the Open Session, with a presentation entitled: ‘Working together: access to information and our power to cause change.’



L to R Loida Garcia-Febo, keynote speaker and Jayshree Mamtora, Chair of RSCAO.

Other presentations from colleagues from and about the region included:

Margaret Zimmerman, University of South Carolina, United States: ‘Female literacy and access to information in Asia – assessing maternal health impacts.’

Prasanna Ranaweera and P.G. Pemadasa, National Institute of Library & Information Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka ‘Impact of Domestic Information Management on students’ achievement – action research in a Sri Lankan community’.

Opeta Alefaio, The National Archives of Fiji ‘Archives connecting with the Community’.

Irhamni Ali, National Library of Indonesia, Indonesia: ‘Public libraries and open government: a case study in Republic of Indonesia’.

The RSCAO’s next meeting will be held in New Delhi, February 2017.

Other exciting news from IFLA that concerns the region is that the 2018 IFLA Congress will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Not too soon to start planning for it now – what presentation would you like to give?

And next year, respected Australian colleague Christine McKenzie, ALIA President in 2003, will stand for IFLA President-Elect. Christine has been a tireless advocate for freedom of information and copyright for many years and we wish her well.

Those interested in RSCAO can subscribe to the RSCAO-L mailing list: [rscao-l@infoserv.inist.fr](mailto:rscao-l@infoserv.inist.fr) or follow us [on Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## **IFLA International Leaders Programme**

Also at this year’s Congress, the selection committee for the [IFLA International Leaders Programme](#) announced the Associates selected to participate from 2016-2018. The Programme is an IFLA Key Initiative designed to increase the cohort of leaders who can effectively represent the wider library sector in the international arena, and to develop leaders within IFLA.

The Associates represent every major library sector and geographic region, and bring a range of international experiences to the projects that Associates will be attached to during the Programme.



Congratulations to the three regional colleagues who were amongst the nine selected to join this prestigious programme:

**Mahmoud Khalifa** (Egypt)

Founder & CEO of Cybrarians: the Arabic Portal for Librarianship and Information; and Board member of the Egyptian Library Association

**Elvira B. Lapuz** (Philippines)

Deputy University Librarian of the University Library, University of the Philippines Diliman and Senior Lecturer at the UP School of Library and Information Studies; and President of the Philippine Librarians Association.

**Zhao Yan** (China)

Director of Collection Development Department, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences; and Standing Committee Member of Acquisition and Collection Development Section, IFLA and Standing Committee Member of Resources Development and Sharing Section, Library Society of China

**Closer cooperation between Singapore, New Zealand and Australia**

Australia and Singapore have agreed to work with New Zealand to promote the library and information sector across the three countries. On 12 October 2016, the Australian Library and Information Association, the Library Association of Singapore and the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa signed a memorandum of understanding to promote an innovation agenda by making information in all its forms accessible to some 20 million library users.

This closer cooperation will be seen in 2018 with a joint conference to be held at the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Discussion of closer cooperation began in August 2016 when the Australian Library and Information Association welcomed a delegation of senior Singapore librarians to the ALIA National Conference held in Adelaide, with six representatives from the National Library Board travelling to Australia.



Led by Mrs Elaine Ng, CEO of the National Library Board of Singapore (on far R), the delegation included Mrs Wai Yin Pryke, Director, National Library, Ms Kam Kit Geok, Archivist, Ms Joy Loh, Associate Librarian, National Library and Ms Laura Kho, Librarian

The visit was the first step in building closer ties between the Singaporean and Australian professional community.

Sue McKerracher, Chief Executive Office of ALIA, said: 'We invited colleagues from the National Library of Singapore with the aim of building closer ties with our LIS colleagues in the Asia Pacific region. During this busy conference week, we look forward to sharing knowledge, exchanging valuable insights, discussing experiences and extending our professional networks with our close Singaporean neighbours.'

'We hope that other LIS colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region may consider attending our conference, particularly in 2018, when ALIA and the Library and Information Association of New Zealand (LIANZA) work together to produce the first joint conference since 1994.'

Following the ALIA National Conference conference, the Singaporean delegation visited the National Library in Canberra as well as libraries, museums and archives in Melbourne and Sydney to meet senior staff, before returning to Singapore.

Diana Richards, ALIA

## Pacific Library and Archive Update

On September 7, 2016 APSIG members Kylie Moloney and Libby Cass, presented a series of sessions providing an update on the status of Pacific libraries and archives.

The session consisted of presentations from librarians and archivists in the region, recorded by Kylie on video while on fieldwork, and a thoughtful overview from Libby of the situation of Pacific Libraries and Archives, highlighting the challenges Pacific colleagues face and identifying resources and opportunities for development.

Audience members benefited from the immediacy of viewing and hearing first person accounts from colleagues who were unable to travel to Australia.

Speakers were Teawa Tuare from the Kiribati National Library and Archive, Opeta Alefaio from Fiji National Archives and Naomi Ngirakamerang from the Palau National Archive. This was played to provide an opportunity for Pacific voices to describe the role of National Archives in the Pacific Islands, significant collections, customers, infrastructure and resources and the challenges they face.

## Overview of Pacific libraries and archives

Many Pacific Islands countries 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) through their own national development plans, regional plans and international commitments and membership. Education in many countries gets the largest national budget allocation.



Libby Cass (left) and Kylie Moloney with audience member Fr Victor Roche, Gen-Sec, Catholic Bishops Conference, Port Moresby.

Many Ministries of Education 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 most ministries also have under their portfolio their National Library and Archives or public libraries. For example, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Palau, Fiji. 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.

### **Challenges**

There are very few qualified librarians working in National and Public libraries or Archives in the region. In this environment it is difficult to persuade decision makers that accountable and efficient information management and recordkeeping is important, gain support for preservation of documentary heritage, design the necessary systems and facilities, train those who will work with them and manage the day to day activities of library and archival institutions and registries.

### **Resources and opportunities**

The University of the South Pacific is the biggest tertiary education provider in the region and offers via distance education a certificate/diploma in library skills. The current USP course is being reviewed and there is a strong push for the programme at USP to provide distance education in archives and records management. The challenge is to find the funding to write, develop and teach course work remains.

Palau Community College in the Northern Pacific offers a Library and Information Services program. The program is designed to provide students with knowledge, skills, and effective work habits necessary in libraries and information centres, such as special libraries, archives, museums, and other information-based professions.

There are several professional associations in the Pacific. Established in 1991, the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) is a regional association committed to fostering awareness and encouraging cooperation and resource sharing among libraries, archives, museums, and related institutions of the Pacific Islands. PIALA's membership and activity is largely based in the Northern Pacific.

The Fiji Library Association is another active group; the FLA recently hosted a forum for members to discuss how strong libraries can support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The IFLA Asia and Oceania Section also provides opportunities for the region as does the IFLA Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP). PIALA was part of IFLA's Building Strong Library Associations program.

### **INELI Oceania**

A new and significant development in the region is Global Libraries INELI Oceania. This is a leadership program aimed at developing innovative emerging leaders in public libraries throughout Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific.

Pacific participants in the current INELI Oceania program include Margaret Terry from the Vanuatu Public Library, Leanne Resson from Papua New Guinea's Buk bilong Pikini, Mary Warus from the National Library of Papua New Guinea, Nina Nakora from Suva City Library (Fiji), Anaseini Jese from the Library Services of Fiji and Gaspar Freitas from the Xanana Gusma Reading room Timor Leste.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Identify, nurture and develop innovative, emerging leaders in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific through an online learning program and network opportunities
- Foster partnerships and collaboration of stakeholders in the region
- Adapt Global Libraries INELI to a regional context

The building and nurturing of collaborative relationships throughout the region among the Library Associations in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, National, State and Public libraries and engagement of government and aid agencies in the South Pacific area is necessary to achieve the vision.

The next issue of this newsletter will provide more detail on INELI Oceania and Pacific participants.

### **Celebrating the NLA's Braga Collection: The Portuguese in Macau**

On 22 September the National Library of Australia hosted an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the acquisition of the Braga Collection on the Portuguese in Asia. The event was organised in partnership with the Embassy of Portugal and featured lectures by Professor Jorge Santos Alves, from the Catholic University of Portugal, on the role Macau has played in diplomacy and intelligence over the last four hundred years and on the life and work of collector José Maria Braga, by his nephew Dr Stuart Braga. National Library staff prepared a popular display of items from the Braga Collection for viewing and visitors got to see a selection of 42 items, chosen by Dr Braga to accompany his lecture.



Pictured at the celebration are : L-R Dr Stuart Braga, His Excellency Paulo Cunha Alves, Ambassador of Portugal, Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM, Director-General of the National Library of Australia and Professor Jorge Santos Alves.

### **ALRA Newsletter no 68**

From Darrell Dorrington :Thanks to the super-human effort and self-sacrifice of our indefatigable web manager Jung-Sim Kim,

our mid-year issue no. 68 is now available at:

<http://alra.org.au/newsletter.html>

An excellent report on the recent 21st biennial ASAA conference by Andrew Gosling is included along with notes and papers from the Asian Studies and its Research Material Round Table Discussion from that conference plus notes of our recent AGM.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed, and look forward to continuing support for this important communication medium for Asian Studies information resources.

### **Making the most of PMB resources**

In August the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau ran a very successful workshop at the University of South Pacific in Suva, Fiji to assist librarians, Pacific studies lecturers and students to use the Bureau's significant digital archive collections.

PMB was successful in winning a grant of \$5,000 from the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific – University of the South Pacific Strategic Partner Development Program. It was used to fund Syvlie Tapasei from the USP Emalus Campus in Port Vila to travel to Suva, attend the workshop and also undertake other local library training.

A full report is at

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/pambu/docs/2016AugCAPUSPSuva.pdf>

Kylie Moloney  
Executive Officer  
Pacific Manuscripts Bureau

### **Australian Memory of the World**

The UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee held its annual Planning Day on 20 July in the National Library of Australia in Canberra. The meeting included

a report on the MOWCAP (Memory of the World Asia and the Pacific) meeting in Hue, Vietnam, and reports by Dr Ray Edmondson on the new Memory of the World *Recommendation on the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage* and the current Review of the General Guidelines and Companion.



The meeting was also attended by Mr Clementino Pinto Amaral (pictured), from the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO, who came to observe the Australian Committee's operations, and to discuss further collaborative projects between the Australian Committee and the soon-to-be established Timor-Leste National Committee. Mr Amaral also visited a number of national cultural institutions in Canberra, including the National Film and Sound Archive.

Ray Edmondson was on the editorial board of a new book published on MOWCAP, published by UNESCO Bangkok. The book lists and describes the inscriptions on the regional and international MOW registers that emanate from Asia Pacific, up to 2012. It is fully illustrated in English with an introductory essay. Details are:

Memory of the World: Documentary Heritage in Asia and the Pacific/

Principal writer: Patrick Hase  
Publishers: UNESCO Bangkok and the Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok, Thailand, 2016. 160 pages. ISBN: 978-988-77231-0-3

## **Indonesian-Australian perceptions of each other**

The Australia-Indonesia Centre recently released an extensive report about Australian and Indonesian perceptions of each other. Australians' knowledge of Indonesia remains relatively low (53% indicate good or moderate understanding) and that levels of favourability towards Indonesia are moderate (43% feel very or somewhat favourable). This is in comparison with Indonesians' higher measure of knowledge of (74% indicate good or moderate understanding) and favourability towards Australia (87% feel very or somewhat favourable).

Australian respondents, though clearly lacking knowledge about Indonesia, are also aware that they should and need to understand Indonesia better and encourage improvements in education in particular. 43% of Australians believe basic education about Indonesia should be improved in Australian schools. 72% are interested in learning more about Indonesian culture.

The Australia-Indonesia Centre was established by the Australian Government in late 2013 to facilitate research-driven innovation and build stronger relationships between Australia and Indonesia. The Centre, hosted by Monash University, is a collaboration between Monash University, the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney, working with seven leading Indonesian universities.

View the full report at:  
<https://aicperceptionsreport.com>  
(George Miller)

## **APSIG Newsletter**

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Issues are mounted on the APSIG homepage at: <https://www.alia.org.au/groups/alia-asia-pacific-special-interest-group>

