

Pathways to effective school libraries in Samoa

Rosa-Jane French
36 Rosedale Place, Christchurch 8042
New Zealand
srjfrench@xtra.co.nz

Abstract

This poster will document the training pathway available to school libraries in Samoa. It will highlight the importance of partnerships to develop the skills of library staff and the resources required for effective school libraries in Samoa. Experiences of basic library training in Vanuatu will be included.

Keywords: Samoa Vanuatu Training Partnerships Pacific

PATHWAYS TO EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC : SAMOA AND VANUATU

TRAINING PATHWAY FOR SAMOAN SCHOOL LIBRARY STAFF

15 week Certificate in School Library Management established by Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, in conjunction with USP Atafu Campus

- Three cohorts
- School librarians in all Government secondary schools and some primary schools were trained
- Primary school librarians responsible for up to five school libraries in their area

↓

Certificate in Basic Skills in Library/Information Studies offered by the regional University of the South Pacific

- five courses studied by distance
- delivered by paper resources and tutorials

↓

Diploma in Library/Information Studies offered by the regional University of the South Pacific

- eight core courses plus four degree level courses studied by distance
- delivered by paper resources and tutorials

↓

Degree courses offered by international institutions usually requiring librarians to travel overseas

Other opportunities:
 In-service training run by Library Association of Samoa with funding from FLA
 Occasional workshops run by Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and Library Association of Samoa

RESOURCING PATHWAY FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES


School library resources in Samoa funded by

- aid grants
- small annual budget for each school
- village fundraising
- augmented by donations of books & equipment received from groups & individuals overseas.

Case Study : Fasi'atua Primary School, Samoa

Flopuie Filipo has

- taken 15 week Certificate in School Library Management and Operations
- developed a successful school library
- produced an early reader in Samoan
- tried to help other primary schools in her district
- been asked to take responsibility for the school computer lab




Challenges

- Selecting good candidates for School Library position
- High cost of USP Courses relative to local salary
- Difficulties of travel between islands for tutorials
- Lack of connectivity to internet in isolated villages
- Lack of on-going mentoring for and supervision of school library staff

Case Study : Vanuatu and the one-woman initiative

Kathrina Tarip

- Studying for USP Diploma in Library/Information Studies, with sponsorship from six New Zealanders
- Designed and ran basic library skills courses for church schools, 2012 with 7 participants, 2013 with 25 participants and AusAid funding
- Asked to submit course outline to Vanuatu National Training Council for accreditation
- Elected President of Vanuatu Library Association 2013



PARTNERS CONTRIBUTING TO SOUTH PACIFIC SCHOOL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

University of the South Pacific, based in Fiji
 Certificate and Diploma Courses and tutorials
 "Library Management" and "Subject Index"
 Assisted with development of Samoan Certificate in School Library Management

Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, Samoa
 Recruitment of library staff
 Certificate in School Library Management
 Funds for resources for government school libraries
 Bulk purchasing of resources 2004 and 2013
 Enquiry learning included in new primary curriculum

National University of Samoa, SPREP and NMFPL
 Local tutors for MESC & USP library & information courses

FLA – in Samoa
 Funded in-service training & National Library week

Library Association of Samoa
 Local tutors for MESC & USP library & information courses
 Scholarships for USP Courses
 Administration and tutoring of in-service training

NZAid and AUSAid
 Funding for Samoan Certificate in School Library Management and Operations

Rotary Apia and Rotary New Zealand
 Furniture and books for Samoan school libraries

Australian and New Zealand librarians and public
 Donations of books for Samoan school libraries

Information on:
 University of the South Pacific: www.usp.ac.fj
 Library Association of Samoa: www.library.org.su
 National University of Samoa: www.nus.edu.ws & Building Strong Schools Training Institute (BSS)
 NZAid: www.nzaid.govt.nz & www.ausa.govt.nz
 AUSAid: www.ausa.govt.nz
 SPREP: www.sprep.org
 NMFPL: www.nmfpl.org
 Samoa: www.samoanet.net
 Vanuatu: www.vanuatunet.net
 IASL: www.iasl.org

IASL 2013

R. French

Biographical note
 Now retired, **Rosa-Jane French** has worked in school libraries in UK and New Zealand, as well as Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands in the South Pacific. Recently she has linked with the Library Association of Samoa to provide professional development for members and to conduct a survey of school libraries. This was published in IASL newsletter, vol.42, no.1. Rosa-Jane lives with her husband in Christchurch, New Zealand.