



FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Library Services

NEWSLETTER

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New Skills | Practical Experience | Real Opportunities

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Key Dates

1. Revised library operating hours due to COVID 19

New Arrivals

The Library continues to add quality, relevant and exciting new resources to its collections

[Click Here to View New Arrivals](#)

BOOSTING ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE 'NEW NORMAL' THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

(Message from Dean College of Humanities & Education (CHE) Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba)

As we approach the third decade of the 21st century the Fiji National University (FNU) library is enhancing its capacity in terms of its database of online books, journals and secondary data sources. The library staff are very supportive of student and staff needs and are ever ready to assist in any way they can.



Over the few years since 2011, the FNU library has consistently been improving in its enhancement of digital resources. In terms of the College of Humanities and Education, we expect a closer and an enhancing of collaboration between Education and the Humanities faculty and students and the library. The University Librarian and senior librarians are continually invited to staff developments and meetings to give the latest in library developments and focus. The current attempt by CHE to get NZ Accreditation via AQA is an ideal time to enhance such relationships so as to maximise our services and support for academic and research activities within CHE and across via it's inter-disciplinary programs under Professor Nii-K Plange.

The FNU has also begun the establishment of the Learning Commons in the Koronivia Campus. This is something I believe is planned for all other FNU campuses. This is so vital as students co construct their learning, guided at times by senior academics or library staff. The learning commons increases the tendency for the communicative nature of network learning and provides new ways to adopt a social constructivist approach to teaching and learning.

This is very appropriate as well to Pacific notions and ideas of learning (see for eg. Thaman (Ed), 2003).

The Learning Commons points to Situated learning. This is related to Vygotsky's notion of learning through social interaction and the social construction of knowledge (Vygotsky, 1978). Wenger's theory of situated learning within communities of practices (Lave & Wenger, 1991; Wenger, 1998) like others of a similar ilk are social theories of learning which pull on important communitarian values (sharing knowledge, peer assessment, discussion-based learning, etc.) (Cousin & Deepwell, 2005:57). These are what I see as the potential of learning commons at the FNU. This is an excellent development we can all look forward to.

In these environment, discussion, social interaction, collaboration, peer learning in group projects can be adopted as teaching and learning strategies (Keppell, Au, Ma, & Chan, 2006:456). All these of course are done within the guidelines of our FNU Library services and policies.

The Library Commons will boost communities of learning and research and hopefully for CHE, this may see a marked improvement in sources for courses, newer and appropriate pedagogies and a variety of ideas to improve outcomes for students. Research should also benefit from such facilities. The spaces dedicated to graduate research and seminars as well will add value to the Learning Commons especially with supportive software that will boost research and research training an example is Zotero.

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(Message from Dean College of Humanities & Education (CHE) Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba)

A Note on Equity and Access: Spenneman (2004) had cautioned on the nature of digital divides in the Pacific Is. This is something we at FNU can continue to address as we build electronic libraries and increasingly offer networked resources to our FNU community and later perhaps to the wider learning community (<http://www.ITandSociety.org>. 46-65). I am positive

that we at FNU as Fiji's National University will be expanding and enhancing these services wherever and wherever possible. This may include having learning commons in all our main campuses including Natabua. The opening up of our FNU libraries to the Fijian public for external borrowing could also be something we look forward to.

TRAININGS FACILITATED BY LIBRARY SERVICES

To help strengthen the skills, encourage creativity, enable networking building relationships and breaking from office space, specialized and trained librarians moves from campus to campus to conduct information literacy trainings for FNU staff and students.

Information literacy training includes hands on training on ways to use referencing tools such as EndNote, Refworks, how to use different databases subscribed by FNU Library for information and so forth and this creates effective learning opportunity by having direct interaction with librarians.

FNU library invests into digital resources by

subscribing to different e-databases, plagiarism detection tool, reference tools and many others to promote learning, teaching and research of the University and produce quality research papers and graduates. For more information on this training, please visit nearest FNU library and get in touch with our User Engagement Librarians to maximize the benefit offered by the library.



Library Opening Hours

Opening hours differs according to the academic calendar to give our students maximum access to library. You can find the opening hours on our website:

[Click Here for Opening Hours](#)

Send in a Question

You can send us your questions anytime and we will be happy to assist you with your questions in best possible ways.

[Click Here to Send Enquiries](#)

Talk to a Librarian

Talk to a library staff or a librarian who knows your subject area by calling or emailing to discuss your needs with them. They'll answer your questions or refer you to a specialist

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User Oriented Services

[ProQuest RefWork Flow](#)

[Turn-it-In](#)

[EndNote](#)

[Digital Library](#)

Contact Information



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