



Inside this Issue

- Message from Deputy University Librarian, Dr Tanveer Haider Naqvi
- Testimonials from the Subject Research Liaison Officers (SRLO)
- Key Dates
- New Arrivals
- Contact Information

FNU Library response to COVID and SDGs



Deputy University Librarian
Dr. Tanveer Haider Naqvi

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the world, posing unthinkable risks and challenges. Students have struggled to adjust to a sudden shift to online learning; they have lost wages as a result of the loss of campus or work-study jobs; they have experienced housing and food insecurity; they have lost access to health care as a result of the closure of student health services on campus; and they have experienced a sense of uncertainty and anxiety, among other mental health issues. As a result, the World Health Organization has identified the necessity to combat not just the pandemic but also the "infodemic." Whether reliable or unreliable, the oversupply of information is referred to as an infodemic, and it adds a new level of difficulty to the crisis.

This devastating outbreak had an influence on all sectors, including education, in Fiji. The government administers the Fijian education system, which is a combination of multiculturalism and multiracialism, from primary to postsecondary education. In addition, the government envisioned "Building a Better Future" as a way to improve equal access to higher education in the country by implementing loan schemes.

Correspondingly, the Fiji National University library adopted a digital shift to respond COVID-19 pandemic and achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs). To ensure the accessibility of library hybrid resources, untiring efforts of FNU library professionals and the government-issued standard operating procedures such as no mask, no entry, social distancing, sitting allowed as per seating arrangements, check-out and renewal of books, quarantine of checked-in books, etc., gradually helped libraries to bring new normal scenario. The reopening of libraries appeared to be causing alarm among library administrators, weighing their options. This new normal, or reopening of libraries, reawakened interest in COVID and the SDGs. The United Nations (2015) defined the technologies as "a powerful enabler of sustainable development, can make a lot of contributions towards the actualisation of the goals and targets of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda" that consists of 17 SDGs and 169 targets across all aspects of human endeavours.

Apart from that, these new ideas and technology have given FNU Library the ability to respond effectively not just to the present pandemic and the UN SDGs, but also to future disasters. As a result of the new efforts, the library now has the opportunity to provide specialized teaching, learning, and research needs to the user's doorstep and desktop, as well as assist researchers in finding the best possible solution to the current disastrous situation.

Key Dates

1. Revised library operating hours

Subject Research Liaison Officer Lautoka Campus

Ms Monita Sharma

The digital era has changed libraries into busy spaces, hubs in their societies, with the sounds of copiers printing and numerous program activities. The silence in home-grown libraries over the previous few months has remained deafening, like the existences of old. Libraries, those preserves of silence where manuscript lovers could glance and borrow titles at freedom and students could quietly organize for exams away from their excited home and university lives, have felt the influence of the lockdown activated by coronavirus (COVID-19). As the number of the epidemic became clear, librarians quickly adapted to encounter the needs of their societies and are regenerating.



Perhaps one

advantage to the epidemic is that libraries commenced to push their online abilities further and quicker than ever before. Libraries turned quickly to acquainting their users with their massive holdings of connected content, purchasing and distributing even more content, amassing collections of COVID-19 connected links and information, shifting regular events like real-life concerts and group picnics to virtual performances with backyard family-only events.

When libraries closed their doors, they instantly opened their digital transportations, collaborations, and inspired activity to reach their users in new and novel ways.

Type of Amenities Provided in the teaching sector, online learning has developed as an elixir to lecture the margins imposed in the waken of coronavirus pandemic and measured as a feasible option to



Subject Research Liaison Officer Lautoka Campus

incredulous the challenges. Consequently, Fiji National University libraries have been discovering the collection of prospective e-resources and providing remote entrée to those which may be of notice to the world in support of academic and research events. Some of the important services and amenities provided by the Fiji National libraries is under study are discussed here.

Remote Admission to E-resources The key aim of any educational library is to enhance and reinforce the education, learning and study process by installing continuous document/information carriage system and everywhere the country all divisions of Fiji National University libraries of higher education system have been occupied hard to provide facilities and access to groups to the users who have been expatriate due to COVID-19.

Free and Expanded Access-In response to the indeterminate and difficult time, some editors are providing expanded entree to e

resources (access to other resources than subscribed by the library) counting e-books, e-journals, e-databases etc. for a incomplete period throughout this pandemic. Libraries have ornamented the links of these free and prolonged resources on their portal to enable visibility of these choices available for users.

There are many other services facilitated by FNU library, however have prioritized these only. We are always available for our users to attend to your research and study needs.

Open Access Resources Outside this, there are many academic freely available resources obtainable notably Fiji National University Library of a repository of Electronic Thesis and Dissertation, Directory of Open Access Journals and Free Online Books, Book Boon, Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and many more.



Ms. Ashna Chand
Subject Research Liaison Officer
Nadi Campus

Library Fully Opened for Users

Return-to-work alternatives are part of a new hybrid work environment that aims to ease what is sure to be a challenging task. In order to provide access to physical resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fiji National University Library has revised its operation hours from 8.00 AM to 8.00 PM, balancing the safety of staff and patrons and the mission to provide the community

with access to the library's physical resources. Since the library's opening hours and study space have been revamped as per the Government and Ministry of Health guidelines, students utilised digital resources and services to complete their assessment tasks. *"When you struggle with a problem, that's when you understand it."* – **Elon Musk**

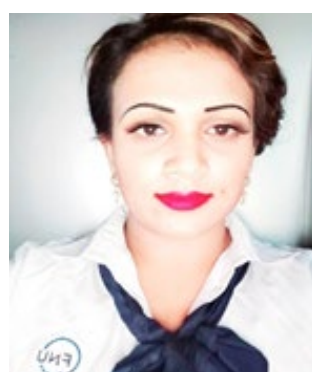


Ms. Shally Sanjeshni Devi
Subject Research Liaison Officer
Samabula Campus

Re-opening of Library

COVID-19 pandemic has cost thousands of lives and brought the world to a halt. Many challenges were encountered during work from home to provide the right information to the right user at the right time. Subject Research Liaison Officer

(SRLO) plays an important role during pandemic assisting users by providing journal articles, eBooks and meeting the needs of our users. There were problems faced by the students residing in remote areas. A library is an important source of knowledge to the patrons. As a gateway to knowledge and culture, libraries play a fundamental role in society. The library team together ensured to reach out to the students, academics and all its users providing information from right sources and providing zoom information literacy trainings to ensure that all the users fully maximise online resources from right sources. *"Supposing is good, but finding out is better" ... (Mark Twain)*



Ms. Sanjeevni Kumar
Subject Research Liaison Officer
Koronivia Campus

New Normal for Library

People worldwide must have been wondering what will our world look like once we finally pass this COVID-19 health crisis? Now, finally, we have all stepped out of our comfort zone and returning to a new normal. Thus, the value of the Academic Library and its e-resources have been a great source

for learning, teaching and research for Fiji National University (FNU) during this COVID-19 crisis. In the wake of the pandemic, everything - the schools, shops, and work- was closed down, but FNU Library did not pause and continued providing information and other online services from home. The library continued to satisfy our users online. It achieved the library mission to deliver quality services through innovative ways to patrons and received positive feedback from our library users. In the library, digital resources and services are an incredible asset for remote access. It is a fantastic opportunity as everyone was excited to get started with the re-opening. After the shock of the pandemic, the library now operated in a new normal environment as well as responded to the challenging and changing environment. The library has opened its buildings, and the ministry of health safety and security protocols and instructions have been followed to prevent virus transmission and protect all our library staff and users. The library remains to be constant and ready to meet future unpredictable challenges.



Ms. Usha Kanta
Subject Research Liaison Officer
Labasa Campus

Library Reopened for user's

Ourspaces and services might look a bit different, but these changes are in place to keep everyone safe. While reopening the library after the lockdown, the stakeholders need to take precautionary measures to prevent the COVID-19 transmission.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, Fiji National University continues to adhere to public health restrictions, including mandatory face masks/coverings and physical distancing at all our locations. The library remains to operate at a 20% capacity.

FNU is helping students in completing their assessments by providing library services such as check-in and check-out of physical materials, online database, computer services including PC for typing and submitting their assignments, printing, photocopying, scanning, and Wi-Fi. *"The future depends on what you do today."* - **Mahatma Gandhi**



Ms. Namrata Chand
Subject Research Liaison Officer
Pasifika Campus

Re-opening of the library for resources accessibility

Communicating with the Users regarding the collection and research needs and maintaining the print and electronic collection for assigned Subject areas has always been an efficient and effective way to keep the Library resources; thus, the best practice is to keep the Library resources updated.

Now Fiji National University Library is fully open for users; therefore, users come into Libraries to do their studies and return and renew their borrowed resources. Hence, the library staff ensure to provide exceptional customer services to our users.

Consequently, Libraries have been exploring the collection of potential e-resources and providing remote access to those which may be of interest to the fraternity in support of academic and research activities.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated sudden and radical changes in the delivery of library services, as strict social distancing and other COVID protocols are still imposed. The concept and practice of providing Library resources (e-resources) and services (Circulation services) are not new. The library adapting to user-friendly approach and availing resources to users even during the pandemic are exemplary.



Ms. Roshni Devi Lal
Subject Research Liaison Officer
Nasinu Campus

Reopening of the library after COVID-19

The COVID-19 virus has had an unprecedented impact on libraries and the communities they serve. There are several possible aspects to consider for reopening scenarios, each dependent on recommendations from local and national health agencies, social distancing protocols, and critical community needs. The primary consideration is maintaining the safety of library patrons and staff while finding ways to provide necessary services that the library is uniquely positioned to perform.

Close physical contact is the major cause of catching the coronavirus. The only way to avoid the virus is 'social distancing' – keeping a safe distance between two persons to reduce the risks of COVID-19 from one person to another. In the library, tables and chairs are arranged at a 2-meter distance.

Library patrons are asked to fill in the records book for contact tracing and use the sanitiser while entering the library. Some students preferred to study from home, while the unprivileged found the library their best place to finish their assignments and assessments for this semester. All returned items are quarantined for 72 hours and then shelved. Library opening hours are reduced, but the students are flexible in adjusting to the change and coping with the time frame.

Basic hygiene measures like washing hands with water and soap, avoiding touching the face, using facemasks and hands gloves, taking precautions while coughing and sneezing are practised by both staff and students at all times.

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." – Marie Curie

Library Opening Hours

Opening hours differs according to the academic calander 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

[Click Here for Librarians](#)

User Oriented Services

1. [Digital Library](#)
2. [Turn-it-In](#)
3. [EndNote](#)
4. [Scopus](#)
5. [Scival](#)

Contact Information



For General Enquiries:
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