



*FNU Acting Librarian Dr Udy Shukla (sitting, middle) with representatives from EBSCO and university staff.*

## FNU aligns library services to digital learning practices

The Fiji National University (FNU) continuously develops its library resources to provide students with access to extensive resource materials for learning and research.

Acting University Librarian (AUL) Dr Udy Shukla said whilst the library maintained and continuously updated its collection of quality hardcover books at all campuses, the institution also aligned itself to current digital learning practices.

Dr Shukla said due to advancements in technology and the accessibility to information through smartphones and laptops, it was imperative for the universities and its libraries to move to digital platforms to reach their students with ease and at a reasonable cost.

“Libraries are continuously developing e-solutions in getting and offering the electronic books and e-reading materials and we are working towards the University’s vision to convert all traditional materials into digitization and facilitate as learning commons to support learning, teaching and research,” Dr Shukla said.

“For the benefit of our students, as well as staff, we subscribe to various e-databases so users can search for relevant ebooks and chapters, read online, highlight and take notes, bookmark and share research with

others as well as download ebooks and chapters onto any electronic devices.”

Dr Shukla said online databases needed to be dynamic, provide credible resources and contribute to the learning and teaching and research needs of the University, thus, a recent meeting with representatives from the ProQuest and GOBI Library Solutions (EBSCO) electronic databases was held to discuss its benefits.

“Reuben Sonn from ProQuest and Kelly Harris from GOBI (EBSCO) presented us with the varied packages they offered that enhances learning, sharing and information management in a range of subjects from the world’s top publishers,” he said.

“EBSCO is a procurement application for electronic books with over 1.2 million resources from multiple disciplines and FNU Library sees this as a potential to develop and grow its libraries’ collection exponentially without having to worry about the space. The resources in this platform can be procured as print and electronic therefore providing greater flexibility to libraries in terms of time delays of purchased resources.”

Dr Shukla said they also discussed the licencing methodology of the resources for both products in terms of number of users accessing resources simultaneously.