

FNU hosts first-ever Library Resource Exhibition



FNU acting University Librarian Dr Udyia Shukla (sitting far left) with Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching Professor James Pounder, Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey and Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Professor Mohini Singh with database representatives (standing with garlands) and University senior management and academic staff.

The Fiji National University (FNU) has transformed its libraries over the years from book repositories to open learning commons, where students can work in groups using online learning materials.

FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey highlighted this at the first-ever Library Resource Exhibition underway at Nasinu Campus.

“We started a journey to transform our libraries and redesigned them so that we make better use of the physical space that was being freed up to create social learning commons,” Professor Healey said.

“This was to create welcome and flexible learning spaces, where students more in groups and primarily have the ability to easily access materials online.”

“Having a modern library with access to online collections, the latest textbooks and safe welcoming learning spaces is hugely important as it levels the book reader global playing field.”

“Buying book collections is expensive and we can never provide the range of physical resources as libraries like at Oxford University, which has over 12 million books.”

Professor Healey said based on the global trend of digital information with instant access to resources through the internet, it was imperative that FNU provide students with access to online collections of books, journals and databases.

“The vendors and supplies represented at this exhibition provide the window into the global world of knowledge. Working with them is how we level the global playing field. How we give our students and staff access to the same intellectual resources as their counterparts in Oxford, Harvard and Sydney,” he said.

“Working with them is how we change our pedagogy so that we nurture creative and critical students.”

FNU’s Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching Professor James Pounder commended the University Library for organising the 2-day event, adding all Campus libraries should be Centres of learning.

“You will know that you’ve learnt something when try and explain it to someone else. So that process of being in a library where you’re reading the materials yourself and discussing things with others, that –

I believe – is the centre of learning,” Professor Pounder said.

“All libraries should strive to be a productive learning space where there are no disruptions, have technological resources which supports learning, be a social hub, have customer-oriented librarians and a good comprehensive support system.”

Acting University Librarian (AUL) Dr Udyia Shukla stated the event provided an opportunity for different stakeholders to strengthen their network and also exchange ideas to better serve their customers (students).

“I encourage all staff and students to fully maximise this resource exhibition and use the opportunity to directly liaise with the vendors and book suppliers and explore other potential areas of interest they feel should be made available to the University.”

The event, which is being held at the main hall at Nasinu Campus, is free and open to all members of the public.

Representatives from McGraw-Hill, ELSEVIER, Cambridge University Press, EBSCO Information Services and the University of the South Pacific (US) Book Centre are part of the exhibition.

Vouchers sponsored by Post Fiji were also used to purchase and distribute giveaways at the event.



FNU senior academic Alifereti Cawanibuka (left) and staff and students of FNU at the Cambridge University Press booth at the Library Resource Exhibition at Nasinu Campus.