



Jeanette Little Scholarship Recipient Report

Evelyn Eveni




First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members of ANZTLA for accepting me as one of the recipients of the JLSS Scholarship, to attend the 2016 31st annual ANZTLA conference held in Canberra, Australia. The experience was unforgettable.

As a librarian from a very small island and community, I stood in awe of my surroundings and the people around me when I attended the conference. I was simply amazed to be there, to be among these great minds, to listen and absorb information as it was shared during the conference. The presentations were enlightening, from vendor speeches to the technological illustrations, I was glad to see and hear about new and innovative features for libraries.

From day one of the conference to the last, as each vendor took its place and shared ideas on how to build better libraries for the future, I thought of our small library here in Kanana Fou and how I can utilize the information gathered for the betterment of our own library

During our fieldtrips to the Australian National Library and other libraries, I marvelled at some of the advanced capabilities of libraries today - everything from compact shelving, to robotic workers, to a room specifically for binding and fixing any book.



Compact shelving is something I felt could really help us as we have limited space in our library. We can use this to store many of our old collections, and to make room available for our new book orders. E-books were also mentioned, and I feel that our students could benefit so much if this were accessible to us. We loan up to 5 books per student and this is where E-books could come in handy for them.

Funding is the main issue we have for our library. So many changes need to be implemented but we just don't have the funds for it. It would be nice in the future to be equipped with tools to bind, mend and save our books, or to have a room such as the one of William Shakespeare – just to sit in and be taken back in time. Then back to the future with the robotic workers, that was truly mind blowing, although not a necessity for our library.

The most important thing I learned from this conference was the need to handle old documents and manuscripts with great care. I could not believe that such documents from the early 1800s were still around, let alone discover that the very first copy of the Bible written in our Samoan language is carefully housed in the St Mark's Library in Canberra, Australia. It was an emotional moment for me to hold in my hands, the very first book that was in possession of our forefathers.

In this day and age of technology, we have become the generation of "New" things. Out with the old and in with the new. We've succumbed to the beauty of the Internet and what it has to offer, but we've neglected the importance of our past. Our past defines who we are today and in the future. It has painted a great picture of how far we've come, and where we need to go: from old documents to pdf files and E-books. I am not one against changes, as long as those changes benefit us a great deal and help build a better tomorrow for generations to come. I would also like to thank Moore College Librarian Julie Olston and her staff for hosting us, and opening up their library for our use during our visit to Sydney. Thank you again ANZTLA for the opportunity. This was truly an experience of a lifetime.



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Wesley Tupu



There is a saying that goes “the most valuable lessons aren’t taught, they’re experienced.” Attending the ANZTLA Conference this year has been the most challenging and exciting experience for me as a librarian. A lot has been learned and knowledge has been extended to help the development of our small but treasured library in the Pacific. Therefore it is with great pleasure that I write this report to convey how illuminating and enlightening the Conference was for me.

I thank the ANZTLA board for taking me in as a recipient of the JLSS award. This is an opportunity that I don’t often get and I am blessed. Also thanks to the principal of Piula Theological College for allowing me to leave our work at this busy time of our academic year. To Judith who has been very supportive and helpful, I thank you for your kindness and love and May God Bless.

The Conference has opened my eyes to seeing the new methods and skills that are used by other libraries to further their development. Comparing to other libraries around the Pacific, our Piula Library is a bit slow and old-fashioned in a way. For instance, the majority of libraries in the Pacific have upgraded their systems of cataloguing to ones that are more informative and have a lot of features to help users in searching for books and other resources. However, our library has been using the



Alice database for quite a long time; information is limited and there has been no sign of such development for our library.

The advanced technology plays a very important role in the running of libraries, unfortunately that is something our library lacks. I realize the benefits of accessing books and articles on the internet for research. It seems impossible for our library, but it is something important that we need to look at.

These are some of the important issues that I found useful:

Reading lists: My attention was drawn to a presentation that mentioned the use of a “Reading List.” I find the idea new and creative in a way. It is a method that I can introduce into our library, to help the students look for materials recommended by lecturers that are related to their courses. It will definitely save time and provide accurate information needed.

Softlink: As I mentioned in my report, currently our library uses Alice for cataloguing. After a presentation by the representative of Softlink, I found out that Liberty, a database also owned by Softlink, is very accessible and reliable in holding our library materials. At the moment, we are negotiating with members of Softlink to install the Liberty system for our library catalogue.

EBSCO/ATLA: Our College was longing for this database for so long. This is where we can find the latest update of scholarly literature which enlightens our researchers of what other scholars may offer. Again it is costly for the College to bring in this service. My attendance at the Conference has allowed me to understand that working with other members, I can get access to EBSCO/ATLA at a cheaper rate. This program is now on trial for two months. Once we agree to use it, then we will subscribe as a member.

All in all, the presentations offered during the Conference have helped me to develop my way of thinking on how to perform my duties as a librarian. I also am fortunate to have met other librarians around the Pacific and to have exchanged insights about library skills and works. It was also a privilege for me to learn from the expertise of representatives from companies who provide a big help in the development of libraries.



Moreover, every activity and presentation at the meeting has had an impact on my work as a librarian. Some need to be introduced earlier while others need more time to be processed. All these were made possible because of the opportunity that was given for me to be part of the Conference. Although these things can be learned through technology, I found it very interesting to actually experience being a member of the Conference. At the end of the Conference I found it very illuminating and enlightening as the theme for this year declares.

We are looking forward for other opportunities that will help our library to extend our development. Once again, thank you very much for the opportunity given for me to participate.

God Bless!!!

Soifua.