Island Culture Archival Support
Annual Report 2016
Our Mission:

Island Culture Archival Support (ICAS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of records pertaining to the cultural identity of island peoples in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia whose national and public archives, libraries, cultural centers, and business organizations are underprivileged, underfunded, and understaffed.

The specific purpose for which this nonprofit corporation was formed is to support the needs of these South Pacific cultural heritage institutions by helping to preserve and make accessible records created for business, accountability or cultural purposes. The organization will endeavor to add value by providing resources or volunteers to advise, train, and work among island residents to support their efforts in building their future and preserving their collective memory through the use of modern archival techniques.
Dear Friends:

During the ICA Congress conference in Seoul, Korea, the keynote speaker, John Hocking, a senior official of the United Nations, spoke about a seed vault that was built underground on an Arctic island. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault (nicknamed the Doomsday Vault) is located just outside of Longyearbyen on Spitsbergen Island and is capable of safely storing millions of crop seeds for long periods of time. The facility is administered by the Global Crop Diversity Trust. The vault was designed to resist both natural and human disasters, including global warming, floods, fires, and nuclear holocaust. The purpose of this storage site is to help insure the continuing diversity of agricultural plants in the face of natural disasters, war, mismanagement, or other catastrophes such as global warming. Our modern civilization depends extensively upon agriculture to sustain itself, and there is also a real danger of plant diseases disrupting the production of food crops.

The vault now contains samples from approximately one-third of the world's most important food crop varieties. As of Spring 2010, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault has more than half a million seed samples in storage, and each
sample can contain up to 500 seeds. So, the facility now stores nearly 250 million individual seeds!

The speech intrigued me and made me realize that an archive could contain much more than paper and audio-visual records. If you think about it, the seeds in the Svalbard vault are cataloged, stored and preserved just like any record in a “traditional” archives. The vault will need staff members to ensure that the seeds are safely kept and that access to them will be done systematically and easily.

As Mr. Hocking continued his talk, I started wondering if there were any archives in the Pacific Islands region that was, perhaps, similar to that of the seed vault. The Marine Collection at the University of South Pacific (USP) came to mind which holds a vast collection of coral, fish and invertebrates. In fact, the corals represent one of the most important collections in the Pacific Islands region. Over the past fifteen years two major fish collections were carried out at USP, as well as the collections of brittle stars, worms, gastropods, hydroids and crustaceans.

Although, the Seed Vault and Marine Collection are very different, they do have some things in common. Both repositories have collections that are cataloged, stored and preserved just like any record in an archives. Both need staff members to ensure that the seeds and the marine collections are safely kept and are intellectual and physical control has been made. Both collections are now readily accessible for teaching and research purposes. Both are important collections. The Seed Vault aims to revive humanity in the event of a world catastrophe, while the Marine Collection will contain a record of its coral and fish existence that future researchers could draw upon if a species should ever become extinct.

A few months later after the conference in Korea, I came across a news story about another similar type of archives in Vanuatu. The story stated that Vanuatu’s national kava collection was vandalized and that the plants were stolen or destroyed. For those of you who do not know what kava is- it is a tall shrub in the pepper family that grows in the South Pacific islands. It has been used there for thousands of years as a folk remedy and as a social and ceremonial beverage. The part of the plant used medicinally is the root. Although the root was traditionally chewed or made into a beverage, kava is now available in capsule, tablet, beverage, tea and liquid extract forms. The
reason for the vandalism of the plants most likely stemmed from current land issues where the kava research center is located.

The Kava Collection in Vanuatu is another example of an “untraditional” archives in the Pacific Islands region. The plants were cataloged and the collection was used as a reference for the “Kava Act” passed into Parliament in 2002. The lists of noble, (piper) *wichmanii* and two-day varieties are in appendix of the Kava Act and determined which variety was legal. More recently, the collection was also being used as a scientific support to develop regional kava standards for the Codex Alimentarius regulated by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

All in all, it is exciting to see these unusual types of archives are springing up throughout the Pacific Islands. Taking physical and intellectual control of these archives may be a little different than that of a traditional archive that hold documents and audio-visual records. However, they all need to be administered by the same archival practice principles to ensure their longevity and access. I look forward to learning more about new collections such as the Marine Fish collection in Fiji and the Kava Collection in Vanuatu. Hopefully, ICAS will get an opportunity to help these kinds of archives as well, or at the very least, promote and expose their collections to the world at large.

Brandon Oswald
Executive Director
2016 Accomplishments

It was another busy year for the organization in 2016. Here are the major highlights:

**Website pages:** Board member, James Hatton, was, once again, instrumental in designing, maintaining, and creating new content for the Website. He also posted project reports throughout the year.

**Blog:** Our blog, *Island Time*, on Wordpress continued to attract many readers throughout 2016. Since the start of the blog, we have had 268 posts. Here are some of the top posts:
“That Curious Cult in Vanuatu” April 2012
“Intangible Cultural Heritage Workshop in Yap” May 2014
“Cook Islands 50th Anniversary Celebration” January 2015
“Cook Islands 50th Anniversary Logo” February 2015
“Pacific Students Benefit from Local Wisdom” December 2016

Overall, 108 countries visited the post. That is almost every country in the world! This year most visitors came from the United States, Australia New Zealand, Germany and Guam.


**Facebook:** Our Facebook page continued to attract more interest in our organization. It also provides another forum for us to tell people about our projects and call-to-actions.

**Publications:** Two new publications were accepted at conferences this year. The titles were, *The Aloha Archives: A Nonprofit Organization’s View of Collaboration, Peace and Harmony in Cultural Heritage Organizations of the Pacific Islands* and *Keeping the Canoe Afloat: Project Sustainability in Pacific Islands Cultural Heritage Organizations*. Both publications can be found on the ICAS Website.

**Amazon.com:** ICAS joined AmazonSmile donation program. That supporters can help our nonprofit when shop on Amazon.com. As a donor buys a product on Amazon, a donation of 0.5% goes to ICAS. Every penny helps! Thank you to all those who have used our link on AmazonSmile. Here is our link if you would like an easy way to support our mission: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-2291223
Suva, Fiji, has vastly become my home away from home as I have had projects in the capital town for the past three years. Although I come for the projects, it is the friendly smiles, amicable camaraderie, and the bountiful of delicious food during celebrations that does not make me hesitate to plan a return visit. Like previous visits to the city, I found myself merrily bouncing around from one archives to another like a happy myna bird. Suva is rich in culture which truly shows by the many number of organizational archives that can be found throughout the town and have taken a committed interest in preserving their history. It is encouraging to see that despite the lack of resources, funding limitations and staff expertise, archivists and record managers of these organizations remain positive while discovering inventive ways to safe keep their records.
My two main projects in Suva were working at the National Archives of Fiji (NAF) and the archives at the Oceania Marist Province (OMPA), respectively. The NAF have made great strides since my first visit three years ago. It now boasts a staff of more than thirty employees in five archival sections that include, Archives Administration and Advisory Services, the Sir Alport Barker Library, Microfilm and Photocopy Unit, Conservation Unit and the Digital Continuity Unit. Their Facebook page has over 27,000 followers and is growing every day, and the archives has just recently created and launched a new Website. Today, through their vision and mission, the NAF has become the premiere archival institution in Fiji for collecting and safeguarding authentic records, supporting evidence based governance and inspiring Fijians to explore and share their history. The archives has also become very active within the community as well as with the communities of the outer Fijian islands to promote their collections and services. They eagerly and enthusiastically conduct outreach services at Open days, road shows, conferences and festivals throughout the islands and the region.

The OMPA, on the other hand, is a much smaller archives than the NAF that contains a rich history of the Marist's mission in the Pacific Islands region. The collection dates back to when the Marists first arrived in Fiji in about 1844. The archives also contains documents created by Marist's work in other islands such as Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. The archives is safeguarded by one person who works part-time which in the archives field would be known as a "lone-arranger." Fortunately, over the years volunteers have created a stable environment for the records and easily accessible collections.
I divided my time at both archives during the first week of my visit. I spent my mornings with Father Roger McCarrick, Archivist, at the OMPA. The project that we believed took precedence was to describe and create box lists for the photograph collection. By doing this it would make access to the photographs easier. The project was also meant to help identify important and special photographs that will need to be digitized at a later date. The oldest photographs date back to the late 19th century and were loosely arranged by place, usually by town or mission. Each island that the Marists worked in composed a box with Fiji being represented with the most boxes. In total, the collection consisted of hundreds of photographs that were held in thirty-two boxes. It was a significant collection that not only told the story of the individual Marists priests, the photographs also told the story of the mission stations and the people who were associated with them.

The workflow included going through one box at a time and list each photograph in a Word document. Most of the photographs were in good to fair conditions. Some of the older, particularly the 19th century ones, were suffering from fading and should have high priority when it comes time to
digitize the collection. There was some preservation treatment applied to the photographs as they were being listed. Many of them were being housed in acid-laden envelopes, and thus, these envelopes were replaced with acid-free ones. If the photograph contained metadata, this was written down on the new envelope. Typically, the metadata was quite concise with only a name and a date. Father Roger tried to add metadata to the ones that did not contain any information. Dates were the hardest to come up with, but at times, Father Roger was able to take an educated guess due to his knowledge of the subject. In each box a group of related photographs were attached to a piece of cardboard by glue or tape like pages from an album. It was best to leave these alone as the act of dislodging them from the cardboard could easily damage the photograph. Many of these photographs are dated to the late 19th century to the mid-20th century and merit to be on the priority list for digitization. Some boxes contained many photographs while others held only a handful. If the box that contained the photographs was torn and in bad shape, it was replaced with a new acid-free box.
The project went well but slow depending on the box. Although we tried to keep the original order of the boxes, there were times where we had to move some photographs to another box where it fit better because of its nature. Unfortunately, the project had to come to an abrupt end and after the first week due to unforeseen issues at the Oceania Marist Province house where the archives is located. By then we had processed, preserved and listed the contents of eight boxes. This was a shame as we were just getting to a point where we understood the collection better. We also got to a point where we had good rhythm knowing how to do deal with each photograph. Nevertheless, we vowed to return to the project in the near future. The nice thing is that all the archival supplies for the project have remained with the archives, and so, it would be just a matter of getting back together to continue the good work.

In the afternoons I spent my time with Opeta Alefaio, Director, at the National Archives of Fiji. The main project was to work with the Recordkeeping Unit under the direction of Timoci Balenaivalu and perform descriptive work on a collection. The goal was to produce a finding guide for the collection that the unit could use as an example as they describe collections in the future. Many of the archives' finding guides have gone missing over the years, and it was time to re-set descriptive standards for the unit. Because many of the unit's staff are fairly new employees, it was time for the unit's supervisors to look at their descriptive procedures and to see how they can better the work-flow. The Archives has been recently looking into adding an open-source database where they can input their described collections. Until they decide on one, they will have to do description work manually by writing it down, or using an office computer to make their notes. Keep in mind that most employees in this unit do not have a computer at their workstation. Thus, when the unit becomes automated, it will make description work easier to do. Plus, the new database will help researchers find information a lot more quickly. In the meantime, the unit need to establish a consistent list of descriptive elements for the collections.
The collection that I was given to describe was the Colonial Secretary Office (CSO) 'F' Series Files Records, 1946-1972. The collection was housed in thirteen boxes that contained on average six folders which held mainly records from township councils. The towns and cities involved were ones that could be found on the main island of Viti Levu and consisted of Suva, Lautoka, Ba, Nausori, Levuka, Sigatoka, Nadi, and Labasa. The items in the collection were the typical pre-independence government records such as, board meeting minutes, correspondences, memorandum, annual reports, financial statements, and meeting notes. Some of the more intriguing records within the collection was a Local Government in Fiji Establishment brochure (1953), a Western District tour diary (1953) and survey maps, some of which were hand drawn. Overall, the records of the collection were in good to fair condition. Very little preservation work had been done to the records. Handwritten, original and carbons, typewritten, news clippings were included in this collection. Of particular importance were the hand drawn maps that will be classified as fragile and will merit photocopying or scanning.
It took several days to describe the CSO ‘F’ Series collection. I started by creating a box list for each box which is really the most basic form of description work. This work was the most laborious as I went through each folder and wrote down the different sub-series that make-up the collection. Fortunately, a few of the boxes were composed of only township board meeting minutes which made the descriptive process move a bit quicker. I typically do not describe a collection to the item level especially large collections. However, I would note any significant items such as a unique hand drawn map or an intriguing letter. After the box lists were complete, I was able to use the information to form a finding guide for the collection. The key with creating the finding guide was to describe the collection with a set of descriptive elements. Although there are many elements that could go into a descriptive finding aid, the goal was to incorporate the ten main, required elements so that NAF staff could use as an example and apply them towards future description work. The required elements included, title, reference number, name of location of repository, date, creators, extent, scope and content, access conditions and language. When the finding guide was completed, I sat with the Recordkeeping Unit’s manager, and went over it with him. We had planned to present it to his staff at their next unit meeting, but the meeting was cancelled due to the absence of employees. Nevertheless, he assured me that he would go over the descriptive elements at the next unit meeting.

As I was describing the CSO collection, other tasks arose for me throughout the archives. The first was helping the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives’ (PARBICA) efforts of overhauling the University of South Pacific (USP) Library Information Services (LIS) program and expanding it to a full degree qualification. PARBICA would like to see USP add archival services, records management, knowledge management and other components to the existing LIS Diploma curriculum to provide students with a more comprehensive set of information management skills. I found this to be an excellent idea and long overdue, and thus, I took some time to write an endorsement letter in favor of the proposal. A second task involved the library where the librarian wanted to revise the research room policy. The research room is connected to the library and it is used for the library patrons as well as for researchers who wish to use archive collections. I, then, re-wrote the research room policy to include rules and procedures for both sets of users. The third and final side-job during my stay at the NAF was to suggest and recommend to Opeta different services that the library could offer to patrons. The NAF is also
home to the National Library and management feels the time is right to upgrade their library services and properly perform and present them. We brainstormed many good ideas relevant for the organization such as offering genealogy, outreach and research services, building an Indo-Fijian collection, having access to online journals and sponsoring library events at the Archives. The director of the Archives planned on attending a library conference in New Zealand where he hopes to meet with library professionals and learn of ideas that will move the library forward.

As luck would have it, I happened to be in Suva on the day that the NAF was celebrating International Archives Day (IAD). Normally, IAD is observed on June 9 every year, but the NAF decided to postpone their celebrations until Saturday, June 25, and had an open day at the Archives from 9am until about 3pm. A tent was set up in the courtyard of the Archives and the staff provided tea and snacks for early visitors. It was a splendid, festive day that attracted more than a hundred people. Under the tent visitors were able to learn about the Archives and the services it offers, then the people were allowed to tour the inside of the building. The library staff displayed historic, rare books and talked about the role that the library plays in the archives, and the type of collections that one would find there. The Conservation Unit showed visitors the types of tools and equipment that they use to conserve records, and gave demonstrations at a couple of conservation stations. Perhaps, the highlight of the day was when visitors that were led by Archives' staff got to visit a part of the repository and view (not touch) an assortment of records that the Archives holds. Some of the records that were on display included the Instrument of Cession (1874), Photos of famous chiefs who signed the Instrument of Cession, Plantation Register of Indian Immigrants (1879-1883), the Fiji Independence souvenir program (1970) and an unique 1905 Fijian calendar that listed all the events that took place for each month of the year. All in all, the NAF staff worked very hard to make it a perfect, informative day and did an outstanding job showcasing the services of the Archives.
During the second week of my stay in Suva I paid a visit to USP to visit friends and colleagues. While I was there, I had a meeting with Jason Flello, Records Management Manager, who shared his audacious ideas and plans to
add a university archives to his program. He felt that the time was right to add an archives to the university, and I could not have agreed more. Thus, he has requested that I aid him in the process going forward. The manager has recently drafted a University Archives Policy and a funding application to get things moving. His more immediate plans were to renovate a couple of out buildings that belong to the records management unit, or to have a new archives building built. The goal was to have this archives ready in time to coincide with USP's 50th anniversary in 2018, but, realistically, it was looking more likely that only the ground would be broken. In the meantime there is a lot to do to prepare and organize for this much needed archives. I really look forward to working with the records management team and forming relationships with relevant university departments whose unique records will form the heart of the archives.

Overall, it was a very busy two weeks in Suva, and it was good to be back working along colleagues. It was a pleasure to see how archives throughout the city continued to be managed and safe-kept more seriously and passionately than ever before. It is enlightening to see how archival organizations are finding ways to promote their collections. This proactive approach to show that archives matter is crucial for archives to move forward within the community, the city, and the country as well. There is still much volunteer work and help that is needed at the National Archives of Fiji, the Oceania Marist Province and at the University of South Pacific and projects are already in the planning stage. I look forward to keeping a strong and committed relationship with new and old colleagues throughout Suva.
ICA Congress 2016

Island Culture Archival Support (ICAS) participated at the recent International Council on Archives (ICA) quadrennial congress in Seoul, South Korea, from September 5-10, 2016. The conference took place at the Coex Convention & Exhibition Center located in Samseong-dong of Gangnam-gu district and is South Korea's largest convention and exhibition centers. The center was immense that boasted a four-story center with four exhibition halls and 48 meeting rooms. The professional program contained eight themes and offered a choice of nearly 100 sessions that produced stimulating papers, informative workshops and dedicated panel sessions with colleagues from around the world. The main subject of the conference was "Archives, Harmony and Friendship" that explored the concept of harmony and cooperation within the archives and recordkeeping field and how archivists reconcile some of the intrinsic conflicts managing archives. Sang Jin Lee, President of the National Archives of Korea, wrote that he
envisioned the Congress will be an invaluable opportunity for all participants to experience harmony between tradition and future, with archivists united beyond the continent and into the world. "Humanity makes archives," he said, "and archives make history." The President of ICA, David Fricker, also encouraged archivists and records managers to keep informed and educated. "As part of an active international community, we need to share our ideas with our peers." This was why he felt that the ICA Congress 2016 would be such an essential event of the professional calendar. Indeed, the conference attracted nearly two thousand participants from all around the world.

The first day and a half was dedicated to thirteen workshops that participants could choose from including the one that I was involved with titled, Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness Workshop. As a member of the ICA Expert Group of Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness, I joined to other members to conduct the all-day event. My co-presenter included Emilie Leumas who is the Director of Archives and Records with the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, a Preservation Specialist for Stony Creek Consulting as well as the Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness of Massachusetts. Together, we endeavored to teach the class of about thirty participants the four elements of disaster management that included: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. We thought that we would try working our way backwards by starting with the topic of "Recovery". Emilie took the floor first and opened the workshop with a frightening slide of a library devastated by a flood. We turned out the lights to add to the affect and had the participants tell us what they saw. Eventually, Emilie would turn this slide into an exercise where participants would work together and decide how they would handle the situation and what kind of supplies they would need to minimize further damage to the collection.

After Emilie, I delivered a training session on Response and Preparedness that weighed heavily on how to develop a written preparedness plan. The participants learned the ten steps on developing an effective plan that included such topics as the introduction, assessing risk and threats, reducing risks, establishing support networks, establishing a recovery team, prioritizing collections, preparing a response plan, preparing a recovery plan, training and reviewing the plan. I provided an exercise to help the participant think about their priority collections and where they are located. It was interesting to see how they struggled to choose their top three collections as
the exercise proved a bit more difficult than I expected. Hopefully, they took this exercise back home to work with their own staff as it is very important part of disaster preparedness. Finally, after me, Gregor took to the podium to talk more in depth about Risk Assessment and Mitigation. He provided a Risk Assessment worksheet for the participant to talk over within their groups. Overall, it was a long day, but the workshop went really well and was very well received. In fact, we are hoping we can do something similar at next year's ICA conference in Mexico City.

I attended a workshop that dealt with salvaging water-logged material on Tuesday morning. The workshop's title was "Restoration of Disaster-affected Documents" and was presented by one scholar from the National Institute for Japanese Literature and three professional conservators from the National Archives of Japan. The goal was to guide participants through a hands-on workshop and learn methods of restoring water-damaged documents. The workshop opened with a lecture from Maki Takashina, Project Researcher from the National Institute for Japanese Literature, who talked about the latest natural disasters that have struck Japan and the restoration techniques in restoring documents that were affected by these
disasters. After her talk, Tomohiro Akutsu, Chief Conservator of the National Archives of Japan, lead the participants through a hands-on practice on how to restore documents that were damaged by water. The hands-on training was designed so that even those who have little experience in salvaging water-logged material can properly and effectively handle a situation. Hopefully, the participants will never have to salvage water-logged documents. However, we all seemed to enjoy getting our hands wet and learning some valuable techniques. I found that the workshop nicely and appropriately complimented our Disaster Preparedness workshop the day before as restoring documents is a form of the recovery process during disaster management. Our expert group wanted to add a hands-on recovery portion to our workshop but the logistics of shipping supplies to Korea proved to be a bit daunting.

On Tuesday afternoon the Congress kicked off with the Opening Ceremony in the auditorium. After a couple of short, glorifying films about Korea and archivists, a group of Korean musicians took the stage and performed a traditional song with traditional instruments. Perhaps, the highlight of the ceremony came from the speech of the first keynote speaker, John Hocking, who is from Australia and is a senior official of the United Nations. Hocking oversees the preservation and accessibility of the archives of the United Nations' trials arising from the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and the atrocities which engulfed the Balkans in the 1990s. He has recognized the "mission-critical" role of archivists in any institution, and he has ensured their full integration within the operations of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia as well as the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. The theme of Hocking's speech was "out of the box and into the world" that made connections between archives initiatives around the world to show the global impact that archives have. He also emphasized the role that archivists make inside and outside the profession. It was truly an inspiring speech that left the audience in awe, and it was a terrific start to a wonderful conference.

For the next two days I spent most of my time attending panel sessions on different archival topics throughout the world. Although there were many sessions to choose from, I tended to be present at talks whose subject matter dealt with the Pacific Islands. As an active member of PARBICA (which is the Pacific Islands branch of ICA), I made sure not to miss any sessions where a PARBICA member was giving a talk. Out of the six PARBICA members attending the conference, three of us had papers to present and one
had a poster to share. Thus, one session that I attended included a talk by Fiona Gunn who was from the National Archives of Australia and Opeta Alefai of the National Archives of Fiji. Unfortunately, Opeta could not make it to the conference, so Fiona gave the speech on his behalf. The title of the paper was "Beyond Ordinary Notions of Effective Development: What International Development Practitioners Can Learn from Archivists and the Archives Community." It was an interesting look at the "twining program" between both of their respective institutions where they shared employees to learn new archival techniques and practices. A second important session that I attended included another paper by Opeta. However, this time the presentation was given by another PARBICA member, Helen Walker of the National Archives of Australia. The paper's title was "My Brothers' Keeper: A Case Study of the Incontrovertible Value of Professional Associations and Long-term Relationships" and was a look at how effective the outreach program at the National Archives of Fiji has been the past year when they share their collections with the community.

Another noteworthy conference event that I attended was a poster session given by Jason Flello of the University of South Pacific (USP). Jason is the manager of the Records Management Department at the University and is also a PARBICA member. His poster was titled "Music to My Ears: You've Got a Friend in Me: Building an Archive with the Support of Friends from across the Waves." The poster described how the University of South Pacific started the process of establishing its own archives and how relationships with in-country collaborators and similar organizations outside of Fiji (which ICAS was one of them) have helped explore the requirements and options of building a USP archives. The poster stated that USP has been fortunate to gain expertise, advice and resources from a wide source of friends who have eagerly shared their knowledge and wisdom, experiences and tools. However, the underlined theme was that there was much more that needs to be accomplished if their goal of starting an archives comes to fruition. They realized that with no professional accreditation process in Fiji as well as no formal archival qualification that staff members can obtain, the USP archives and records management community has to support itself. Thus, the need for friends to collaborate and support this endeavor is absolutely crucial. Finally, the poster made a call to welcome additional support to help them achieve their goal. ICAS plans to continue our relationship and help get this much needed archives off the ground.
Music to my ears
You've got a friend in me

Building an archive with the support of friends from across the waves

The University of the South Pacific, only three years away from its 50th birthday celebration, begins the process of establishing its own archive, with a little help from my friends, seeking potential collaborators to cooperate in the spirit of professional friendship.

With no professional accreditation process in Fiji, the archives and records management community supports itself.

Qualifications from other countries are expensive so formal qualifications in archives management are unheard of in Fiji.

The University built relationships with in-country collaborators, such as ICA branch (FARRICA) and similar institutions in Australia to explore the requirements and options of building a USP archive.

Each new partner responded in-kind, asserting you’ve got a friend in me.

The end goal is not simply a new archive but a framework or toolbox to assist others who may find themselves in a similar predicament.

USP has indeed been fortunate to gain expertise, advice and resources from a wide source of friends who have eagerly shared their knowledge and wisdom, experiences and tools.

It is incumbent on us to explore the ways that we may share the resources that we have collected and developed with new friends that we have not yet made.

We welcome additional support to help us achieve our goal of a university archive for the South Pacific.

We have learnt a great deal but our journey is just beginning.

With help from:
- Edith Cowan University
- Deakin University
- University of Tasmania
- National Archives of Fiji
- Australian Universities Recordskeeping and Archivists
- Island Culture Archival Support
- Australian Society of Archivists
On Thursday I was scheduled to give a presentation on my paper that was titled, "The Aloha Archives: A Nonprofit Organization's View of Collaboration, Peace and Harmony in Cultural Heritage Organizations of the Pacific Islands." The intent of this paper was to examine archives in the region more closely through the eyes of the non-profit organization, Island Culture Archival Support (ICAS) and the way deference toward peace and harmony affects the attitudes of those in charge of preserving history. Nature plays a big part in this as Pacific Islanders find their love and respect of land imbedded into all aspects of their lives. The region has a rich supply of history, beauty, and sustainability on every level. Hawaiians use the term, "Aloha Spirit," that has a deeper, meaningful interaction and which resonates throughout all of Oceania. Finally, the paper showed how collaboration between regional professionals, local communities, and resources such as ICAS has paved the way for better archival practices and a greater understanding regarding the unlimited possibilities of a borderless society of records. Archives is changing in the Pacific Islands, bridging people and cultures together more than ever before. The paper fell nicely into the conference theme of "Archives, Harmony and Friendship."

However, with such a late presentation time (after 5pm), not many attendees got to hear about it. Hopefully, ICA will publish all conference papers in some way and form in the near future. If not, I plan to post the "Aloha Archives" on the ICAS' Website.

All in all, I am proud to have been given the opportunity to represent ICAS at the ICA Congress. The conference themes fit perfectly with the mission of ICAS and I am glad that I was able to attend the many thought-provoking and inspiring workshops, presentations and speeches that highlighted these themes. The best part, however, was the opportunity to meet so many different professionals from around the world and learning about the unique challenges that they face at their archives. It was also a real pleasure meeting the individuals that were involved with ICA's governance such as those that serve on the Secretariat as well as those that help run the Program Commission (PCOM) and the Fund for the International Development of Archives (FIDA). Over the past few years these active branches of ICA have supported ICAS as we try to make a difference in the Pacific Islands. I look forward to the ICA Annual Conference in Mexico City in 2017 where I hope that our expert team will run another Disaster Preparedness workshop. On the other hand, the next ICA Congress in 2020 will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates which I have no doubt will be a spectacular and informative event.
2016 Financial Statement

Revenue & Support:

Net Assets – Beginning of Year ........ $1496.44
Donations (Individuals) .................. $4250.00
Donations (Grants) ...................... $6013.62
Interest & Other Income ................ $13.58
Total Revenue & Support .............. $11773.64

Expenses:

Administration .......................... $301.46
Projects ................................. $4170.86
Archival Supplies & Shipping ........ $0.00
Outreach & Fundraising ................ $1560.82
Total Expenses ........................ $6033.14

Change in Net Assets ................. $5740.50
Net Assets – End of Year ............ $5740.50
Red = Projects
Green = Outreach & Fundraising
Blue = Administration
Yellow = Archival Supplies & Shipment
Thank You Very Much!

*Special thanks* to all those who made 2016 a very special one (in no particular order):

Daniel Fierro  
Brian Kariger  
Jasper Chou  
Karen Vernon  
Shannon Oswald  
Kathy Creely  
Deborah Day  
Ryan Finnerty  
James Hatton  
Noa Tapumanaia  
Augustine Tevimule  
Javed Yusuf  
Naomi Ngirakamerang  
Catherine Green  
Richard Oswald  
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