

PAC Centre Annual Report 2019-2020

PAC Centre (hosting institution, country and contact information)

National Library of Australia
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International Cooperation (highlight activities and work the PAC Centre has done in the international preservation and conservation network and where your PAC Centre has provided support on an international level)

Over the course of the year the Oceania PAC contributed to a range of discussions across the PAC community on preservation ethics, bushfire recovery initiatives and responses to COVID-19 on cultural collections and work practices, as well as archival preservation standards as a direct response to a request from the Public through the IFLA website.

The National Library of Australia's (NLA) Director General and Assistant Director General – Collaboration travelled to Athens, Greece to attend the 2019 International Federation of Library Associations congress.

The NLA's Jakarta Office overseas collection team were involved with a number of initiatives across the Oceania/Pacific region including: supporting the reestablishment of libraries and reading programs in Papua New Guinea and hosting three interns from the East Timor Embassy and presenting an overview of the NLA's Timor-Lest collection.

The NLA is collaborating with partners in the Pacific region to improve knowledge of and access to Pacific cultural heritage resources through the Australian collaborative online library database 'Trove'. *Pacific* is part of the new 'Place' facet of Trove. This feature gives users the ability to narrow their search to items related to the Pacific. It allows Pacific peoples to find and access freely available digitised material relating to their own culture and region online without having to visit an Australian library in person.

Together with the Australian Government and the National Library of New Zealand, the NLA is working with colleagues across the Pacific to develop the Pacific Virtual Museum. This online portal will provide a single access point to digitised Pacific cultural heritage items held across museums, galleries and library collections across the world and will allow people from the Pacific to access their digitised cultural heritage, much of which is stored in offshore institutions. <https://natlib.govt.nz/about-us/collaborative-projects/pacific-virtual-museum>

Local Cooperation (highlight activities and work your PAC Centre has done in the local preservation and conservation network and where your PAC Centre has provided support on a local level)

As noted in last year's report, IFLA PAC Oceania is currently working towards developing a suite of surveys and online discussion tools to identify the preservation needs across the region, with the aim to share information on sustainable solutions to preservation care of collections. Potential outcomes of this include further developed Q&A documentation to provide more robust models for distribution across the region. Due to the size of the Oceania region and the variety of needs it is important to manage expectations about what can be achieved through this process due to the limited resources of the Oceania Centre.

Workshops/trainings/events (what workshops/trainings/events has the PAC Centre organised? Which workshops/trainings/events did the PAC Centre participate in? both on international and national level)

Due to ongoing budgetary and resourcing restrictions over a number of years, the National Library of Australia has not been able to fund specific IFLA PAC events in the region and travel to the region has been limited.

Involvement of the PAC Centre with the IFLA Initiatives (i.e. the Risk Register/FAQ)

The Oceania PAC provided advice, support and input into the proposed WLIC 2020 Preservation and Conservation section outcomes and documentation.

New standards/guidelines/best practices which should be shared with the community

The Preservation Services branch of the NLA is currently researching current approaches to off-gassing requirements for construction materials and paints used for exhibition/display construction. This includes looking into the suite of modern Low/No VOC paints and reviewing the established preservation standard of 4 weeks off-gassing time. Input and comment have been sought through internationally distributed surveys. Once completed, this information will be made available across the Oceania region.

The creation of a strategic preventive conservation program for the National Library of Australia will begin in earnest across the new 2020/2021 year with the aim to integrate the program into collection management work across the Library. Moving forward, this strategy will be communicated across Oceania as a potential model for other libraries across the region.