

Resources

*The New Zealand and Pacific Collection at the University of
Auckland*

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The New Zealand and Pacific Collection at the University of Auckland

The New Zealand and Pacific Collection is a comprehensive resource of published material relating to the New Zealand and Pacific area, and supports a wide range of Pacific and Māori studies. The geographic scope of the collection extends to the cultural areas of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia, but excludes Australia, Asia, and the other Pacific rim countries. Materials collected include books, pamphlets, serials, official government papers, statistics, microtexts, and archives and manuscripts, currently amounting to approximately 80,000 monographs and bound volumes of serials, and 500 linear meters of archives and manuscripts. An integral part of the collection is Te Hukātai, located in the Māori Studies Department, which specializes in historical manuscripts in the Māori language and relating to Māori history and tradition.

The development of the collection as a research center for New Zealand and Pacific studies dates from the 1970s, with its establishment as a separate unit within the university's general library, and the appointment of a specialist librarian. Since then, the collection, which now has a total of five full-time staff, has comprehensively acquired published Māori and Pacific materials, building on the strong foundations of earlier years. A significant development in the last five years has been the expansion of the microtext collections, and personal collecting trips to the Pacific area with a special

emphasis on official publications. In recognizing the importance of its Pacific holdings, and to further its collecting program at the research level, the University of Auckland Library in 1995 joined the consortium of institutions supporting the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau's vital microfilming program. The expansion of the University of Auckland's graduate programs, and its location in the largest Polynesian city in the world have also been powerful incentives to develop a resource of international standing.

Outside New Zealand, the collection is not well known, and it is hoped that the following overview will provide a better understanding of its strengths, particularly because some of its holdings of Pacific material are of international significance. The focus of this brief survey is confined primarily to the special collections and to Pacific and Māori resources relating to contemporary issues. However, it is difficult to distinguish "Māori" material as a separate category in New Zealand literature, given the strong emphasis on indigenous perspectives that is a recurring theme in studies of contemporary New Zealand.

GENERAL COLLECTION

As far as the wider Pacific area is concerned, the collection supports a variety of courses, including the ethnography of Melanesia, culture and history in Western Polynesia, ethnography of Micronesia, and studies of the linguistics, education, literature, politics, and legal systems of developing Pacific countries. Works on contemporary Māori issues focus on rights under the Treaty of Waitangi (1840) and Māori sovereignty, the resolution of land grievances, and the need for a bicultural perspective on matters affecting Māori. Land issues are pivotal to understanding Māori grievances, and in this regard the decisions of the Waitangi Tribunal (set up to investigate Māori claims and advise on their resolution) are an important source. Although government documents, discussed later, are the major source of primary material on Māori land, the book collection contains some important compilations of published documents, including the *Raupatu Document Bank* (relating to confiscated land), *Turton's Deeds* (documenting nineteenth-century Māori land transactions), and the *Māori Land Legislation Manual* (a computer file), as well as many contemporary and historical works on land.

In the education field there is a strong emphasis on the impact of colonization and structural discrimination on Māori underachievement, and an examination of bicultural education models. Some of this material is commercially published, but most emanates from government departments (for example, Ministry of Māori

Development and Ministry of Education) and university departments. Treaty issues and indigenous rights underlie much of the recent material on environmental and planning issues, and include studies of traditional Māori attitudes toward the environment and mechanisms for including Māori in planning for new developments, a requirement under the Resource Management Act 1991. Similarly, there is a range of material examining bicultural health issues, including alternative Māori medicine. Literary works by Māori and Pacific authors are also in heavy demand by researchers examining the distinctive voice and worldview they provide. The exploration of Māori perspectives on contemporary issues is supported by many general works, such as Joan Metge's *The Māori of New Zealand: Rautahi* (1976) and early accounts of traditional Māori life.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The New Zealand Glass Case

The New Zealand Glass Case is a closed access collection that contains works published before 1910, one copy of all New Zealand and Pacific poetry, and other rare, expensive, or at-risk items. For Māori and Pacific studies, the works on traditional life and customs, history, and Pacific voyaging are invaluable sources that receive heavy use.

Archives and Manuscripts

The bulk of the collection consists of records of trade unions, social organizations, and political parties, with a

strong bias toward Auckland-related material. The most important Pacific collection is undoubtedly the papers of Elizabeth Bott-Spillius (1958–1960), which record her research on Tongan history and culture in association with the Tongan Traditions Committee and Queen Sālote Tupou, while the papers of Frederick Joseph Moss (1876–1904) on the administration of the Cook Islands, and George G Carter's papers relating to the Solomon Islands Methodist Mission, are also significant.

There are few Māori manuscripts, and most of them are photocopies, but all receive heavy use. The most important collections are: the Whatahoro genealogies of Ngāti Porou; the Te Rangituatahi Te Kanawa genealogies; the hymnal of Hepetipa Rua Kenana (Māori millennial prophet); the William Gilbert Mair papers (1871–1904) relating to Māori land issues; the Whenua Manihera genealogies (Ngāti Kahungunu); Ngāti Haua records (1879–1927); Himiona Kaamira genealogies (Ngā Puhī); and a notebook of Rikirangi Te Turuki Te Kooti (1880s).

Te Hukātai, the manuscript library based in the Māori Studies Department, specializes in photocopied manuscripts in the Māori language and relating to Māori history and tradition. Although this is a small collection, it is an excellent source for research on nineteenth-century Māori language, and on tribal history, genealogy, and traditional knowledge. Key resources are: photocopied selections from both the Grey and White papers, and other Māori manuscripts from Auckland City Library; minute books of the Taitokerau District of the Māori

Land Court relating to Papatupu Block (1883–c1908); and papers of the Auckland District Māori Council (1970s–1980s).

Microtexts

Although in the past the collection has relied on a selective approach in acquiring key collections, the move toward a research-level collection has meant a considerable expansion of microtext resources. Selections of Pacific Manuscripts Bureau microfilm are held, but the library's decision to become a partner in the bureau consortium from 1995 will ensure that all future productions from this source are obtained. Similarly, microtext theses from other universities, both in New Zealand and overseas, which have been acquired selectively in the past, are now being sought on a more consistent and comprehensive basis.

Other important collections for Māori and Pacific researchers include the records of the British Colonial Office and Admiralty relating to New Zealand, London Missionary Society, Church Missionary Society (invaluable for insights into nineteenth-century Māori society), Western Pacific High Commission, and Cook Islands Native Land Court. There are also a significant number of microfilms of Māori manuscripts, and manuscripts relating to Pacific linguistics, which are probably the only copies in existence. However, the most heavily used historical microtext collection is the records of the Māori Land Court (1865–1975). Land claims brought before the court had to be validated by reference to prominent ancestors and a record of occupation and use. The court's

minute books thus contain a valuable record of tribal history from the time of the first migrations and are a rich source of information for historians, genealogy researchers, and others. The University of Auckland Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington are the only centers that hold records of the Māori Land Court for the entire country on microfilm, and the collection receives many requests for them. The limited access to the contents of the records prompted the collection to undertake a major initiative to index the microfilm from 1865 to 1910, using Inmagic bibliographic software. To date, the project, which is partly funded by the New Zealand Lotteries Commission, has indexed the minute books of the Taitokerau, Gisborne, Wairoa, and Waikato-Maniapoto Māori Land Court districts, providing access by block name, region, *hapū* (subtribe), and *kaikōrero* (speaker).

The library has never acquired New Zealand daily newspapers to any extent in the past, so that considerable resources have had to be devoted to purchasing back runs as well as current subscriptions, on microfilm. The demand for newspaper resources has been driven from two directions—historical researchers requiring early newspaper runs, and researchers interested in contemporary material. As far as the latter are concerned, the improved access to newspaper articles provided by *INNZ: Index New Zealand* (covering journal and newspaper articles, theses, conference proceedings, chapters of books, and government reports) since 1987, and *Newzindex* (a business-oriented article index) has

been the single greatest factor in the growth in demand for contemporary newspapers. *INNZ* includes the South Pacific in its coverage, and not only indexes articles about the Pacific from journals published in New Zealand, but also indexes ten key Pacific journals as well. It is produced by the National Library of New Zealand and is available as a CD-ROM, microfiche hard-copy, or online through the *KIWINET* database.

Official Publications and Statistics

Of New Zealand government papers, probably the most important is the *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives (AJHR)*, which contains annual reports of government departments, reports of royal commissions and other committees, government financial statements, and other information and statistics. Among the most useful documents for contemporary Māori research are reports on land issues, the annual reports of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Māori Development, the Waitangi Tribunal, the Māori Language Commission, the Māori Fisheries Commission, the Māori Trustee, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare, and the Department of Labour. The *AJHR* and *Irish University Press Series of British Parliamentary Papers: Colonies: New Zealand* are also invaluable sources for historical information on Māori land. *The New Zealand Gazette* contains proclamations, orders-in-council, legal notices regarding land, and the *New Zealand Parliamentary Debates*

("Hansard") records the speeches made in Parliament about legislation, and they are an important source of comment on major issues. The collection holds a complete set of New Zealand legislation.

Statistics on Māori can be found in statistical publications on almost every subject, but some important recent compilations from Statistics New Zealand are: *New Zealand Now: Māori, Pacific Island Profiles* (a series on Pacific Island Polynesians resident in New Zealand), and the following reports from the 1991 census: *Iwi Population and Dwellings, New Zealand's Multicultural Society, New Zealand Māori Population and Dwellings*, and *Pacific Island Population and Dwellings*.

The Pacific official publications and statistics collection is of international significance, having been built up over many years by a variety of means including personal collecting trips. Its main strengths are Western Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, French Polynesia, New Hebrides (Vanuatu), British Solomon Islands Protectorate, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony (Kiribati and Tuvalu), and Cook Islands. These materials include a wide range of government documents, including annual reports

of departments, laws, parliamentary proceedings, and gazettes. The statistics are complemented by the annual reports and other publications of many of the central banks, which are a valuable source of economic data.

To assist with access to this material I have created an Inmagic database, "South Pacific Official Publications," which when complete will update an earlier bibliography by the late Bert Roth (*South Pacific Government Serials: A Select List*, second edition, University of Auckland Library, 1973).

CONCLUSION

Although the New Zealand and Pacific Collection has developed a comprehensive resource for studies of the region over a long period, it is not well known outside New Zealand. It is hoped that this survey will familiarize researchers in Pacific studies with its key strengths and special collections, and aid their appreciation of contemporary themes in New Zealand studies.

Kimibia te mea ngaro
Seek the knowledge that was lost
Māori proverb

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