

## Resources

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*Resources for Research in French Polynesia and New Caledonia*

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## *Resources for Research in French Polynesia and New Caledonia*

*David Aymonin  
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French Polynesia and New Caledonia library and archives collections are typically in French and tend to be organized according to French institutional and scientific methods. Recent shifts in power from the French state toward certain territorial institutions have not done much to change this fact despite significant transformations of existing and the emergence of new resource centers over the years. This particular situation can be seen as a source of richness because it supports diversity within the Pacific region and because these institutional and informational architectures link these territories to the larger repositories of knowledge in France and in Europe. At the same time, the French institutional and francophone constitution of these scholarly repositories is also a factor of isolation in the expanse of the Pacific Ocean, whose inhabitants are mainly anglophone, and in an academic world that is powerfully shaped by the growing use of English.

### HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

The first libraries and archives in French Polynesia were created by the Protestant and the Catholic missions—including the antecedents of the Mā'ohi Protestant Church and, for the Catholic Church, the dioceses of Tahiti and of the Marquesas Islands—before France claimed the Tahitian kingdom of the Pomare as a protectorate and annexed the Marquesas Islands (in 1842, for both events). These collections are invaluable for our knowledge of the islands that today constitute the political territory French Polynesia, including significant materials in Polynesian linguistics, ethnology, and history. Unfortunately, they remain relatively obscure and difficult to access.

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Other resources have secular origins early in the last century. For instance, in 1917, Governor Charles-André Julien established the Société des Études Océaniques (SEO) to ensure that “all matters/questions pertaining to anthropology, ethnology, philology, archaeology, history and institutions, morals, customs and traditions of the Maori in Eastern Polynesia” became the subject of approved studies.<sup>1</sup> The SEO published a periodical, the *Bulletin de la Société des Études Océaniques*, to share and distribute the resulting research. More than three hundred issues have been published since 1917. For decades the SEO library, located in Papeete, was the only library in French Polynesia. Today this distinct collection is housed in the building of the Service du Patrimoine Archivistique et Audiovisuel (SPAA) in the Tipaerui valley. The SPAA was established in 2011, replacing the Service Territorial des Archives, which began in 1962 and was for many years the recipient of significant parts of the collections belonging to the governors of the colony, officially called the Établissements Français de l’Océanie (EFO). The resources of the SEO library and the SPAA are shelved separately, and the rules for using these collections differ, but for reasons of economy, they are partially managed by the same staff.

Many nongovernmental cultural institutions were established in the 1970s as a result of the nationalist and Tahitian cultural renewal movements with roots in the previous decade or decades. These efforts were begun by a few intellectuals who opposed the opening of a French nuclear test site in the Pacific. A number of these organizations have notable specialized collections. Le Musée de Tahiti et des Îles was established in 1974 and a library was established in 1980. La Maison de la Culture, Te Fare Tauhiti Nui (originally la Maison des Jeunes, created in 1971), has two libraries that mainly serve as public libraries. In the year 2000, the Service de la Culture et du Patrimoine (SCP) was created from the fusion of the Service de la Culture and two departments (Archaeology and Oral Traditions) from the former Centre Polynésien des Sciences Humaines. The SCP contains a wealth of specialized documentation on Polynesian heritage.

In addition to these territorial structures (administered by the government of French Polynesia), France established the Université Française du Pacifique (UFP) in 1987, composed of two university centers, one in Nouméa and the other in Papeete. However, the UFP was relatively short-lived, and in 1999 it was divided into the Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie (UNC) and the Université de la Polynésie Française (UPF). Both of these institutions host the major academic libraries within their respective ter-

ritories. In French Polynesia, the library's central mission is to develop collections that will support the university's education and research needs, but it also serves the general public. UPF library has also been developing a Fonds Polynésien (Polynesian Collection) since 2000. While this collection is more accessible than some of the other libraries mentioned, there is concern that it is duplicating the holdings already available elsewhere in Tahiti. Significantly, the number of people using the UPF Fonds Polynésien is steadily increasing, and the library is successfully responding to the growing demand. Local library personnel are responsible for the acquisition, cataloging, promotion, and conservation of works in the Polynesian collection, which ensures a certain level of continuity. But it is clear that the Polynesian collection is, if not completely accessory, at least secondary among the projects the university library must focus on in order to fulfill its principle mission of contributing to the education and research needs of the university, in all disciplines.

In French Polynesia, most informational resources are concentrated on the island of Tahiti. In addition to the services that have already been mentioned, there are a number of scientific research institutions. These include the territorial-level Institut Louis Malardé and the national-level Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER) and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD). Both the IFREMER and IRD maintain access to online catalogs and full text databases that are contributed to locally but managed at the national level. The IRD materials can be accessed at <http://horizon.documentation.ird.fr> and the IFREMER institutional archive with open access (Archimer) is at <http://archimer.ifremer.fr/>.

#### PARTNERSHIPS TO BE BUILT, COLLABORATIONS TO BE DEVELOPED

Ultimately, collections of Polynesian material in French Polynesia are few and well known. Although collaborations happen around onetime projects (such as expositions), there remains a tremendous amount of work to be done in terms of cross-promotion and upgrading—specifically regarding descriptions and access to resources.

Collections are organized and described based on a variety of cataloging standards often not taking into account interoperability of data. In this period of budgetary restrictions, networking and information sharing must be prioritized. This would be facilitated by the establishment of a French

Polynesian digital library created by the libraries and archives of French Polynesia in partnership with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF). The BnF already provides access to hundreds of items related to Polynesia through its digital library, Gallica (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>). This type of partnership would be able to respond, at least in part, to the technical, financial, and human-resource related challenges faced locally, regionally, and nationally. French Polynesia has the bibliographic and scientific expertise to fully participate in this type of effort.

All in all, there is still much to be done locally in order to coordinate documentary activities in French Polynesia, in particular in terms of public access to documents. Partnerships with metropolitan France do bring a guarantee of professionalism and a way of giving the works a broader reach. The development of increased collaboration with other universities and documentary networks in the Pacific region is a high priority for the survival and flourishing of document collections in French Polynesia.

#### HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN NEW CALEDONIA

With nearly sixty libraries and archives, New Caledonia seems well equipped when it comes to information resources. However, for a researcher this range can confuse the situation and it may be preferable to visit some of the big centers, for which key information is provided in the following pages.<sup>2</sup> According to the discipline or the type of information sought, these offer basic information and documents but also advice and contacts to facilitate much deeper research.

The biggest documentation centers in the country open to the public are the libraries at the Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie (UNC), the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Tjibaou Cultural Centre; the Service des Archives de la Nouvelle-Calédonie; and the Bernheim Public Library.

Direct contact with those in charge at each institution is advised in order to identify and communicate with the scientific specialists and experts on Caledonian territory and to facilitate navigation of the numerous information centers (the Museum of Maritime History, the City of Nouméa Museum, the Museum of the Second World War, the Museum of New Caledonia, etc).

Catalogs for each institution are online, and loans between international libraries are guaranteed by the libraries at UNC, SPC, and IRD. At

UNC, for articles and chapters of works, a digital copy is preferred. Suggestions for the purchase of documents in all formats are most welcome.

An attempt was made in the 2000s to develop Redocal, a network of Caledonian resources and library centers with a common catalog, but the project was unfortunately abandoned. However, UNC, SPC, IRD, and other scientific institutions (IFREMER, OEIL, etc) are today working in concert to put in place an electronic Caledonian archive of scientific publications alongside the development of digitized heritage collections and other digital services to be made available online. Another exciting resource currently being developed is a bibliographic database of all the scientific publications concerning New Caledonia or published by Caledonian institutions and authors. A prototype was constructed and hosted by UNC (<http://orioai.univ-nc.nc/search-nc/>) with its own specialized variant on the environment piloted by the Environment Observatory in New Caledonia (OEIL; <http://www.oeil.nc/cdrn/index.php/resource/bibliographies>).

An inventory of digitization projects was completed in 2013 (Malclès 2014), and members of the Association des Professionnels de l'Information Documentaire en Nouvelle-Calédonie (APIDOC) have started a collaboration that could grow into a real digital library for New Caledonia. They are uniting around this common project to publish their digitized collections online or to digitize them, with the help of the New Caledonian Congress (a legislative body equivalent to the US Senate).

Also in 2013, the Caledonian Government opened the Georep server, a New Caledonian geographic information portal offering thousands of data in compliance with the INSPIRE directive (infrastructure for spatial information in the European Community: <http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm>), including the maps of the *Atlas of New Caledonia* published in 2012 by the IRD and Congress.

With regard to regional cooperation, several tentative steps toward professional communities have shown that there are differences in structure and size, which make cooperation desirable and feasible, if complicated. Caledonian institutions are very small and have little funding compared to those in New Zealand, Australia, and Hawai'i, but they are richly equipped in comparison with those of the smaller islands of the Pacific. Even being small and isolated in the Pacific Ocean, New Caledonia is considered by its neighbors as a rich country, kept under the influence of France and its administration. Therefore its rightful place remains to be found, in order to weave tight links with regional partners. Today, access to scientific and technical information in New Caledonia is very much

guaranteed. On the other hand, the contribution to the global momentum toward the digitization of printed or graphic or even audiovisual heritage poses several challenges in a small country like New Caledonia: few professionals to train, few local service providers, expensive material which is difficult to acquire, a dispersed heritage, and political authorities with other social and economic priorities.

However, professionals are organizing themselves and developing their own skills thanks to combined training, and each institution is launching targeted projects, facilitated by the democratization of access to materials and digitization. Coordinating everything is done on a voluntary basis and through exchange among people because the territory is small and everybody knows everybody. Adaptation and human relations are the magic words, adapted to a Caledonian context. This is also the “Pacific Attitude” (<https://www.facebook.com/PacifiqueAttitude>)!

## OVERVIEW OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS OF FRENCH POLYNESIA AND NEW CALEDONIA MATERIAL

### *Local Collections*

Organization: Société des Études Océaniques (SEO)

Location: Tapaerui valley, Tahiti

Library Director/Manager: to our knowledge, formally, there is no “librarian,” but there is a person in charge: Tetuanui Raufauore

Access to the collections: Consultation on site. The SEO is open to the public and is housed in the same building as the Service du Patrimoine Archivistique et Audiovisuelle (SPAA). The collections can be accessed by searching the printed catalogs and indexes available at the library. The SEO’s next goal is to standardize the descriptions of its resources. There are plans to improve access to these collections by digitizing parts of the collections and making the material available on the SEO website (<http://etudes-oceaniques.com>).

About the holdings: The SEO library collection contains thousands of books and journals about French Polynesia and traditional cultures and societies in the vast Polynesian triangle. Some of this material is rare, such as European voyaging and first-contact accounts and missionary publications from the Sacrés-Cœurs de Picpus, the Mission Mariste d’Océanie, and the Revue d’Histoire des Missions. The SEO also holds several archival collections worth noting. There is a collection of photographs about Tahiti and the islands dating from the

second half of the nineteenth century. The Gauguin archives are also held here, and a fuller description of this collection is found in the article published in 2003 by Cathy Marzin-Drévilion in the *Bulletin de la Société des Études Océaniques* (BSEO).

**Other products/activities:** The SEO has been publishing the BSEO since 1917. A basic subject index of the articles published from 1917–1997 are available on the website (<http://etudes-oceaniques.com/societe-etudes-oceaniques-catalogue-bulletins>), and an index for the more recent articles is being developed. The BSEO is written mainly in French, but has at times published articles in vernacular languages (Tahitian, Paumotu [the language of the Tuamotu islands], and Marquesan) and English, although always with at least a synopsis in French. Another potential publication project is to reprint ancient works of historical interest, using the same format as its most recent publications—such as the 2012 collection of legends, *Oceania* (first published by the SEO in 1931 for the Paris Colonial Expo). The SEO would like to reach a wider readership by capping the price of these books—and has applied for funding from French Polynesia’s territorial authorities in order to have support in the work of reprinting. In light of the inestimable value of its library, the SEO is open to all sorts of partnerships that would facilitate the conservation and promotion of the collection.

**Organization:** le Service du Patrimoine Archivistique et Audiovisuel (SPAA—Te Piha Faufa’a Tupuna)

**Location:** Tipaerui, quartier Alexandre, Papeete

**Library Director/Manager:** formally, no director

**Access to the collections:** Consultation on site. There are plans to computerize the library in the near future, which will facilitate access. Digitization of patrimonial collections began with the civil registry of towns and former chiefdoms from the districts of the Établissements Français de l’Océanie (EFO), from 1852 to 1934. The launch of an Internet site—a portal to digitized resources—is anticipated.

**About the holdings:** The SPAA’s main mission is to gather, conserve, and promote the archival and audiovisual heritage of Polynesia. The SPAA has served as the legal deposit library for French Polynesia since 2004, making it the repository for all printed public documents. The SPAA also purchases or accepts donations of material about French Polynesian heritage as well as the South Pacific. The SPAA ensures the con-



servation of unique documents such as the historic collection of the governor, original letters from Queen Pomare IV and King Pomare V, iconographical collections, part of Swedish ethnologist Bengt Danielsson's library, and numerous private collections, most notably genealogical documents and *puta tupuna*, or story collections written in vernacular languages. Another frequently consulted collection is the Tomite (declarations of private property) recorded from the second half of the nineteenth century onward.

**Other products/activities:** The SPAA being the legal deposit library in French Polynesia, this institution is identified as such by the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), which is in charge of the legal deposit in mainland France. The SPAA plans to develop a real partnership with the BnF in order to create a freely accessible digital library related to French Polynesia. The SPAA is open to all other partnerships that would favor conservation and promotion of Polynesia's written heritage.

**Organization:** Te Fare Manaha—Musée de Tahiti et des Îles

**Location:** Pointe des pêcheurs Nuuroa, Punaauia

**Library Director/Manager:** Vairea Tessier (documentation@museetahiti.pf)

**Access to the collections:** Consultation on site. Open to the public but access is dependent on the availability of the manager. In 2005, the research center's catalog was made available online through the museum's website (<http://www.museetahiti.pf/fondsdoc.php>).

**About the holdings:** Created in 1980 through the initiative of Museum Director Anne Lavondes, the research center quickly proved invaluable for the museum's various missions: conservation, promotion, study and distribution of Oceania's cultural and natural heritage and, more specifically, Polynesia's heritage. Since that time the research center has accumulated 4,000 items through gifts and acquisitions made possible by allocations from the territorial government. The collection mainly consists of material about museography, anthropology, archaeology, history, and Oceanian art as well as various disciplines linked to the study of the natural environment.

**Other products/activities:** For the time being, the Musée de Tahiti et des Îles does not have the means to digitize the contents of the research center. The existence of a digitized library would, once again, be greatly beneficial.

Organization: Service de la Culture et du Patrimoine (SCP)

Location: Pointe des pêcheurs Nuuroa, Punaauia

Library Director/Manager: Martine Rattinassamy (martine.rattinassamy@culture.gov.pf)

Access to the collections: Consultation on site. The team in the Documentation Office is there to assist users in their research.

About the holdings: Collections here are focused mainly on the archaeological, legendary, and historic heritage of French Polynesia. The SCP's resources exist in a number of formats: printed, of course, with over 8,000 books, periodicals, and articles on subjects in the fields of archaeology, ethnology, anthropology, oral traditions, and history, as well as unpublished field reports; a cartographical collection including nearly 650 maps—mainly topographical and marine maps of the Polynesian islands as well as some cadastral maps; and an iconographic collection, with slides, negatives, and photographs of heritage sites, in film and digital prints. Two-thirds of the film data (80,000 photos/examples) have been inventoried to date, the final third being in process); an audio collection containing 2,000 recordings (originals and copies), partly from the Programme de Sauvetage du Patrimoine Ethnographique and oral tradition collecting projects. These represent over one thousand hours of tape and include interviews in vernacular languages about all types of Polynesian traditions (skills, legends, life stories, etc). Finally, there is an audiovisual collection and an archival collection, including numerous documents mostly from fieldwork in the departments of Archaeology and Oral Traditions at the former Centre Polynésien des Sciences Humaines. The collection is currently in the process of being cataloged.

Other products/activities: Collaboration with the cultural publication *Hiro'a* (<http://www.hiroa.pf/>).

Organization: Bibliothèque de l'Université de la Polynésie Française (UPF)

Location: Outumaoro campus in Punaauia

Library Director/Manager: Anita Largouet (anita.largouet@upf.pf)

Access to the collections: The library is open for more than 65 hours/week.

The Polynesian collection may only be consulted on site, with nothing lent to students. The large majority of the Polynesian collection (89%) is listed in SUDoc, the collective national catalog of French universities (<http://sudoc.abes.fr>) and also, of course, in the local catalog (<http://horizon.upf.pf/uPortal/>).

About the holdings: With over 4,000 titles in 2013, the Fonds Polynésien (Polynesian Collection) includes rare books, chosen from the *Bibliographie de Tahiti* of Patrick O'Reilly and Edouard Reitman (1967); local publications; dissertations and theses; and a variety of publications about the Polynesian region. The Polynesian Collection does not have a specific budget line, and it relies on the library's general budget. Most material is acquired via the Parisian book market with the help of a Parisian scholar or through local purchases. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century works represent 5 percent of the collection; those from the twentieth century represent 80 percent; and those from the twenty-first century, 15 percent.<sup>3</sup> Works are mainly in French and English; documents in vernacular languages are very much in the minority. The library also holds the archives of historian Jean-Marc Regnault, a specialist in the contemporary history of French Polynesia. These may be consulted with the authorization of the historian, and, once inventoried, they will be more search-friendly.

Other products/activities: The UPF does not yet have an open archival repository (which would inventory and perhaps provide access to scientific articles written by university researchers), but this project is included in the university's digital master plan. Nor is there a policy that requires researchers to give a description of their writings in an open national archive such as HAL (<http://archives-ouvertes.fr>). The repositories are reliant on individual initiative. Theses defended at the University of French Polynesia are all currently listed in the SUDoc, and those defended from 1 October 2013 onward will be accessible in full-text form through this same catalog. They will also be accessible through the French theses portal (<http://theses.fr>) and the European portal, as part of the DART-Europe project (<http://www.dart-europe.eu>).

Organization: Bibliothèque de l'Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie (UNC)

Location: Nouville, New Caledonia

Library Director/Manager: David Aymonin ([david.aymonin@univ-nc.nc](mailto:david.aymonin@univ-nc.nc))

Access to the collections: Via the website (<http://portail-documentaire.univ-nc.nc>).

About the holdings: A very small collection created by the university in 1985, the library at the University of New Caledonia has become over the years a good-sized university library (90,000 documents in 2014; 20,000 periodicals in electronic and paper form; 20,000 electronic

books; 20 databases), equipped with significant resources and specific political documentation. Covering all disciplines, the library collects all works that are published in New Caledonia; are about New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands, and Wallis and Futuna; or are written by Caledonian authors. Onsite or remote access to digital information resources is included in the registration. The library at the UNC contains the work of students of the university, which deal very often with Caledonian themes: master's research or theses as well as internship reports. A collection of theses published on New Caledonia worldwide is in progress.

Other products/activities: Interlibrary loan, training, institutional repository, university press.

Organization: Service des Archives de la Nouvelle-Calédonie

Location: Nouville, New Caledonia

Library Director/Manager: Ingrid Utchaou

Access to the collections: Open to the public.

About the holdings: Caledonian society and its history and culture. Collections offer both public archives (administrations) and private archives (enterprises, associations, and individuals), some of which have regional and national importance and concern New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands, and Vanuatu (former New Hebrides); the archives of Société Le Nickel (SLN), the oldest and largest active mining company; photographic archives from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; current, intermediary, and historic archives produced by French government services in New Caledonia, the Government of New Caledonia, the provinces, municipalities, and notaries; and archives from the archdiocese and Catholic and Protestant missions. The These-PAC collection, which groups together nearly 1,000 theses and university research works on the Pacific, is also kept by the Archive Service.

Other products/activities: Digitization projects.

Organization: Bibliothèque Bernheim (Main Public Library)

Location: Nouméa, New Caledonia

Library Director/Manager: M Christophe Augias

Access to the collections: Open to visiting researchers and via online catalog.

About the holdings: Caledonian society and its history and culture. The Bernheim library, housed in a historic building in the center of Nou-

méa, principally offers lectures but also plays an important patrimonial role and offers documents that could be useful for researchers: it collects and preserves the printed, iconographic, and sound heritage published in New Caledonia. Since 1966, it has been authorized to receive the legal printing and publishing deposits for Wallis and Futuna and New Caledonia. It thus offers photographic collections, old documents, collections of documentary or fictional films, and the entire collection of books published in New Caledonia.

Other products/activities: The Bernheim library is the pilot of the Caledonian network of public libraries, spread all over the country.

Organization: Tjibaou Cultural Centre—Library

Location: Tina, New Caledonia (just outside Nouméa)

Library Director/Manager: Manuel Castejon

Access to the collections: Open to visiting researchers. Advance contact via e-mail is recommended but not compulsory. Consultation on site and via online catalog.

About the holdings: Caledonian society and its history and culture. Dedicated to the Kanak culture and the South Pacific Islands. The library has collected almost 200,000 written documents, sound and audiovisual iconographies, books, theses, DVDs, sound recordings, photographs, etc. It offers a multimedia consultation system that can be used on site.

Other products/activities: Exhibitions.

### *Regional Organizations*

Organization: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

Location: Nouméa, New Caledonia

Library Director/Manager: Isabelle Gasser

Access to the collections: See the IRD website (<http://www.ird.fr>). Most of the documents can be found by consulting Horizon-Pleins Textes, the IRD's extensive online catalog (<http://horizon.documentation.ird.fr/>). The library is open to the public; however, researchers are encouraged to contact the librarians in advance (e-mail [documentation-noumea@ird.fr](mailto:documentation-noumea@ird.fr)).

About the holdings: The IRD—which was formerly the IFO (Institut Français d'Océanie) then ORSTOM (Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer)—is a French public scientific and technological establishment working under the joint authority of the French

Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From its headquarters in Marseille and its two centers in mainland France (Bondy [near Paris] and Montpellier), it operates in nearly ninety countries in the tropical zone. In the Pacific, the IRD is mainly represented in New Caledonia since 1946 (<http://nouvelle-caledonie.ird.fr/>), including the library, and in French Polynesia since 1963 (<http://www.polynesie.ird.fr/>). The library's collections are primarily composed of books, gray literature, periodicals, and articles. Access to online resources (databases, e-books, and electronic periodicals) is possible from the library's computers. The books and periodicals can be freely accessed, but some gray literature documents may be confidential. The library collection does not specifically focus on Pacific-related materials, but the major purpose of the library is to serve the needs of IRD researchers. The library is responsible for cataloging the institute's large collection of gray literature in fields like botany, agronomy, pedology, pharmacology, phytopathology, zoology, entomology, geology, geophysics, volcanology, physical and biological oceanography, fisheries, remote sensing, health, geography, and anthropology. A large proportion of these documents are in French but they are of interest for the international scientific community.

**Other products/activities:** The IRD also maintains several databases that have approximately 23,000 Pacific items. These include HAL-IRD (<http://hal-ird.ccsd.cnrs.fr/>); a map database, Sphaera (<http://www.cartographie.ird.fr/sphaera/>); and a picture database (<http://www.indigo.ird.fr/en>), which focuses especially on seabeds from New Caledonia and French Polynesia. Photos may be reproduced without charge for any educational and scientific use. In Nouméa, digitizing the IRD's gray literature is one of the IRD's aims to contribute to increasing the Horizon-Pleins Textes full-text references.

**Organization:** Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)—Library and Archives

**Locations:** Nouméa, New Caledonia; Suva, Fiji

**Library Director/Manager:** Mary-Clare Ame

**Access to the collections:** See the SPC Library's website ([www.spc.int/library](http://www.spc.int/library)) and online catalog (<http://opac.spc.int/cgi-bin/koha/opac-search.pl>). The library is open to external users including visiting researchers, without requirements. Opening hours to external users is restricted to Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday after-

noons only. External users can use items only in the library and cannot borrow them.

**About the holdings:** The SPC is a Pacific regional intergovernmental organization that provides technical support toward development. The library is guided by the collection development policy, and the holdings support SPC programs, which currently includes public health, geosciences, agriculture, forestry, water resources, disaster management, fisheries, education, statistics, transport, energy, information and communication technology (ICT), media, human rights, gender, youth, and culture. Besides the general holdings, the SPC library's special collection in the main library in Nouméa, New Caledonia, attempts to hold all of the SPC's publications and gray literature. Branch libraries in Suva also hold SPC and Pacific-related items pertaining to the programs they support. Most of the publications are technical or scientific reports, but the programs also produce documents for community education and training, posters, maps, videos, and educational games. The SPC archives comprise the non-active administrative files of the organization. These are housed and made accessible at the Service des Archives de la Nouvelle-Calédonie.

**Other products/activities:** The SPC also offers a digital library with all its fisheries-related publications in PDF (<http://www.spc.int/coastfish/en/publications/digital-library.html>). This digital library was set up by the SPC Coastal Fisheries Programme. In addition to the fisheries digital library, it is currently in the process of establishing an SPC-wide digital library, which will house all SPC publications. This library will be made available to researchers worldwide and will have the capability to be accessed remotely. The SPC Library is very open to the possibility of contributing to other universities' digital repositories any digitized materials from its collections that do not have access restrictions, and to collaborating with any scientific or academic institution that may assist in making the materials more readily and widely available.

### *Libraries in Metropolitan France*

**Organization:** Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur l'Océanie (CREDO)

**Location:** Campus St Charles, Marseille, France

**Library Director/Manager:** Judith Hannoun, Manager of the Pacific Collection ([judith.hannoun@univ-amu.fr](mailto:judith.hannoun@univ-amu.fr))

**Access to the collections:** The library's catalog can be consulted online

(via the website of the Maison Asie Pacifique [MAP]: <http://smultidoc.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/>); however, the Pacific Collection is not part of the interlibrary loan network.

About the holdings: CREDO was created in 1995 and works on contemporary developments in societies in Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia and their relationships with the Austronesian world. Research is mainly anthropological, combining aspects of archaeology, history, linguistics, political science, museology, and multimedia studies (see <http://www.pacific-credo.fr/index.php?page=centre-de-documentation>). The document center is at the heart of the organization. The need for a library in France that brings together specialized works and journals on Oceania led to the creation of CREDO's Pacific Collection. The goal is to develop an information hub comparable to those of major collections on Oceania. The CREDO Pacific collection has an acquisitions policy focused on Oceania in the field of social sciences and is currently the only specialized library of its type in metropolitan France. It contains more than 8,000 books, theses, and reference books, mostly in print. The majority of the books are about Papua New Guinea, followed by books about the entire Pacific area, and finally about Australia. More than 90 percent of the books are in English. The proportion of titles in vernacular languages, as well as in German, Spanish, and Italian is negligible. Finding a balance between these cultural areas, and within these a balance between various nation-states, is one of the central objectives for the acquisitions policy.

Other products/activities: Digitization, publication of books.

Organization: Musée du Quai Branly—Library

Location: Paris, France

Library Director/Manager: Anne Faure ([anne.faure@quaibrantly.fr](mailto:anne.faure@quaibrantly.fr))

Access to the collections: The study and research “mediatheque” (film and audiovisual collection) is open to researchers; here they can consult (but not borrow) printed, sound, and audiovisual documents; carry out in-depth research for a university or on a personal level; or prepare a visit to the museum in the context of a class project. To register, justification for the research must be provided. The catalog is accessible on the museum's website (<http://www.quaibrantly.fr/fr/documentation/le-catalogue-de-la-mediathèque.html>). Practical information about access and loan conditions is also available online (<http://www.quaibrantly.fr/fr/enseignement/la-mediathèque/etudier-a-la>



-mediatheque.html). E-mail [archidoc@quaibrantly.fr](mailto:archidoc@quaibrantly.fr) and [mediatheque@quaibrantly.fr](mailto:mediatheque@quaibrantly.fr) for an appointment.

About the holdings: The library, which opened in 2006, houses the collections from the National Museum of African and Oceanic Arts and from the Musée de l'Homme (Paris). Specializing in particular in the history of art and civilization in Oceania, it is committed to staying up to date on developments in these fields of study. New acquisitions are made regularly to enrich the collections.

Other products/activities: The library is a CADIST in ethnology.<sup>4</sup>

Organization: Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer (ANOM)

Location: Aix-en-Provence, France

Library Director/Manager: Martine Cornède ([anom.aix@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:anom.aix@culture.gouv.fr))

Access to the collections: The IREL application (Instruments de Recherches en Ligne [Online Search Tools]) allows users to access different features: on one hand, the collection as a whole, including a succinct description of the contents, and on the other hand, detailed inventories, notably of the ANOM library, which is particularly rich (120,000 works) and entirely dedicated to colonial literature in all its many forms (<http://anom.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/>).

About the holdings: In the 1960s, André Chamson, general director of the French National Archives, set up an overseas archival center in Aix-en-Provence, at a time when France had achieved the decolonization of its African colonies and a major university hub was being built in Aix. The ANOM primarily contains the archives of the State secretariat and ministers responsible for French colonies, and the archives transferred from former colonies between 1954 and 1962 (with the exclusion of managerial archives, which remain in the countries in question). In addition, the ANOM contain private archives, including those of foreign companies in French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu, as well as a specialized library, map room, and image library.

Other products/activities: Exhibitions, publication of books.

\* \* \*

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## Notes

1 This quotation is from the first clause in the decree for the creation of the SEO (<http://etudes-oceaniennes.com>).

2 See [http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science\\_et\\_recherche\\_en\\_Nouvelle-Cal%C3%A9donie](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_et_recherche_en_Nouvelle-Cal%C3%A9donie) about research and scientific institutions and bodies in New Caledonia.

3 The earliest publication in this collection dates from 1771: *Voyage autour du monde par la frégate du roi La Boudeuse et la flûte L'Etoile en 1766, 1767, 1768 et 1769* by Louis-Antoine de Bougainville.

4 A Centre d'Acquisition et de Diffusion de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (CADIST) assures, at the national level, the acquisition, conservation, and distribution of documentary resources in a particular discipline.

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### *Abstract*

French Polynesia and New Caledonia library and archives collections are typically in French and tend to be organized according to French institutional and scientific methods. Recent transfers of power from the French State toward certain territorial institutions have not significantly changed this fact. This particular situation is, on the one hand, a source of enrichment because it creates diversity within the Pacific region and because these sources of documentation and the way they

are organized link these territories to larger repositories of knowledge in France and elsewhere in Europe. On the other hand, it is also an isolation factor in the expanse of the Pacific Ocean, whose inhabitants are mainly anglophone, and in an academic world that is also dominated by the growing use of English. After a listing and presentation of all the libraries and media centers existing in French Polynesia and New Caledonia, the focus of this essay moves on to the question of partnerships to be built between the various institutions of these two territories, metropolitan French libraries and networks, and English-language institutions of the Pacific region.

**KEYWORDS:** libraries, documentation, resources, French Polynesia, New Caledonia