

# PARBICA19

## CONNECTION & RESILIENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

1-3 November 2021 *Online*

### General Conference & Bureau Reports

#### Day One—Monday 1 November 2021

##### General Conference 10.00am-12.00noon

- 10.00-10.30am - Welcome and President's Report
- 10.30-10.45am - ICA President's Report
- 10.45-11.00am - Secretary-General's Report
- 11.00-11.15am - Treasurer's Report
- 11.15-11.30am - Bureau Elections
- 11.30-12.00pm - PARBICA business planning for 2022-2024

##### Country Reports 12.30pm-1.45pm

- Vanuatu
- New Caledonia
- Western Samoa
- Tuvalu
- Niue
- Palau
- Fiji
- Solomon Islands
- Yap

##### Country Reports 2.00-3.00pm

- New Zealand
- Australia
- Cook Islands
- Kiribati
- American Samoa
- Papua New Guinea

##### Partner Reports 3.00-4.00pm

- Pacific Manuscripts Bureau
- UNESCO Memory of the World Committee Asia Pacific
- University of the South Pacific
- Pacific Community

Close of day one—PARBICA President

### Presentations

#### Day Two—Tuesday 2 November 2021

##### Session One 10.30am-12.30pm

- 10.30-11.15am **David Fricker**  
A Pacific Data Embassy
- 11.15-12.15pm **Joshua Harris**  
Preserving the Film and Audiovisual Heritage of the Pacific: Past, Present, Future.

##### Session Two 1.00-2.30pm

- 1.30-2.00pm **Eleanor Kleiber, Shavonn Matsuda, Annemarie Paikai & Keahiahi Long**  
Ka Wai Hāpai: Co-Creating and connecting with community
- 2.00-2.30pm **Tim Kong**  
Digitalpasifik.org – reflections on leading a pilot project that seeks to build bridges between the worlds of Archives and the worlds of Pacific peoples

#### Day Three—Wednesday 3 November 2021

##### Session Three 10.30am-12.00noon

- 10.30-11.00am **Rebekah Hayes & Grace Koch**  
True Echoes: Reconnecting historical wax cylinder recordings with the Torres Strait Islander communities from which they originate
- 11.00-11.30am **Kari James**  
PAMBU: Connection, COVID and change

##### Session Four 1.30pm-2.30pm

- 1.30-2.00pm **Aileen Boubou**  
Connecting with communities and innovation at the Kiribati National Archive
- 2.00-2.30pm **Nick Thieberger, Amanda Harris & Steve Gagau**  
Building connections across time and space, the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC)

### **PAMBU: Connection, COVID and change**

Kari James, Executive Officer, Pacific Manuscripts Bureau

In 2014, PAMBU began the transition from a microfilm collection to a hybrid microfilm-digital collection. Most collections remain available only on microfilm, but new collections are captured and delivered digitally, which has aided more affordable access for libraries in the Pacific. Digital has grown our community and our relationships with new Pacific member libraries. The pandemic has sped up discussion on balancing subscription fees with access to collections for Pacific communities, as consortium members were forced to consider their purpose, their responsibilities and their suddenly uncertain budgets. In 2022 PAMBU will offer lower fees and new membership options, with the aim of being more affordable for more institutions, and more flexible with those outside of these categories. We will offer new networking opportunities to connect with more of our member libraries and put more of our microfilm collection online. The new model is not perfect, but we believe it is a positive step

### **True Echoes: Reconnecting historical wax cylinder recordings with the Torres Strait Islander communities from which they originate**

Rebekah Hayes, Research Fellow, British Library  
Grace Koch, Honorary Senior Lecturer College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University (ANU), Visiting Scholar, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

True Echoes is a digital, participatory, reconnection project centred on the British Library's collection of Oceanic wax cylinders dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which aims to reconnect the digitised sound recordings with the communities they originate from and to increase the visibility and accessibility of the collections. This presentation focuses on the 1898 Torres Strait cylinder collection and True Echoes' partnership with AIATSIS to reconnect these recordings with Torres Strait Islanders. We will discuss: using and adapting digital tools throughout the project's lifespan, developing new approaches for engaging with Torres Strait Islanders during the COVID-19 pandemic and AIATSIS' work with local organisations, and the development of an online training package for Torres Strait Islanders who will be conducting interviews with family members about the historical wax cylinder recordings.

### **A Pacific Data Embassy**

David Fricker, President, ICA and Director-General, National Archives of Australia

The Pacific Island States face a range of substantial challenges for the preservation of indigenous culture, including documentary heritage. Fortunately, the Pacific community is actively engaged in the recognition of risks to documentary heritage and a number of successful programs have been established. A Pacific Data Embassy could add resilience to the living, vibrant cultural identity of Pacific Island states by providing a safe, resilient and vital facility using foreign infrastructure but without ceding sovereignty or control over the heritage material.

**Kari James** has served as the Executive Officer for the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU) since 2017. In this capacity she also serves on the Pacific Virtual Museum Co-design Group and the Board of the Australian National University's Pacific Institute. Before starting at PAMBU, she worked in the research archive of a Native Title Representative Body, as a volunteer at the National Archives of Solomon Islands and as an archival researcher for ABC TV News. She has studied media, information management, archives and records management.

**Grace Koch** is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University (ANU) and is a Visiting Scholar at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). Her publications concentrate on audio-visual archiving, ethnomusicology, ethics, and oral history and she has lectured on these topics in Australia, the USA and Europe. She has been active in the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, who presented her with an Award of Recognition in 2008. Formerly she worked at AIATSIS in several positions within the Audiovisual Archive, moving to the Native Title Unit to provide help to Aboriginal people and organisations in documenting land claims. In 2014 she was a Chief Investigator for an Australian Research Council-funded project based at the ANU seeking to repatriate Indigenous human remains from museums and galleries in Australia and overseas. In the late 1970's Grace was Research Assistant to Dr Alice Moyle at AIATSIS when Dr Moyle located the wax cylinder collections of Australian Indigenous peoples at the (then) British Institute of Recorded Sound. The largest and earliest of those collections was made by the Cambridge Expedition to Torres Strait in 1898. The True Echoes project invited her to become a History Researcher to document the early connections between AIATSIS and the Cambridge Expedition recordings and to develop an engagement strategy for working with Torres Strait Islanders.

**Rebekah Hayes** is a Research Fellow on the True Echoes project at the British Library. She works on increasing the visibility and accessibility of the British Library's Oceanic wax cylinder collections, including coordinating the development of digital tools for research. She also works to develop sustainable, reciprocal pathways for exchanging knowledge and enhanced documentation around these Oceanic cultural heritage collections. In addition, Rebekah conducts historical research on the 1898 Torres Strait wax cylinder collection in partnership with AIATSIS.

Prior to joining the Library, Rebekah completed an MA in Language Documentation and Description at SOAS, University of London. She also worked at the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR) and as part of the Grambank linguistic project at SOAS.

David Fricker is currently the President of the International Council on Archives, and a Vice Chair of the UNESCO Memory of the World International Advisory Committee. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Professional Member of the Australian Society of Archivists. As Director-General of the National Archives of Australia, David's principal current challenge is to build the public's trust in Government information. His strategic agenda for the Archives embraces a range of measures to ensure the work of public officials is being captured and kept as an authentic, complete and accessible national resource - that holds government to account, upholds human rights and empowers Australia's knowledge society.

### **Building connections across time and space, the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC)**

Nick Thieberger, Amanda Harris & Steve Gagau – PARADISEC

The distance between major Pacific centres makes it hard for residents to access records in their languages. As the internet becomes more available, connection to these records becomes more viable, but that requires the records to be described, digitised, and made accessible.

In 2003 we set up PARADISEC to digitise tapes of speakers from the Pacific. We have now digitised over 7000 hours of tape which represents 1,291 languages and takes up nearly 140 TB!

We work with regional cultural agencies to find and digitise tapes, noting that 2025 is the deadline for the life of analog tape. Access to these records enables new interpretations and energises new performances and ceremonies, based on historical recordings, especially when colonialism has aided in the denigration of traditional culture and loss of the language.

It can satisfy a need to hear your own ancestral voices in your own language, building a connection across time and space, and resilience and confidence in local cultures

### **Connecting with communities and innovation at the Kiribati National Archive**

Aileen Boubou, Archivist, Kiribati National Library and Archive  
With support from Kylie Maloney, Assistant Director Manuscripts, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

It is likely you have heard about the effects of climate change in Kiribati, but have you heard about the issues faced by the Kiribati National Library & Archive? (KNLA) The challenges of managing historical documents in Small Island Developing States are rarely of concern to local Governments or other countries. Archives managed by Pacific archives are part of the historical story and provide evidence of the now into the future. Opened in 1979, KNLA's building is overdue for maintenance, and run out of room for the collection. KNLA has a small budget and limited technical infrastructure such as IT gear and archival supplies. Chances to grow skills and expertise are few. Despite this the resilient staff deliver a very busy reference service and travel each year to the outer islands to get records. With more resources, KNLA could better the management and care of the collection; promote their purpose and services; and boost access to the archival records of Kiribati for generations to come

### **Digitalpasifik.org: reflections on a pilot project that seeks to build bridges between the worlds of Pacific peoples & archives**

Tim Kong, Programme Manager, Pacific Virtual Museum, National Library of New Zealand

The aim of the Pacific Virtual Museum pilot is to make visible and accessible the digitised cultural heritage of the people in and of the Pacific. The pilot team have worked with a co-design group from across the Pacific and delivered a site that leverages and presents metadata only, on a site (digitalpasifik.org) designed to work usefully across the Pacific, on low bandwidth networks and mobile devices. We have sought to enable Pacific people to access the content and taonga held by GLAM sector, as well as honour the work of that same GLAM sector. This talk will speak to the factors that shaped our pilot project approach and delivery, which as a result of the pandemic has been delivered using entirely digital methods, with some reflections on opportunities for Archives and the Pacific communities they sit within.

**Nick Thieberger** is interested in digital research methods and their potential to improve research practice and is developing methods for creation of reusable data sets from fieldwork on previously unrecorded languages. He is Director of PARADISEC and is an Associate Professor in the School of Languages and Linguistics, University of Melbourne.

**Amanda Harris** is a Senior Research Fellow at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney and directs the Sydney Unit of digital archive PARADISEC (Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures). Amanda is interested in collaborative approaches to understanding cultural heritage, music, and cross-cultural histories. She is Investigator on the collaborative projects True Echoes: reconnecting cultures with recordings from the beginning of sound funded by the Leverhulme Trust and Hearing the Music of Early NSW funded by the Australian Research Council. Her monograph Representing Australian Aboriginal Music and Dance 1930-70 was published by Bloomsbury Publishing in 2020.

**Steven Gagau** is a researcher and archivist with PARADISEC at the University of Sydney. He works on Melanesian collections and a range of archival, curatorial, and cultural outreach projects for building stronger relationships and collaboration between communities and the archive by incorporating indigenous and cultural perspectives. Steven is a Tolai of Gunantuna heritage of New Britain Island in PNG and PNG diaspora in Australia.

**Aileen Boubou** is from Onotoa, an atoll and district of Kiribati. Aileen was raised in Kiribati and has worked at the Kiribati National Library and Archive for the past eight years; first as an Assistant Archivist and now as Archivist. Aileen has a personal and professional passion for history; and takes each and every opportunity offered to increase her knowledge about archives and the archive profession. She is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History at the University of the South Pacific, as well as a Graduate certificate in Education.

**Tim Kong** is Fijian-Chinese on his father's side, and his mother's heritage is originally of Scotland, but more recently of South Canterbury, New Zealand. He grew up in South-East Asia, with schooling taking place in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. After a university degree in Political Science, his career has been varied, including time as a roadie with touring bands, corporate audio-visual production and a decade as a primary school teacher and deputy principal.

His current position is the Programme Manager for the Pacific Virtual Museum pilot, and his role is supporting and serving the various groups, content partners and individuals that contribute their knowledge, expertise, passion and guidance to the design, development and delivery of the digitalpasifik.org website.

### **Preserving the Film and Audiovisual Heritage of the Pacific: Past, Present, Future.**

Joshua Harris, Media Preservation Coordinator, University Libraries, University of Illinois

The challenges facing preservation of analog audio-visual (AV) material are widely known; degradation of the carriers worsened by inadequate storage conditions and obsolescence of playback kit are just a few. These are intensified in the Pacific due to the realities of daily life. Unless action is taken, institutions face the real threat of losing their AV heritage. Of equal worry is the amount of unpreserved materials languishing in institutions outside of the Pacific. It must be assumed that large swaths of AV materials remain in dire need of preservation action. What can be done to assure that which has been collected remains and what continues to be uncovered is preserved into the future? Using case studies and data, Josh will survey the landscape from a preservation outlook and offer practical methods to media preservation which can jump-start collaborative, constructive and tangible projects that aim to preserve the AV record of all levels of institutions across the Pacific.

### **Ka Wai Hāpai: Co-Creating and connecting with community** Eleanor Kleiber, Shavonn Matsuda, Annemarie Paikai & Keahiahi Long

A coalition of librarians from across the University of Hawai'i System are working with Hawai'i educators, practitioners, and other experts in 'ōlelo Hawai'i and culture to co-create a Hawai'i knowledge organization system.

This presentation will: Give a brief overview of the Lau Ā Lau Ka 'Ike (2018-2020), and the following project, Ka Wai Hāpai (2021-2023), (both made possible in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services); discuss how the process of co-creating a knowledge organization system is founded on the connection between the GLAM and Hawai'i communities, with leadership from where those communities intersect; discuss how this project furthers goals for social justice by strengthening the connections between Indigenous communities; and touch on how this project has been adapted to the realities of COVID 19.

**Joshua Harris** serves as Media Preservation Coordinator in the Preservation Services Department of the University Libraries at the University of Illinois, USA. Josh received degrees in Anthropology/Archaeology and History from Miami University, Ohio in 1998 and has over 20 years' experience working in the preservation and conservation of museum, archive, and cultural heritage materials. He worked as an archaeologist for the Illinois State Museum and the University of Tennessee before serving as a museum technician in the Zoology Department of the Smithsonian Institution Museum of Natural History. Joshua joined the National Geographic Society Film and Television Archives in 2003 where he supervised collection management, preservation, and the use of archival audio-visual materials in television and film production and across diverse platforms. Since his appointment at the University of Illinois in 2011, Josh has developed and led the University's first formalized media and audio-visual preservation program, designing in-house studios and labs for audio-visual conservation, audio, and video preservation. He is heavily involved in the teaching and training of university graduate students in media preservation skills, techniques, management, and administration. Joshua has been involved in audio-visual preservation in both Southeast Asia and the Pacific for over 15 years and currently is serving his second term as Treasurer on the Executive Council of the Southeast Asia Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association (SEAPAVAA).

**Shavonn Matsuda** is from Maui, Hawai'i. She is a librarian at the University of Hawai'i Maui College and the Principal Investigator and Project Director of the Ka Wai Hāpai project. Shavonn earned concurrent bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Hawaiian Studies and a Master's in Library & Information Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Indigenous Studies from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi. Her research focuses on Indigenous knowledge organization and pathways to improve access to Hawaiian knowledge in libraries and archives through Hawaiian epistemologies.

**Annemarie Paikai** is the Co-Investigator and Project Team Lead for Hawaiian Language for the project. She serves as the Hawai'i-Pacific Resources Librarian at Leeward Community College. Annemarie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Hawaiian Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and a Master's in Library & Information Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her research interests include centering 'ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) and Hawai'i epistemology within Hawai'i libraries, and mo'okū'auhau (genealogy) research and protocols.

**Keahiahi Long** is a mea hula from Wa'ahila, Mānoa, Kona, O'ahu. As a Co-Investigator for Ka Wai Hāpai, Keahiahi serves as the Project Coordinator. She is the Librarian at the Kamakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, UH Mānoa. Her research interests include Hawaiian librarianship and Indigenous information literacy instruction.

**Eleanor Kleiber** is a Pacific Specialist Librarian in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library. Prior to this role, Eleanor was the librarian and archivist for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, based in Nouméa. Eleanor received her B.A. in History and a B.A. in Peace and Justice Studies from Wellesley College (which also included study abroad at the University of the South Pacific in Suva). She earned her Master's in Library Sciences (MLIS) and Master's in Archival Studies (MAS) from the University of British Columbia.