

## FIJI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

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The Fiji Library Association Journal, published since 1978, has taken over some of the purpose of the Association's newsletter, containing contributions and papers of more general significance to librarians of the Pacific region. Both journal and newsletter are available on subscription to the society - individual and school membership, \$5.00 p.a., institution \$10.00 p.a.

This short review, covering Nos. 2-5, November 1979-June 1981, cannot do justice to all the various articles published in the Fiji Library Association's four journals. On the whole they are well presented and form a valuable collection of material dealing with libraries and books. The inclusion of articles on overseas libraries, such as the Toronto Overseas Book Centre [2 (November 1979), 60-61] and Hawaiian libraries and archives [5 (June 1981), 19-30] are excellent examples of the exchange of relevant information and experience the Journal wishes to foster.

Unfortunately this is not always achieved. John Barclay's interesting article on the State of Libraries in China ["China Libraries 'Serve the People', 2 (November 1979) 44-59"] was largely out of date by the time of its Fiji publication, being based on a visit undertaken in 1976. The author himself hints at this possibility in his final paragraphs and the article should have been covered by a paragraph from the editor to this effect.

This comment also covers several other articles published in the first journals, particularly Pickford's light account of "Wildlife at the BBC" [2 (November 1979), 41-43].

Other articles are lighter still and suffer from a lack of real information to make them truly valuable. One stands out for special comment. Graham Chan's article on Third World libraries [3 (August 1980), 11-19] details many of the problems libraries face in the developing nations of the world. Quite correctly he argues for greater self-adaption to local conditions and needs, and opposes the wholesale imitation of foreign models.

It is unfortunate that Chan chooses not to focus longer on the ways in which libraries can take such initiative. Instead he ponders the question of what books are desirable for Third World Libraries, dismissing much of the aid and assistance received as cultural imperialism. At no stage does he adequately define what "useless" books are. Nor does he seem to appreciate that the community needs change. Libraries preserve for the future as well as cater for the present. What may appear pointless or irrelevant today may eventually assume greater importance in the future. Understandably most libraries suffer from the twin problems of space and finance, and have at some time to decide what areas of publication they wish to focus on. Where more than one library exists, duplication of resources can be easily removed by cooperation. Nevertheless, the incorporation of stock collections are increasingly a necessary feature of libraries around the world.

Issue No. 5 also contains a curious article on the International Year of the Disabled [Diment, 5 (June 1981), 37-40]. It is a pity the editors did not think it more appropriate to include an article on how libraries might better serve the disabled.

These comments are not intended to detract from the merit of the Library Association's Journals. They provide a welcome means of keeping the public and library personnel informed of changes in librarian methods, education and training, as well as useful material on literature and research. The Association may well find that in the future the Journal could also be used to inform its readers of recent research accessions and papers concerning the region.

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