

OCEANIA SPORT INFORMATION CENTRE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

2006 has proven to be an interesting year for OSIC. With the development of a Sports Science and Sports Management degree program to be offered in 2007 and the prospect of a Degree in Physical Education and Sports Study in 2008 at USP is definitely great news for OSIC. The developments of these Courses is a dream come true for OSIC. We have been diligently creating a sports related collection for the past 9 years in anticipation for the introduction of such courses. The increase in sports related courses being offered in Fiji in a number of educational institutions such as FIT, USP, NZPTC, Lautoka Teachers College, Fiji College of Advance Education and Sports Academies in Secondary Schools, has definitely raised our expectations to be more proactive in order to meet the expected increase in demand.

There are also plans for a regional sports education program being offered sometime in 2007. The Oceania Sports Education Program (OSEP) has been in the pipeline for the past couple of years. The Australian Sports Commission has been developing the curriculum and running trial versions of the Course in Vanuatu and Cook Island. The OSEP Course is expected to be offered in each country in the Pacific region as an initiative for the National Olympic Committees to educate their coaches. It is also anticipated that opportunities will be given to USP to offer the program through the USP Centres.

The proposal to relocate the OSIC periodical collection in order to accommodate the Law Collection is another challenge that OSIC staffs have had to deal with. For the past nine (9) years OSIC has enjoyed the arrangement and the relationship it had developed with the University of the South Pacific and in particular the Library. Through the foresight of former USP Librarian, Dr Esther Williams, the Oceania Sport Information Centre was given a space within the USP Library to establish itself to what it is today. The arrangement is unique in the sense that OSIC is the only regional Sport Information Centre in the world that is fully funded by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). We hope that the current arrangement will continue until such time that the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) has its own headquarters that would house all ONOC related programs.

Statistics for 2006 has shown an increase to over 1700 requests received and processed by OSIC staff. This is definitely a positive sign and we are confident that 2007 will be more successful.

REQUESTS AND STATISTICS

Listed below is the statistical breakdown of requests that were received and processed in 2006.

	<i>onoc</i>	<i>org</i>	<i>staff</i>	<i>student</i>	<i>library</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>visitor</i>	<i>media</i>	<i>others</i>	total
<i>JAN</i>	3	3	4	10	3	0	7	6	5	41
<i>FEB</i>	4	10	4	40	2	6	2	9	6	83
<i>MAR</i>	4	13	2	170	7	2	2	6	10	216
<i>APR</i>	5	7	2	96	7	2	2	4	10	135
<i>MAY</i>	3	9	4	170	10	2	3	2	8	211
<i>JUN</i>	7	12	3	150	5	3	7	3	7	197
<i>JUL</i>	4	5	5	68	5	5	4	4	7	107
<i>AUG</i>	7	60	7	100	10	12	5	7	9	217

<i>SEPT</i>	10	36	8	160	8	4	6	8	7	247
<i>OCT</i>	7	23	7	140	2	3	4	13	3	202
<i>NOV</i>	6	20	6	35	1	2	6	8	12	96
<i>DEC</i>	2	5	1	6	0	2	4	6	11	37
total	62	203	53	1145	60	43	52	76	95	1787

NETWORKING WITH SPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The OSIC Coordinator has established an extensive networking system with a number of sporting organizations in the Pacific region and internationally. This link has produced positive outcomes resulting in new resources and information made available to OSIC and its users through gifts of magazines, books and newsletters. There has also been an increase in the number of electronic resources that OSIC has received as a result of the networking that has been established during regional workshops and conferences.

The involvement of the OSIC Coordinator as a facilitator in a number of Sports Education workshops has also established a number of networking opportunities with participants most of whom are primary or secondary teachers. This is an important arrangement that should continue especially when all traveling expenses are being paid by the regional or international sporting federations.

FUNDING

Despite the increase in funding in 2005 to \$US50000 we are still finding it hard to meet all our financial commitments. This is mainly due to increases in salaries which take up a major portion of the allocated funding. It is also costing OSIC about \$5000 a year for subscription for 27 sports related magazines. We are hoping that good number of these subscriptions costs will be taken over by either the Faculty of Science and Technology and the Faculty of Arts and Law, which will be offering courses in the sports education in 2007 and 2008.

ATTACHMENT

This project was initiated in March by the Nauru Department of Sport which made a proposal to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat under the Forum Secretariat Fellowship Scheme. Unfortunately the proposal did not materialize until August due to a number of reasons and unforeseen circumstances. John Tannang was appointed by the Nauru Sports Department to undertake the attachment. This was the second time that the Oceania Sport Information Centre has accommodated such an attachment from the Nauru Department of Sports.

One of the main objectives of John's visit was to look at the OSIC set up with the idea that Nauru will establish a sports information and resource centre, which will also be the sports archives. John was originally scheduled to be attached to OSIC for two weeks but due to flight problems to Nauru he had to spend an extra week at OSIC. John was attached to OSIC from August 28 – September 22.

During his attachment John was briefed on the functions of each department within the USP Library and how OSIC fitted into the whole picture. John's visit also highlighted the lack of information on the history of sports in Nauru. While spending time at the USP Pacific Collection, John discovered some important historical information on Nauru's participation in the South Pacific Games. The success of Nauru athletes in past SP Games was important information that most young Nauruan did not know about. John stated that "this is information that our young people back home need to know". John lamented that most of the younger generation could only identify Nauru's success with the sport of weightlifting. They do not realize that Nauru has had some success at the South Pacific Games in other sports such as Athletics, Softball and Basketball where athletes have also won medals.

John intends to establish a sports archive with the assistance of the Nauru National Olympic Committee and other organizations such as the Australian Sports Commission and the USP Centre Library. The archive would house most of the historical documents relating to sports in Nauru. John Tannang is the Sports Project Officer for the Nauru Sports Department. During his attachment John was mostly interested in the development of Nauru's participation in the South Pacific Games since 1963. John spent a large number of hours at the Pacific Collection researching results and reports of Nauru athletes participating in regional sporting events.

During his attachment, John was able to visit ONOC, Fiji Institute of Technology – School of Sports Science and Physical Education Program, FIT Library, and FASANOC. He also had an opportunity to observe at a secondary schools teaches Sports Education Course that was being held in Suva during the school holidays. John also had discussions with Elesi Ketedromo of the Ministry of Youth and Sports regarding the Ministry's community outreach programs.



John Tannang at work in the OSIC office

THE TONY ISAACS ATHLETICS ARCHIVES

The most extensive collection of athletics results for Pacific Island athletes dating back to the 1950s has been donated to OSIC by Mr. Tony Isaacs, author of the Pacific Island Statistics. Tony has been keeping stats of all Pacific Island athletes competing in the sport of Athletics around the world for the past 50 years. Tony has generously donated his collection for safe keeping with the understanding that OSIC will reimburse him for all shipping costs. The collection will be catalogued and made available to users throughout the region

The "Tony Isaacs Collection" is currently being indexed by OSIC staff and will be made available to members of the general public once this is completed. We have already received enquiries for the above collection from a number of individuals who are working on the history of athletics in the Oceania region.

RELOCATION OF OSIC PERIODICAL COLLECTION

In the beginning of year OSIC staff had been informed that the University had decided to relocate the Law Collection to the OSIC reading area, which also houses the OSIC periodical collection. This would mean that all OSIC periodicals would have to be relocated. The OSIC collection will be integrated with the main serial collection in Level A. It is expected that the relocation of OSIC periodicals will take place at the end of November 2006.

Other particulars regarding the relocation of the collection is still being finalized by the USP Library management and officials from the Law Department.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

1. ONOC Annual General Assembly

The ONOC Annual General Assembly was held at the Westin Hotel in Denarau, April 8 – 10 2006. OSIC Coordinator attended the meeting where he made a presentation updating members of the assembly on the various issues concerning OSIC. Highlights of the presentation included the following issues;

- OSIC serial collection relocation
- Athletics Result Archives
- Current OSIC Projects

The Assembly was attended by members of the different sporting federation from the Oceania region, which included Table Tennis, Tennis, Football, Athletics, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Badminton, Archery, Hockey, Volleyball and Judo. There were also representatives from the International Olympic Committee – Olympic Solidarity Program, who are responsible for the distribution of funds to the National Olympic Committees and other Olympic related initiatives and programs.

The Annual Assembly is always a good forum where contacts are made with the regional and international sporting federations and important individuals who have great influence in the development of sport in the region and around the world. As a result of establishing contacts, OSIC has already benefited by receiving a number of new resources in the last few months expanding our current collection. For example we are now receiving a number of online newsletters from a number of international sporting federations such as hockey, archery, squash, weight lifting, and cricket.

2. Pre – Commonwealth Games Sport Information Workshop

OSIC Library Assistant, Taufa Domona attended the Pre Commonwealth Games Sport Information Workshop, which was held in Canberra from March 6 – 8. The workshop was conducted in conjunction with the annual general meeting of the Australia and Oceania Sport Information Interest Group. The workshop included the demonstration of some of the latest video analysis technologies that were going to be used at the Commonwealth Games by Australian sporting organizations.

CURRENT AND ONGOING PROJECTS

Listed below are a number of projects, which has been carried out by the OSIC LA (Taufa Domona). Indexing of regional sports related information is an on going process which we hope will be made available electronically once all preliminary are completed.

Long term project

- *South Pacific Games Indexing* - OSIC staffs are currently indexing South Pacific Games related articles from local newspapers such as the Fiji Times, Post and Fiji Sun. Articles are being categorized according to the different subject headings for easy access and at the same time creating an archive for each sport.
- *Traditional Sport* – This is an area that is poorly documented throughout the Pacific region. There is very little information available in any format on traditional sports. OSIC staffs are putting together a list of traditional sports that we can find. We have had to go through some old books on the history of countries in the Pacific where a chapter may be devoted to traditional sport and other recreational activities.

Short Term

- *Process all Sport/Pac materials* - Any Pacific related publications are also processed by OSIC staff which is then redirected to the USP Library Pacific Collection.

Ongoing

- *Cataloguing of monographs* – OSIC receives a substantial amount of gifts of sports related books from a number of different organizations such as, Australian Sports Commission, ONOC, FASANOC, and International Sporting Federations, which have to be catalogued.

Future Plans

- *Rugby News Magazine* – OSIC is also looking at indexing Pacific related articles in the Rugby News Magazine which would be part of the USP Library Pacific Collection.
- *Olympic Collection* – OSIC staffs are currently having discussions with the USP Library management as how to best deal with the Olympic Collection. The OSIC Olympic Collection is quite extensive and has a number of unique materials which are not available to most libraries. These items include bid documents for countries intending to host the Olympic Games.

OSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

Over the years since OSIC was established it has always been one of our main objective is to assist other countries in the establishment of sports resources and information centres. Countries that have shown some interest have often received our assistance either through our advice or assistance of resources. The Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT) has been one of those organizations who have received such assistance. Since the establishment of School of Physical Education and Sports Science (SPESSAR) at FIT three years ago, OSIC has played a prominent role in the creation of the school's sports and Physical Education resources. OSIC staffs have often provided advice to the FIT - SPESSAR librarian and teaching staff on new resources that are available in the market. OSIC donated three boxes of duplicate copies of books and magazines.

OSIC staffs have also played a limited role in providing advice to the NZPTC Sports Education Program. Mr. Jioji Liga, Coordinator of the NZPTC Program has on a number of occasions met with OSIC staff to discuss issues relating to access and acquisition of resources that could be used by the NZPTC Program.

OSIC has to take a proactive role in providing information to members of the general public, in particular teachers who have been given the responsibility to coach school sports teams. By attending a number of organized coaching courses and other sports related activities, OSIC staffs have been able to reach a far wider cross section of people who otherwise would not have heard of our existence. Most of these individuals have become regular uses of our resources. Although this may not be seen as sports information related in the true library sense, it is still an important medium that can not be ignored. Face to face meeting has a far greater meaning to most of our clients rather than relying on modern information technology, which is still unavailable to majority of the island population.

USP SPORTS SCIENCE PROGRAM

The OSIC Coordinator has been co-opted to be part of the advisory committee looking into the development of the Sports Science Program at USP. The development of this program will greatly complement the role that OSIC will play in association with the USP library by identifying sports related resources to support the proposed program. This is something that we at OSIC have been anticipating for the past nine years since its establishment in 1997. The USP Sports Science and Sports Management Program will be offered in 2007.

Talks of developing a similar Physical Education and Sports Education degree program within the Faculty of Arts and Law is also in the pipeline. The program is expected to be offered in 2008. The sudden increase in sports related education courses will definitely increase the demand on OSIC resources.

CONCLUSION

The success of 2006 will certainly have a flow on effect into 2007 as new sports related courses and programs are established within the Pacific region. We see the need for resource centres within the different National Olympic Committees as important initiatives that should be fully supported.

The introduction of new courses at USP and other education institutions would definitely increase the demand for services for OSIC and its staff. We also look forward to the implementation of the Oceania Sports Education Program (OSEP) which will see new developments in the role that OSIC would have to play.

Accessibility to OSIC is still seen as a major obstacle by a number of our clients. As the statistics for 2006 shows that more than 50% of our clients are students which is a strong reflection of our current location. The question of OSIC being relocated from its current location remains a topic of discussion especially when access by sporting groups and other clients has been somewhat restricted.

The role of the OSIC Coordinator has also been questioned especially by USP Library administrators. It is perceived that the role of the Coordinator should strictly adhere to library information services. Unfortunately the need for such a role with the current OSIC set up is very limited. The need to clarify the role of the Coordinator is important so that confusion does not arise in the future.

OSIC staffs look forward to the challenges that 2007 will bring and hope to be able to improve our services and meet the expected increase in demand.

Albert Miller
Coordinator