

SECOND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF APLAP

10 MAY, 1992

ISLAMABAD - PAKISTAN

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SUPPORT

TO

LEGISLATURE

BY

MRS. LEATA FESILI

PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA

RESEARCH & INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR THE LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCTION:

Western Samoa emerged as a fully pledged independent nation in 1962 with its Parliament of 47 Members. After ten years of independence, a Parliamentary Library was established as a part of the Legislative Assembly Department. It is housed in the office complex comprised of a reading room, Librarian Office, a work room and a small archive.

RESOURCE & INFORMATION:

Reference is the basic resource of information and research. Briefly in South Pacific libraries, reference is a difficult task to provide services to users, because most are not used to such services and as a result reference service is hindered in its development. Reference service is answering questions asked by the library's patrons which means to turn to for aid or information.

INFORMATION RESOURCES:

The kind of material collected depends largely on the nature of the institution (Parliament) and to take account of the needs of the Parliamentarians. There are other links and the librarian should never imagine that he (Parliamentarian Library) is the only source of information. Teachers, researchers and members of the public do have other sources of information. These include contacts with other people working in the same field, personal subscriptions to journals and professional

institutions, attendance at meetings and conferences, newspapers, private collections of books, etc. These other links are, in many cases, more important than the library as sources of information. Librarians should try to develop a realistic, but not inflated, estimate of their own importance. Similarly, they should try to develop in their clientele an appreciation of the library's position in the provision of information.

TYPES OF PUBLICATION:

Research eg. Learned Journals,

General Reference eg. General Encyclopedias, Who's Who etc.

Community information eg. Local Telephone Directory, Consumer Guides.

Business Information eg. Trade Literatures,

Legal & Administrative Information eg. Laws,

Technical data, eg. Standards for Manufacturing,

Recreation eg. Novels

In the Legislature alone, the access to Parliamentary papers such as, Annual Reports, Special Reports, Statistical abstracts, Annual Government accounts etc, and Acts of Parliament, Bills and Reports of various Committees of Parliament & Hansard which are basic information of Legislation.

RESEARCH:

The search is an integral part of the information and research task and may be equally complicated. No matter what process is used to discover the answers of information needed success in providing relevant resources considerably more important.

Research services is considered to be more directed to the collection which interested to the legislature and Staff so that their duties are executed accordingly. The collection itself should be up to date reports and publications from both

Government and Statutory Cooperations. A staff with adequate service would help to assist in the task of research services to answer and require relevant information as needed.

A Computerized information and research system in the Legislature Library is the most considerably effective support for our Parliamentarians.

SOIFUA.