**Making our Pacific publications accessible**

Kylie, Deveni Temu, Roxanne Missingham and Katy will have more to say about this at the Pacific Institute meeting, but here are my thoughts, especially on ANU Press.

1. Digital sources are now the overwhelming choice of undergraduate students undertaking research for essays and other assignments. This was easily observable in the two Pacific courses I taught this year, Pacific Politics and Security in the Pacific Islands (about 60 students in all). The downloaded chapter, as distinct from the downloaded whole book, is the characteristic signature of the modern undergraduate bibliography, alongside the downloaded article. In other words, the entire ANU Press enterprise in the field of Pacific Studies is more relevant to ANU’s strategic objectives in teaching than ever before.
2. In the areas with of Pacific studies with which I am most familiar, the SSGM In Brief and Discussion Paper series – both freely downloadable – are a valuable barometer of current Pacific research.

For Pacific books, though, it is ANU Press that matters. The Pacific Editorial Board publishes books in two series through ANU Press, and has been doing so for the last decade. These are

1. Pacific Series

The Pacific Series constitutes a major source of modern scholarship on this region through books that range from history and anthropology to political science, gender studies and environmental studies. The islands of Melanesia are a particular focus, but the Pacific series also publishes ground-breaking research on Polynesia and Micronesia.

2. SSGM Series

The State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program at the ANU (SSGM) is devoted to the study of the Melanesian peoples and their countries – Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji – and constitutes the largest concentration of research expertise on Melanesia in the world. Books by SSGM scholars encompass studies of the history, anthropology and contemporary development of Melanesia and are indispensable for anyone with a serious interest in the region. Digital access to the latest Pacific research is a key resource for universities in the Pacific Islands.

(Why is there an SSGM series? Principally so that authors and editors can access the $3,000 or $4,000 needed for copy editing and styling. For this reason the SSGM series is not restricted to SSGM topics. See for example, Kirstie Close-Barry, *A Mission Divided Race, Culture and Colonialism in Fiji’s Methodist Mission,* ANU Press, SSGM Series, 2015. Forthcoming in the SSGM series is Annie Kwai *Islanders in the Second World War: a Solomon Islander perspective*. The ANU Press has funds for copy editing on a competitive basis.

These books have all been approved and will be published in the next six months:

Kalissa Alexeyeff and Jack Taylor, eds., *Touring Pacific Cultures*

Aletta Biersack, Margaret Jolly and Martha Macintyre, eds., *Gender Violence and Human Rights in the Western Pacific.*

Ceridwen Spark and Martha Macintyre, eds, *Transformations of Gender in Melanesia*

Anna-Karina Hermkens and Katherine Lepani, eds, *Sinuous Objects: Revaluing Women’s Wealth in the Contemporary Pacific*

Paul D’Arcy *Transforming Hawaii: Balancing Coercion and Consent in Eighteenth Century Kānaka Maoli Statecraft*

**What is the process of publication?**

1. Submission to the Pacific Editorial Board
2. Board seeks reviews from two scholarly reviewers (often a lengthy process)
3. Board may then, and often does, require revisions in the light of reviews, sometimes substantial ones
4. Author or editor must then have the work copy edited and styled according to Press specifications
5. Board gives final approval with a signed Proposal Evaluation Form
6. Author or editor then deals directly with the Press on the final details of the book, including the cover design, an issue that is often contentious
7. Book is produced in both e-form and printed form; print on demand

As Chair of the Board, I am sometimes asked why we do not do more to distribute printed versions of our books in the Pacific, and the argument is put that many Pacific Islanders do not have Internet access or facilities to print out a digital copy. There is certainly room for subsidising the cost of printed versions

Stewart Firth

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