



Research & Professional Development Grant Final Report

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- Research
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Name of researcher(s) or presenter(s):

Cristela Garcia-Spitz

Project Title:

Patrolling the Past: Bringing Papua New Guinea Colonial-Era Reports into the Digital Realm

Abstract: Papua New Guinea patrol reports are important primary sources for the pre-independence history of the country and continue to be useful in contemporary PNG. In the 1980s, the University of California, San Diego Library (UCSD) initiated and supported a project to provide better access to the reports housed in the National Archives of Papua New Guinea, resulting in production by the Archives of a large set of microfiche, with copies that were eventually purchased by institutions in Australia, New Zealand and the US. Over the last three years, UCSD's Digital Library Development Program has been engaged in a project to digitize the reports and make them accessible online, working from the microfiche. In this paper, we will present an overview of the materials themselves, the intricacies of their organizational structure, research interest and use of the collection, and the processes used to bring the project to fruition.

Project Index Number:

Presentation date (if applicable): May 19, 2016

Presentation conference name and location (if applicable): Pacific History Association, Guam, Mariana Islands

Publication citation (if applicable):

How were the funds expended for this research/presentation/poster?

Registration, lodging, and a portion of the airfare



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Having recently released the Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports online through the UC San Diego Library Digital Collections website, this was the choice opportunity to engage with Pacific Historians and promote the collection. I presented with Melanesian Librarian, Kathy Creely, who is about to retire and so she was able to introduce me to several of her contacts. Other panelists included colleagues from the University of Hawaii, the National Archives of Fiji, and the Executive Officer at the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. In addition to participating in session, we were able to demo the Digital Collections website and discuss the collections of the Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Anthropology with conference attendees. We also met to discuss future projects with the patrol reports with researchers and the Executive Officer at the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. Overall, it was a very productive conference.