

The Pacific Library Training Institute

By Jane Barnwell

In 2005 Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) received a “Librarians for the 21st Century” grant from the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to conduct a 3-year project designed to provide training for staff from island libraries in the US-affiliated Pacific islands. PREL designed the Pacific Library Training Institute (PLTI) in response to a survey that established training as the primary need for librarians in these entities.

Nineteen residents of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific, working in academic and public libraries, were selected to attend the PLTI, which took place from June 7–29, 2006, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UH).

The 2006 PLTI participants included Nathaidia Moeai and Pauline Tolua, American Samoa; Kersweet Eria and Lynn Sipenuk, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM); Erlinda Naputi and Gregorio Sablan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); Walfrid Benavente and Jason Datuin, Guam; Romeo Alikxa and Shra Renton, Kosrae, FSM; Lester Ezekias, Atarino Helieisar, and Bruce Robert, Pohnpei, FSM; Lisa Jeraan and Sistina Elbon, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI); Grace Merong and Bedebii Sadang, Republic of Palau; and Isabel Rungrad and Helen Salap, Yap, FSM.

By providing professional development to this group, all of whom are preprofessional staff working in

libraries in their home jurisdictions, the PLTI seeks to improve library services across the region. Institute participants gained expertise in acquisitions, collection management, reference, library instruction, and cataloging.

Dr. Karen Peacock, Head of Special Collections and Curator of the Pacific Collection at the UH’s Hamilton Library, was the lead instructor. PREL’s Resource Center director, Jane Barnwell, is the Project Director.

Further training will take place in 2007 and 2008 for selected school and special library staff, respectively.

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