

The Collection

The bulk of the Blatchford Collection comprises letters and documents from the files of the PNG Department of Education before 1977. This is supplemented by material from other PNG departments and from the private collections of Bill Groves, John Gunther, Geoff Roscoe, Les Johnson, Ian Howie-Willis, Dick Ralph and Dick Pearce. Material from Hansard, reports to the United Nations, and clippings from PNG and Australian newspapers are also included.

Coverage includes files held at the PNG National Archives in Waigani. Every government department archive was searched and everything relating to education is recorded. At the time, two papers were produced for the Research Branch of the PNG Department of Education: '*Files on Education held by Other Departments at National Archives, Waigani*' [16 February 1977] and '*Educational Papers Located in Files Held by Other Departments at National Archives, Waigani*' [17 May 1977].

The Collection also includes material after 1977 (mostly collected in Australia) and from private collections that include little of the day-to-day workings of the PNG Department of Education.

The Collection records the day-to-day running of the Education Department and also incorporates a great deal of information about ASOPA. Noted on each document is its source: either a departmental file and folio number, an accession and box number, or the name of the private collection. Where the document existed in more than one place, both sources were noted on the copy.

The material is loose-leafed, organised chronologically and kept in manila folders. Each folder holds approximately three months of material and the folders are housed in four metal filing cabinets.

The material is ordered by year, month, and then day. For example, material summarising 1960 comes before 1 January 1960 and an article printed in March 1960 is placed before 1 March 1960. Papua Annual Reports and New Guinea Annual Reports are placed at the start of the period they cover. Books, theses and dissertations covering a broad period are placed at the beginning of the collection.

PNG newspaper clippings have been interwoven with the correspondence. Some have been thermocopied rather than photocopied. These items are fading and some are difficult to read. They may need to be recopied if they are not to be lost.

Reports, conferences, seminars, and journals have been placed in the correspondence files and can be located by the date of the meeting or the report's publication date. This is to allow researchers interested in a particular period to have a single point of access to all material for that period.

Interviews were held with various education and government officials and, although tapes are included, the quality has not been checked for 20 years and rats used some of them for macramé. Transcripts were made of the more important interviews and these are included in the collection.

The originals of the tapes are held at the University of Sydney, lodged there by its then Head of Education, John Cleverley. I presume they are in the University Library.

The transcripts of interviews are at the beginning of the collection and are in alphabetical order. The list includes transcripts of interviews undertaken by other researchers such as Tim Bowden, Don Christie and Ian Howie-Willis.

The ABC, through Tim Bowden, was particularly co-operative and provided copies of tapes and interview summaries from its 'Taim Bilong Masta' and 'Imperial Australians' projects. These are located with the other taped and transcribed material.

The collection includes biographical material on approximately 300 people associated with PNG. This material has been assembled from books, journals, Education Gazettes, applications for promotion, and the Executive Assessment Scheme.

Although I was not specifically collecting material on tertiary education, I have included the material collected by Ian Howie-Willis for his doctoral thesis.

I was given total cooperation by all officers and departments in PNG, and by private individuals in Australia. The Commonwealth Archives was another matter. I managed access to Les Johnson's and John Gunther's collections but attempts to gain access to the Department of External Territories files were denied. Access to these files would enhance the Blatchford Collection.

- Loch Blatchford