ORAL CULTURE AND LIBRARY ACQUISITION: CLASH OR FUSION?
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Is it right to walk into a community in a developing country and establish library services based on the idea of libraries in the developed world? For two young Australian librarians, 18 months spent working in Vanuatu and Samoa as AusAID volunteers provided insight into the world of acquisitions, information poverty, the nature of aid and book donations. This paper attempts to determine whether the traditional Western concept of libraries with our strong culture of recorded/printed information works in a world where oral language and culture is valued more than written, what types of materials should be collected and how they can be acquired.