News from the Australian National University Library

Staff News:

Mr Tom Foley joins the Asia Pacific team at Menzies in a supervisory role. He succeeds Mr Deveni Temu who retired at the beginning of 2018.

Tom has over fifteen years’ experience working with a broad range of researchers in busy and diverse library environments, most recently at the Hancock Library at the Australian National University, leading numerous different teams at the National Library including Newspapers and Family History and at the Scottish Parliament Information Centre. Tom holds a Bachelor of Information Studies and Graduate Diploma of Adult and Vocational Education.

In addition to a long personal connection to the Pacific, Tom has sourced and acquired collection material on behalf of the NLA in the Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu with his own young children in tow. Tom has also been fortunate to have undertaken slow travel across central Asia returning from Scotland to Australia.

Tom is looking forward to working with Menzies Library staff and staff from across the College of Asia and Pacific to help the ANU, through the Library, develop intellectual capacity for Australia and Asia & the Pacific by managing, developing and sharing their world class collections.

Digitisation of the Xu Dishan Collection at ANU:


ANU holds the Chinese language library of the renowned Chinese scholar Xu Dishan 许地山 (1893-1941) comprising many rare editions and suspected orphaned sacred books on Buddhism, Taoism and other Missionary publications of the time, published between probably c.1780 and 1940. The overall number of items now digitised is 391 volumes out of 1285, representing 30.4% of the whole collection. The digitised items are placed on the Digital Collections platform of the ANU Library.