

While attached to the Library this scholar would work on the material from his or her own tribal area and assist Te Kai-tiaki in describing that material accurately in the catalogues and indexes. At the same time the scholar would provide the liaison with his or her iwi to arrange for the best means of providing access to the material in the tribal area. This position is likely to be filled in 1991.

The proposals first developed in the late 1970s to produce inexpensive edited texts of tribal manuscripts have not resulted in any publications produced by the Library, but with Turnbull encouragement and support the Maori Studies Department at Victoria University and the Department of Maori at the University of Canterbury have produced three booklets⁷ and the periodical *Te Panui* has published several shorter pieces from manuscripts in the Turnbull.

The Library's current thinking, which is very much in line with the National Library's bicultural policy which emphasises negotiations with the Maori communities in a spirit of partnership, is to work with the various Maori groups to enable them to identify materials suitable for publication, to obtain the necessary permissions, to decide on suitable formats, appropriate editors, and the means of dissemination. The Library's role is very much that of making its resources known to the local Maori groups, and of initiating discussion and facilitating local initiatives.

Several themes have emerged from this brief historical account. The Library's response in the past fifteen years to what it perceived as changes in the constituencies served by its Maori collections has two major and inter-related themes: that of publication beyond the Library and that of creating new ways of giving access to non-academic users with a tribal orientation and strong traditions of oral communication. Publication of the Library's Maori resources in print or microform is congruent with the overall policy of the Library to turn materials for which there are increasing user demands and growing conservation problems into copies which can be distributed to other institutions, either as published editions for sale or as copies available on demand. Similar programmes have been developed for newspapers and are proposed for the national monographic imprint, for photographs, for drawings and prints, for selected New Zealand serial publications, and for selected subject areas within the manuscripts collection. For the Maori language materials there are some special elements which have been outlined above.

The access theme has generated debate within the Library which is likely to continue for some time. What is the best means of making the Turnbull's Maori resources accessible to those who need them? Can a research library, a distinctive creation of the written and printed culture of the Western people, be modified to accommodate equally the needs of the traditional research user and those of Maori tribal groups?