

**Title:** Whanau transformation through library: experiences of an indigenous academic library in Aotearoa, New Zealand

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**Abstract:**

This paper seeks to provide a unique perspective of indigenous librarianship whereby Te Pātaka Māramatanga (TPM) an indigenous academic library in Aotearoa, New Zealand has taken the Western concepts of librarianship re-engineered it to suit its clientele – mainly indigenous Māori and Pasifika students.

Using traditional Māori concepts such as haka, whakapapa, and pōhiri process TPM has been able to successfully engage with students and staff and at the same time. These concepts have been successfully tested and applied in a library space within TPM.

This presentation suggests that although library is a Western concept, it can be made more meaning and relevant to indigenous students through application of traditional Māori concepts. These provide the basis for transforming librarianship into culturally relevant world view, appropriate to the cultural beliefs and values of the indigenous students, staff and the institution.

In an indigenous teaching and learning environment acknowledgment of the learner's cultural identity is seen as fundamental to their educational success and empowerment. The existent cultural elements of beliefs, values, language, heritage, heredity, perspectives and practices are clearly reinforced.

Traditional Māori concepts when applied to librarianship provides an indigenous framework, contextualising ways to engage with Māori students and their learning experiences, building upon students' background and aspirations. As an indigenous tertiary education provider Te Wānanga o Aotearoa offers a holistic user friendly teaching and learning environment where philosophy, culture and values of Māoritanga and Māori are strongly espoused.

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is the world's largest indigenous tertiary education provider and is the second largest tertiary education provider in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Currently Te Wānanga o Aotearoa has 120 sites in 50 cities and towns in New Zealand with a student population of 30,000 plus. Te Wānanga o Aotearoa offers 96 different programmes to meet the needs of students. Courses offered range from certificate to Master's level degree, which is accredited by the New Zealand Qualification Authority.

Although Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is an indigenous organisation, it caters for the education needs and aspirations of all New Zealand citizens. The vision of Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is Whānau transformation through education.