



AUT

Leap: How big is the leap between our ideals and our reality

Questioning library approaches to, and restriction of, indigenous
collections



Purpose of this paper

- Start a dialogue and reflection about the difference between our ideals and our daily practices
- To suggest some simple actions for us all to take away

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Background

“Is there a conflict between the library ideals and the Māori desire for restriction to certain materials?”

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Question

- How many times have we questioned our Māori and indigenous colleagues about the desire of their people to restrict access to material?
- How many of your indigenous colleagues have been asked to justify the desire of their people for these restrictions?



Our Ideals and Practice

Ideal:

Free unhindered access to information in all its forms, for all people

Practice:

Membership, embargoes, special collections, bequests



Why do indigenous peoples want restrictions to access?

- Cataloguing and classification
- Misrepresentation
- Repatriation and digital repatriation
- Access and restriction of access



Actions

- Engaging with this paper and session
- Reading further material
- Recognising and understanding that our institutions are not neutral or objective (culture bound)
- Initiate your own discussions about the content of this paper and/or other papers that you read



Conclusion

He mihi nunui, engari he mihi poto ki a koutou
mō tō koutou āro me tō koutou tautoko
i tenei take.

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