

Pacific Newspapers

6/26/06

We can use local newspapers for information on current events, as a window into contemporary society in the Pacific. Old newspapers become primary source material for historical research on the Pacific.

For the newspaper given to you:

Read through an issue of the newspaper.

In group discussion, cover the following topics, to the extent that they are relevant for the newspaper that you have. Then report back to the class on your findings!

Language

Is the newspaper in English?

Is there use of vernacular language in the newspaper?

Frequency

Is the newspaper published daily, several times a week, or once a week?

News Coverage

Does the news coverage look at:

Local news?

Local news -- what issues arise in politics?

Regional news?

International news?

Social Issues

Do you find articles that deal with any of the following?

crime

juvenile delinquency

drugs

alcohol

teen pregnancy

health

diseases

nutrition

health services -- doctors, hospitals, nursing

Environment

Do you find articles that deal with any of the following?

endangered species

pollution

greenhouse effect

logging

fisheries

Education

Do you find articles that deal with any of the following?

- schools
- teachers
- curriculum
- scholarships
- overseas education

Editorial Page

Are there:

- editorials
- letters to editor
- opinion page

Weather

Do you find:

- timetable
- hurricane or typhoon mapping

Business Section

Look for examples of:

- Advertisements
 - food
 - cars, appliances
 - clothes
 - alcohol? cigarettes?
 - local businesses or mainly foreign brands?
- Classifieds
 - jobs, salaries
 - housing, rental/sale

Lifestyle

Is there a “lifestyle” section? Is it island-focused or Western style?

Is there a food section? Local food or Western recipes?

Comics

Any local work?

Sports

Which sports seem to be covered? Remember that sports reflect colonial past (i.e., rugby in Fiji).

Travel Articles

Are there ads for airlines, hotels?