

MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA¹

Te Papa² was established under its own Act³ as New Zealand's national museum to reflect "an internationally recognized symbol of national identity"⁴. The name "te papa" is originally derived from the Maori language and means "our place". The Museum's functions⁵ are the collection, preservation and dissemination of the multicultural heritage⁶ of New Zealand. Through the acknowledgement of the Treaty of Waitangi⁷, Te Papa represents the Taonga⁸ of both the Tangata Whenua⁹ and Tangata Tiriti¹⁰. The Treaty was concluded in 1840.

This bicultural character of the collection of the Museum has been expanded to include other ethnic cultures from the Pacific that have become part of the national identity of New Zealand¹¹. Te Papa's collection is therefore multicultural, and is divided into five main areas, namely i) Art and Visual Culture, ii) Māori cultural treasures, iii) Pacific Cultures, iv) History and v) Natural Environment¹².

Its collection development policy of 2001¹³ includes guiding principles on acquisition and collection, in which the emphasis is on assembling New Zealand's tangible heritage¹⁴. Furthermore, the policy contains a remarkable feature on Maori's indigenous materials where the Museum acknowledges the indigenous peoples to be the "spiritual

¹ The views expressed in the resource and practices referred to in this summary do not necessarily constitute the views of WIPO or any of its Member States.

² <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz>

³ Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa Act 1992, http://www.legislation.govt.nz/libraries/contents/om_isapi.dll?clientID=553312052&infobase=pal_statutes.nfo&jd=a1992-019%2fs.3&record={6798E}&softpage=DOC

⁴ Goldsmith, M. (2003) "Our Place in New Zealand Culture: How the Museum of New Zealand constructs Biculturalism", p.2, <http://recherche.univ-montp3.fr/mambo/cerce/r6/m.g.s.doc>

⁵ <http://www.mch.govt.nz/agency/tepapa.html>

⁶ <http://www.museumsnett.no/icme/icme2004/mahina.html>

⁷ <http://www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Port/2470/maori/treaty.html>

⁸ The term "taonga" means "treasures", see Annex VII of WIPO Survey Report written by Malia Talakai

⁹ The term "Tangata Whenua" means "those who belong to the land by right of first discovery or Maori", see <http://www.museumsnett.no/icme/icme2004/mahina.html>

¹⁰ The term "Tangata Tiriti" means "those who belong to the country by right of Treaty or European", see <http://www.museumsnett.no/icme/icme2004/mahina.html>

¹¹ <http://www.museumsnett.no/icme/icme2004/mahina.html>

¹² <http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/welcome.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx>

¹³

<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/CollectionsAndResearch/CollectionCareAndAccess/AcquisitionProcess/>

owners” of the materials, while Te Papa plays the role of a “guardian” of the materials¹⁵. This has also led to significant partnerships being established between the Museum and the local communities of New Zealand.

Amongst other things, Te Papa is widely engaged in research projects¹⁶ in which the findings would be made available publicly¹⁷ or through Tai Awatea, which is Te Papa’s online multimedia database¹⁸. Furthermore, as part of the Museum’s national services Te Paerangi¹⁹, Te Papa is also actively issuing “resource guides”²⁰, which outline significant information on managing a museum and improving the associated services museums generally provide. These resource guides are aimed at cultural institutions and cover guiding information on 1) governance, management and planning, 2) collection care, 3) exhibitions and other public services, 4) customer services and 5) relationship with communities²¹.

For instance, the resource guide “A Guide to Guardians of Iwi Treasures”²² recognizes the importance for museums holding “taonga” to develop partnerships with “iwi”²³. The purpose of the guide is therefore to outline best ways to establish such partnerships and provide some insights on iwi’s “tikanga”²⁴. Another resource guide entitled “Copyright and Museums”²⁵ provides an overview on copyright and copyrighted materials held in

¹⁴ <http://www.museumsnnett.no/icme/icme2004/mahina.html>

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<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/CollectionsAndResearch/CollectionCareAndAccess/AcquisitionProcess/>

¹⁶ <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/CollectionsAndResearch/ResearchAtTepapa/>

¹⁷ <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/CollectionsAndResearch/ResearchAtTepapa/Publications/>

¹⁸ <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/VisitingTePapa/ServicesAndFacilities/Tai+Awatea.htm>

¹⁹ <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/NationalServices/>

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<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/NationalServices/Resources/ResourceGuides/ResourceGuidesDownload.htm>

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<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/NationalServices/Resources/ResourceGuides/ResourceGuidesDownload.htm>

²² <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/392E5CBE-93B2-4934-A9B9-E0FE4994E63D/0/Iwi.pdf>

²³ The term “iwi” means “tribe”, see Annex VII of WIPO Survey Report written by Malia Talakai

²⁴ The term “tikanga” means “customary protocols”, see Annex VII of WIPO Survey Report written by Malia Talakai

²⁵ <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/6A8EAEBD-5EDD-4DF9-AF09-C13A7C7BC8CF/0/Copyright.pdf>

museums. It also advises museums on the link between copyright and digitization practices.

For more information, see WIPO, “Intellectual Property and Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Survey of Current Practices and Protocols in the South Pacific”²⁶, written for WIPO by Malia Talakai, 2007.

²⁶ http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/casestudies/talakai_report.pdf