

# MICRONESIAN

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## EDITORIAL: A NEW LOOK JOURNAL

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When the *Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences (MJHSS)* was established in 2002, there was no outlet for the publication of humanities and social science research focusing on Micronesia. In 1997 the University of Guam publication *Isla: Journal of Micronesian Studies* had succumbed to financial pressures after four years of publication, leaving a void. The concept of *MJHSS* allowed the editorial board to side-step the financial issues of printing costs and printed-stock management by making use of the world wide web as a mechanism for the publication and dissemination.

The *MJHSS* has so far resided on a server operated by the Northern Marianas College. Technical problems caused by the vulnerability of the servers in the CNMI to natural disasters as well as uncertainties about funding for the Northern Marianas College have seen the website of the *MJHSS* temporarily disappear. As a result, the first issue of the journal also temporarily disappeared from public ‘view’, which was very unfortunate as it challenged the journal’s credibility.

The *Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* has now been moved to a server operated by Charles Sturt University, Australia. It now forms part of the structure of

marshall.csu.edu.au (“The Marshall Islands—A Digital Library and Archive”). This Digital Library has been selected by the National Library of Australia to form part of its Pandora Digital Archive project, which archives annual ‘editions’ of culturally significant Australian websites in perpetuity. As *MJHSS* is published as part of that site structure, *MJHSS* will also be archived in perpetuity.

### ‘Look and feel’

Initially the *MJHSS* was published as in html format. With the shift from the College of the Northern Mariana Islands server to a server run by Charles Sturt University, the appearance of the journal was adjusted. It is now produced as a ‘traditional’ journal with fixed page lay-out, albeit delivered solely in digital form, using the Adobe Acrobat™ Portable Document Format (PDF). PDF is a widely used and accepted mode of distributing printed matter in digital form while ensuring that correct page lay-out is produced independent of printer requirements and set up. Software to read the documents is freely available on the World-Wide Web and is usually bundled with current computers.

To fulfil Australian publishing rules relating to the allocation of an International Standard

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Serial Number (ISSN), the *Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* is published formally by Letao Publishing, Albury, New South Wales, Australia. *MJHSS* was, and will remain a free-to-web publication.

This is the first volume published in the new format. The contents of volume 1 will be reformatted and ‘republished’ in PDF format in the near future.

### **This volume**

The contents of this volume were received and, subsequent to the review process, accepted for publication by the editorial board at the College of the Northern Mariana Islands. The ‘fly-leaf’ of this issue shows the composition of that board.

Effective from 2004 DHRS will come on board as co-editor. At the same time the editorial board will be broadened to reflect the whole of Micronesia.

### **Call for papers**

The editors welcome submissions of research papers for peer review, as well as submissions of research notes. The latter will be reviewed for suitability for publication by the editorial board only. Books for review should be sent to the book review editor.

The new-look *MJHSS* will continue to provide peer-refereed/reviewed papers, but will also ensure permanence of the journal publication, reliability of publication sequences, and timeliness of publication in relation to annual research performance accounting cycles.

It is intended that at least one issue of the *MJHSS* in 2004 to be produced by December 2004, and from then onwards produce two issues annually—in homage to *ISLA* they are to be called the Dry Season issue, published in June, and the Rainy Season issue, published in December.