



28 September 2006

Pacific Island 'Memory of the World Project'. Report on initial research from NZETC

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Introduction

The UNESCO Pacific Island Memory of the World Programme commissioned the NZETC to start Phase One of the Pacific Memory of the World Project. The NZETC was given a limited time frame of 7 weeks in which to create a list of the founding documents of each nation, and to gather information on the location and physical state of the original manuscripts or printed texts.

The aims of the Memory of the World Programme more generally are to facilitate the preservation, by the most appropriate techniques, of the world's documentary heritage; to assist universal access to documentary heritage; and to increase awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of documentary heritage.

This part of the project was directed specifically at the Pacific Island nations covered by the UNESCO regional office in Apia: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. We were asked to give a particular focus on Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu which are on the United Nations list of Least Developed Countries (LDRs).

We defined a 'founding document' as any items of documentary heritage which are historically significant for their association with nation building events, such as proclamations of law and government, constitutional documents, treaty agreements, and declarations of annexation and independence. A good example of the kind of document we were trying to locate would have to be New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi: it is extremely significant on a national level, and has been in physical danger of deterioration, loss, or destruction.

The aim was to identify significant documents based on historical research, find out the locations and physical status of these documents, and prioritise the most important ones in order for UNESCO to be able to fund the preservation and digitisation of these important pieces of national heritage. This information has been recorded in a register which highlights the documentary heritage of the Pacific islands.

Methods used

The project began by contacting the librarians and archivists around the Pacific via letter or email, giving details of the scope and aims of the project and asking them to nominate the founding documents to be included in the register. Unfortunately few responses were received.

Research was done into the significant nation-building events of the different Pacific Island nations to discover if there was likely to be a specific document associated with

such an event. A variety of general histories on the Pacific Islands were consulted, which are listed in more detail in the bibliography of this report.

Once documents had been identified, or events identified for which there was a reasonable expectation that associated documents should exist. The holdings of the major archives, universities and libraries in the region were explored using the various online catalogues available, as budget and time constraints prevented visits to actual collections in the Pacific Islands. Of particular help were the Pacific holdings outside the region, such as the British National Archives, and the libraries and archives in Australia and New Zealand.

Efforts were made to discover which documents, if any, had been digitised and made available on the Internet. Study was made of *PacLii*, (The Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute) which has an online database of Pacific islands legislation, which proved invaluable in its rich collection of constitutional material. The work already begun by Peter Murgatroyd on his 'Movement Towards Independence' website through the University of the South Pacific to digitise these documents was extremely helpful and was a great starting point.¹

From the information gathered a registry was created, which listed not only the most important existing documents and their locations, but also made some attempt to list the important documents which may exist but cannot be found. The register also notes the digital copies of the document, the physical condition of the document, any restrictions on access to the document, and the name and contact address of the person responsible for its care.

Some care was taken in the register to note whether a document exists and the location is known, whether it remains unknown that a document exists at all, or whether the document probably does exist but more work needs to be done in finding it. For instance, if a secondary source makes reference to a particular document which was not found by searching the archives and libraries, the document may still exist somewhere. There are also official government records that we know exist but have not had the time to look up the exact volume and page number. The records of the League of Nations, the United Nations and government gazettes and volumes of statutes are readily available in a large number of libraries worldwide. For example, the Electoral Act of Fiji 1998 is already available online at *PacLii* but the paper copy of the Act has not been detailed upon as it will be in the *Fiji Gazette*.

Findings

¹ P. Murgatroyd, *Movement towards independence in the South Pacific: a digital archive of Legislation, Orders, Treaties, and related documents*.
http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/homepage.htm, last accessed 19 September 2006

Cook Islands

Most of the documentation relevant to the Cook Islands is currently located in New Zealand archives. None of the earlier petitions from chiefs to the British for the establishment of a protectorate could be found, but two of these type of petitions from 1888 are known to be held at Archives New Zealand. A copy of the proclamation of a protectorate (1888) and the declaration of annexation (1900) are also held here. Of the two early pre-annexation constitutions relating to the government of Queen Makea, the 1891 one could not be found, but there is also one in 1896 which is held at Auckland University Library. The most significant items of documentary heritage would be the Cook Islands Act 1915 and the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1965. Both of these are New Zealand Acts of Parliament and are therefore presumed to be in *New Zealand Statutes* as well as being digitally available on the web.

Niue

Niue is affected by the Cook, Etc., Islands Boundaries and Inclusion in New Zealand Proclamation 1901 and the Cook Islands Act of 1915. It would have been really good to find out if the documents prior to annexation exist, particularly about the kingdom which existed prior to 1900 and the petitions for British protection. There was little information we could gather about the locations of any existing documents but again the Niue Act 1966 and the Niue Constitution Act 1974 are both New Zealand Parliamentary Acts which are digitally available online, and are the most significant in terms of setting up the foundation for a fully independent nation.

Tokelau

Tokelau has a very small population spread over three atolls. It was difficult even finding a contact in Tokelau let alone finding if any important documents might be in the islands. There is not even a public library.² The most important existing documents are again New Zealand Acts of Parliament, the Tokelau Islands Act 1948 and the Tokelau Amendment Act of 1996. Material published within Tokelau is listed in the New Zealand National Bibliography.³ The Draft Constitution of 2005 is digitally available already online but it lacked the support to be passed in the referendum result which came back in February 2006 so its founding importance still remains in the balance.⁴

Kiribati

Kiribati with Tuvalu was part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and has a wide array of islands scattered over a wide area. Some documentation with relation to the establishment of a British Protectorate was found at the University of Adelaide Pacific collection but this was made up of a number of documents which were not looked at in more detail. There is an agreement establishing the Pacific Phosphate Commission in

² Diane Woods, *Book and Print in New Zealand: a guide to print culture in Aotearoa*. Victoria University Press, Wellington, 1997, available through NZETC transcription at <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-GriBook-div3-N139E9.html>, last accessed 21 September 2006

³ New Zealand National Bibliography <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/en/services/6nznbpub.html> last accessed 28 Sept 2006

⁴ Official site for Tokelau Council of Ongoing Government <http://www.tokelau.org.nz/> last accessed 2 September 2006

1920 which mainly just affects Banaba (Ocean Island), but led to the evacuation and resettlement of the Banabans on other islands. There are a number of statutory instruments relating to the changing administration of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony but some of the locations remain unknown. One of the best resources found for Kiribati was the website compiled by Steven Trussel which has the latest updated bibliography for the islands.⁵ The most important document relating to Kiribati would have to be the Kiribati Independence Order of 1979 which is available online. Finding the original paper version of this document would be very worthwhile.

Tuvalu

Tuvalu shares most of its initial documentation with Kiribati due to their shared political status until 1975. The exception is a copy of the native laws of the Ellice Islands in the Tuvalu language which is held at the University of Adelaide library catalogue. Many of the documents pertaining to Tuvalu's separation from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and its independence are already digitally available but the question remains whether the most important items, such as the original copy of Tuvalu's Constitution of 1978, could be found, preserved and digitised rather than a simple transcription.

Samoa

Many of the 'founding documents' for Samoa are held either at the University of Hawaii collection and Archives New Zealand. However there are still several gaps in the early documentation. For instance the Commercial Regulations that Capt. Bethune signed with Samoan chiefs at Apia in 1838 has not been discovered anywhere, although a very similar agreement signed with Capt. Wilkes in 1839 is held in the University of Hawaii Library. There are several agreements and treaties, some relating to the granting of rights over Samoan harbours to various powers which have not been located. This inter-power activity in Samoa precedes the establishment of any clearly defined territorial state or formal government.

These international agreements discussing the status of Samoa prior to its annexation are significant items of historical interest but it has not been possible to discover them and where the original documents exist. The pre-1899 petitions for the establishment of a British protectorate have not been found, and nor have many of the petitions from the New Zealand period of administration for autonomy during the Mau period of the 1930s.

The Samoa Convention of 1889 is a very important document for many Pacific countries, not just Samoa, and therefore its immediate digitisation is recommended. The original is safely held at the British National Archives. It affects the division of Samoa into Western (German) Samoa and Eastern (American) Samoa. Britain relinquished its claim in Samoa in exchange for the Germany's relinquishing of its claims on other islands in the Pacific, particularly the Solomon Islands and Niue. The other very important documents were the Constitution of Western Samoa of 1962 which, although the location of the original is unknown, was already digitally available on the Internet, as is the 1921 Samoa Act which is a New Zealand Act of Parliament.

⁵ Steven Trussel, *Kiribati Bibliography*, <http://www.trussel.com/kir/gilbib.htm>, last accessed 14 September 2006

Tonga

Three of the most significant 'founding documents' of Tonga are the Vava'u Code, the first written code of laws for Tonga, and the subsequent law codes of 1850 and 1862. These are mentioned in histories of Tonga but it has not been possible to determine if these documents still exist.⁶ Tonga has never been a complete colony, yet there are a number of treaties between Tonga and Britain, some of which were found in the British National Archives and in the University of Hawaii. These are important because they are in connection with Britain's management of the foreign affairs of Tonga and of Tonga's Protectorate status. For some of these there is a digital copy available online but the location of the original is unknown, for instance, the Constitution of Tonga of 1988 was available online but the location of the original is unknown.

Fiji

The original offer of cession by the Fijian chiefs in 1858 (and the refusal by Britain in 1862) cannot be found. However, the original Kingdom of Fiji Constitution Act of 1871 which establishes the kingdom of Cakobau is held in the Fiji Museum Library. The very important Deed of Cession of 1874 is in the British National Archives and is available online. For the 1938 Constitution it is not known if this document still exists. It would be beneficial to locate an original copy of the very important Fiji Independence Act of 1970 but the copies are available online already. The 1970 Constitution Revocation Decree and the Declaration Republic of Fiji (1987) is in the *Fiji Gazette* but need to be digitised. The 1990 and 1997 Constitutions are also in the *Fiji Gazette* and are both digitally accessible already on the Internet.

Marshall Islands

The pre-colonial and early German colonial history of the Marshall Islands and Micronesia is documented but the available documents held in German collections such as the German Federal Archives but are rarely in English. There is little way of knowing the importance of these without the ability to read the catalogued documents. Work on locating and translating material in German libraries and archives is perhaps another area for the future of this project. Some useful translations of the more important documents have been made available at Dirk Spennemann's Marshall Islands website.⁷ For the history of the nuclear programme in the Marshall Islands there are few documents that were recovered by this project but it is certain that these events were significant enough to the nation to warrant the preservation of the existing documents as they continue to have an enormous bearing on the lives of many Marshall Islanders. The two most important documents already available online are the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands of 1979 and the Compact of Free Association with the United States which came into force in 1986. The originals of these are likely to exist but the location has not been discovered.

⁶ I.C. Campbell, *Island Kingdom: Tonga Ancient and Modern*. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, 2001. p 81

⁷ Dirk R Spennemann, *Marshalls: Digital Micronesia* <http://marshall.csu.edu.au/Marshalls/html/history/> last accessed 20 September 2006

Federated States of Micronesia

Some response was made by Cheryl Stanborough of the Yap State Archives who reported that the records of the 1982 First Yap State Constitutional Convention are in excellent condition and in the process of being transcribed and translated on an Endangered Archives Grant and digital copies will be held by the British Library. Very little information has been gathered on the other states. The Compact of Free Association is also a very important document for this nation which outlines its relationship to the United States (see Marshall Islands).

Palau

There are very few documents surrounding the early contact period. If there was more time available, the deed of sale of Palau by Spain to Germany it would be worthwhile to find, if not the original article of annexation by Spain. Again, the Compact of Free Association is a significant document for this state. (See Marshall Islands) The primary founding document, the Declaration of Independence is on display at the Belau National Museum but has not yet been made digitally available on the web.

Nauru

Nauru is a very small island for which the activities of the Pacific Phosphate Company have had a huge bearing on its political, commercial and ecological history. The records of this company are held in several different libraries, particularly in Australian archives. Not much can be said with any degree of confidence about the period prior to Independence for the simple reason that the records of what happened are quite sparse. It is not clear whether Nauru even has formal archives collection but government departments hold their own records.⁸ The establishment of a single central archive for documents or some sort of solid consolidated system of documentary preservation is recommended for Nauru. The most important 1968 Constitution of Nauru is available on the Internet but the location of the original is unknown

Vanuatu

Vanuatu has somehow misplaced its key founding document, the Constitution of 1980 (they are looking for it, we were assured⁹), but the full text is available online already. Much of the documentation relating to the New Hebrides and the Anglo-French administration is safely in the British National Archives. The petitions from indigenous political figures such as Walter Lini to the United Nations regarding the independence of Vanuatu could not be found, but this may be an area that more work could be done from within Vanuatu.

Solomon Islands

There was very little that was found out about the Solomon Islands. Without actually visiting the Solomon Islands there is little way of knowing the value of the documents within Solomon Islands national archive collections and this is recommended as an area for a further project. The original declaration of annexation by Germany is held in the

⁸ Nancy Lutton, *PARBICA Compendium of Pacific Archives Legislation*, Wellington, 2001 p. 143

⁹ Ralph Regenvanu, Director, Vanuatu Cultural Centre, in an email dated 12/09/06

Australian National Archives. The 1978 Constitution and the Honiara Peace Accord are digitally available but the originals were not found.

Papua New Guinea

It is pleasing to note that there are a number of early 19th century documents which were found, including attempted secessions by Queensland and conventions on partition and annexation which are mainly held in Australian archives and libraries. The twentieth century seems rather sparse in comparison, at least in terms of weighty constitutional significant founding documents. It would be really excellent in the future to get the influential Foot Report available online: this was the key reason for the establishment of a legislative assembly in Papua New Guinea, but the location of the original was not found. The Select Committee report (Australia) on constitutional development may also be of interest for future digitisation. It is unclear where the original Constitution of 1975 is held, but all the same, it is already available online.

Problems

This register also shows the many gaps in the full picture. There are some instances where many sources point to an important early document of which there is no sign of an existing document. There are also instances where digital copies have been made available, but the location of the original paper versions is unknown. The authenticity of the document becomes unclear when the most original version cannot be found.

Archives and recordkeeping do not feature strongly in many Pacific Island countries, especially the smaller places with very limited resources.¹⁰ Nauru, for instance, does not have a single central archive, as mentioned earlier. Things like public access to, and web versions of constitutional documents are still beyond some places. The potential to make available such records is certainly there, and poor countries can have rich histories, but for governments in the islands there are sometimes other, more pressing needs and higher priorities in their view of things.

Collections held within the Pacific Islands usually do not have searchable finding aids for their archives online which makes it incredibly difficult to determine their holdings. There was little response from any of the libraries and archives we requested information from.

The problems with finding where such documents are in Pacific islands often lie in the fact that many of the smaller archives and libraries are quite unstructured and understaffed, there is no way of knowing what is in the collections due to outdated printed catalogues or non-existent online ones, and the appeal for help via email and letter that the project sent out did not receive a response from the majority of libraries and archives we sent it to. Budgetary and timeframe restrictions prevented more detailed or closer study of the documents themselves when they were available.

¹⁰ Nancy Lutton, *PARBICA Compendium of Pacific Archives Legislation*, Wellington, 2001

However satisfying it would be to find important, old and original documents bearing relevance to the history of the establishment of independent Pacific Island nations, the likelihood of the continued existence of such documents, and the feasibility of finding them appropriately becomes questionable.

Recommendations

These documents are extremely significant to the histories of Pacific Island nations. In order to encourage further study and scholarship on the creation of these nations, it is recommended that a priority be made towards the creation of good working copies to be made available in a format that is readily accessible to those interested both within the islands and internationally.

Finding and preserving the original copies of historically important documents may not be feasible with the current state of affairs in Pacific Island libraries and archives. Instead, perhaps it would be better to find the best copies available and digitise those which may be under threat as soon as possible to avoid archival tragedies such as cyclones, bad maintenance, or even document destroying political coups.

While suggesting further digitisation, there is still further research needed, particularly into the location of original documents. Many of the documents in the register are facsimiles and copies of original documents and some effort could be made in future schemes towards finding an authoritative and authentic original.

Further communication may be necessary with those associated with Pacific Islands history, particularly with researchers and historians who are living and working within the Pacific Islands. For instance, contact was made with Richard Overy, who was going to Tuvalu on an Endangered Archives Project, who assured the NZETC that he would look for leads on any important high-level and constitutional records.¹¹ Although Dirk Spennemann was too busy at the time of researching to contact us, if the project is to be ongoing it may be worthwhile to involve him as he has already done so much work on Marshall Islands history (see the website he maintains listed in the bibliography of this report).

The register is best kept as a working document and the support of a framework whereby additions and revisions can be made to the register would be a worthwhile continued initiative. The continuation and furtherance of the project would perhaps best be served by funding a researcher to focus on the each of the different countries involved, travelling to the islands concerned and personally searching the collections themselves.

¹¹ Richard Overy, in an email dated 12/09/06

In general, perhaps the libraries and archives of smaller nations could be better managed and better accessed if more of their collections were merged with larger collections which have the resources and time to manage them. Even if this were not feasible more cooperation and consolidation between libraries with Pacific collections would be helpful.

The move towards digitally searchable catalogues accessible from overseas is a tremendous resource for scholars interested in Pacific Island nations and we sincerely recommend that more libraries do it, particularly for any rare or original manuscripts not available anywhere else, and obviously for documents that are of substantial significance to the documentary heritage of the nation.

Considerations also might be made of the language that the digital version of the document will be available in. As these documents are of Pacific Island nations, some thought ought to be given as to whether the documents should be published in the respective languages of that nation as well as in English.

It is highly recommended for those involved in digitising any primary source documents that they follow some basic guidelines which show the viewer of the document exactly where the document came from. If from an appendix to a book, for example, the details of the title and author, and publish date of the book should be noted on the website. If from a manuscript collection, the name of the collection or the library in which it was found would also be helpful. Many of the sites listed on the register as having digital copies of documents had not made a note of where the document was found. This made it complicated to find out if the document could be linked to an authentic original document. Perhaps an initiative could be made in publishing some guidelines on this matter to remind digitisers of this issue.

The existing documents already digitised need to be preserved as well. For instance, the question of whether Peter Murgatroyd's valuable work on his website will remain available after his contract with the University of the South Pacific ends is an important one. Likewise the good efforts made by *PacLii* and also Dirk Spennemann's Marshall Islands website to put texts online should be maintained even if further work is not continued. Funding the updating and maintenance of existing web pages should be a priority for further schemes.

Initiatives towards digitisation of documents sometimes seem a little arbitrary and not all the Pacific Island nations studied had many documents already online. The fantastic thing about primary source documents is that they make history more real for the reader, allow them to form their own conclusions, and to get as close as possible to the events at the time.

Acknowledgements

Thanks ought to be given to all the people who responded to the NZETC email or letter requesting assistance from Pacific libraries and archives. The National Archives of Palau And the National Archives of Yap state kindly responded to our correspondence and generously helped in our request for founding documents. Special thanks have to be given to Peter Murgatroyd who not only has made great leaps forward in the website he maintains but generously gave his time to give suggestions for the project. Philip Calvert had some suggestions and his books were a huge help. Adrian Muckle also kindly discussed the project with us. Alan Howell, the webmaster for the Australian Memory of the World website posted a news item and a draft of the register in the attempt to spread our request for suggestions for the register. Professor Don Paterson made some helpful suggestions to the documents listed for Vanuatu.

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Austlii: Australasian Legal Information Institute <http://www.austlii.edu.au/>

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<http://bishopmuseumlib.lib.hawaii.edu/>

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New Zealand Statutes http://www.legislation.govt.nz/browse_vw.asp?content-set=pal_statutes

New Zealand Statutory Regulations
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The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau Microfilm Catalogue Search Page
<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/pambu/finals/searchLong.php3>

PacLii: Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute <http://www.pacii.org/databases.html>

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Catalogue <http://trustterrapacific.lib.hawaii.edu/>

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The Constitution of Tokelau Online <http://www.tkconstitution.tk/>

Endangered Archives Programme Homepage <http://www.bl.uk/endangeredarchives>

Federated States of Micronesia Links to Online Legal Documents
<http://macmeekin.com/Links/documents/docsfsm.htm>

IFLA National Libraries of the World address list <http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/p2/national-libraries.htm>

LAP: Libraries of Asia Pacific Directory <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/lapsdir>

Legal Information of the Federated States of Micronesia <http://www.fsmlaw.org/>

Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal Homepage

<http://www.nuclearclaimstribunal.com/>

Official site for Tokelau Council of Ongoing Government <http://www.tokelau.org.nz/>

The Register of Melanesian Archive Miscellaneous Manuscript Collection, Mandeville Special Collections Library, Geisel Library, University of California, San Diego

<http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/testing/html/mss0181a.html>

U.S. Department of Energy, Declassification of Marshall Islands Atmospheric Nuclear Test Documents <http://www.osti.gov/opennet/document/press/pc28.html>

Yokwe online: Everything Marshall Islands <http://www.yokwe.net/>

Document	Date	Location	Notes
Cook Islands			
Petition from chiefs to Governor Grey	1865		earliest known petition for annexation, Unknown if any document still exists but this petition is mentioned on the main Cook Islands page at http://www.ck/history.htm
Petition from Rarotongan chiefs to British for protection	1885		Unknown if any document still exists
Inwards Despatches from the British Resident Cook Islands - 16 May 1888 - R Exham - Forwards petition from Makea Ariki asking for British protection- Enclosed: 1. Makea Ariki to Jervois - 31 April 1888 (and translation)- 2. Makea Ariki to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs - 31 April 1888 (translation only)	1888	Archives New Zealand Wellington: AgencyG series 11 box 1 record3	- The whole of this Correspondence was forwarded to the Secretary of State by Jervois in despatch 44 of 21 May 1888, a copy of which is attached hereto.
Inwards Despatches from the British Resident Cook Islands - 12 June 1888 - W Carman, Aitutaki - Forwards petition from Chiefs of Aitutaki asking for British Protection - Enclosed: 1. Vaeruarangi et al. to Jervois - 4 June (and translation) - Attached: 1. Draft reply to W Carman - 8 July 1888	1888	Archives New Zealand Wellington: AgencyG series 11 box 1 record4	
Inwards Despatches from the British Resident Cook Islands - 20 September 1888 - R Exham - British protectorate declared over Hervey Group (Cook Islands) on 20 September 1888.- Enclosed 1. Copy of Proclamation.- Attached 1. Jervois to Secretary of State forwarding this despatch 15 October 1888	1888	ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON : agencyG series11 box1 record5	
Protectorate declared	1888		Unknown if any document still exists
Agreement with Britain that New Zealand share in the administration of the cook is, Frederick Moss appointed resident	1890		Unknown if any document still exists
Constitution Act, est. Queen Makea as chief of Federal Parliament of the Cook Is.	1891		Unknown if any document still exists

The constitution and laws of the Federation of the Cook Islands in force on the 31st December 1896.	1896	University of Auckland Library Special Collections NZ, Glass Case, Call No. 349.9623 C77co.	Rarotonga, Cook Islands : Printed by authority at Te Torea Printing Works, 1896.36 p. in 18 leaves ; 21 x 30 cm.
British annexation and end of protectorate	1900		see 1901 doc
Transfer to New Zealand by Britain: deed of cession was signed by five ariki and seven lesser chiefs	1900		Unknown if any document still exists
Inwards Despatches from the British Resident Cook Islands - [160/01] 1 February 1901 - Lord Ranfurly - Encloses the proclamation of annexation - Enclosed 1. Ranfurly to Makea Ariki - 1 February 1901	1901	ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON : agencyG series11 box5 record10	
Cook, Etc., Islands Boundaries and Inclusion in New Zealand Proclamation 1901 (Imp.)	1901	Available in the <i>New Zealand Gazette</i>	Digitally available through Lexisnexis nz
Cook Islands Act (NZ)	1915		http://www.paclii.org/ck/legis/ck-nz_act/cia1915132/
Legislative Assembly established	1957		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
Executive committee established	1962		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
NZ offers Cook Is. choice of integration, free association, or independence	1962		Unknown if any document still exists
Cook Islands Constitution Act: become self-governing in free association with New Zealand	1965		http://www.paclii.org/ck/legis/num_act/cotci327/
Fiji			
Fijian chief request Wesleyan missions	1835???		Unknown if any document still exists
Fijian Chiefs (Cakobau) offers islands to Britain	1858		Unknown if any document still exists
Offer of cession refused on grounds that Cakobau lacks the authority	1862		Unknown if any document still exists
Confederacy of Fijian Chiefs formed	1865		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
Kingdom of Fiji Constitution Act (Cakobau)	1871	Printed in english and fijian, originals held by Fiji Museum Library	PMB 1153: Fiji Museum manuscripts collection, 1832–1972.Folder 4, D-series vertical files D11a+b

Cakobau (paramount chief) again proposes British annexation	1873		Unknown if any document still exists
The Deed of Cession of Fiji to Great Britain	1874	British National Archive: Colonial Office Records: CO 459/1A	digital copy at: http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Paclaw/Fiji/DEED%20OF%20CESSION%20%20FIJI.htm . Colonial office records in Brit. National Archive have the original instrument, signed by Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G. and thirteen native chiefs, which was returned in Fiji until July 1937, when it was sent home by the Governor.
Native Lands Act	1875		http://www.pacii.org/fj/legis/num_act/nla1875131
Arthur Gordon Governor of Fiji, establishes the Great Council of Chiefs	1875		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
Western Pacific High Commision est.	1877		
Beginning of Indian indentured labour	1879		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
Britain Annexes Rotuma which becomes part of Fiji	1881		Unknown if any document still exists
Petition from Fiji for annexation to New Zealand, 1885	1885	ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON : agencySEDDON series2, item 7	
Legislative council Increased to include 3 Indian elected members	1929		not sure if there are really any connected documents of 'founding significance'
Constitution	1938		Unknown if any document still exists
Government proposals for colonial revision	1949		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
Governor Kenneth Maddocks proposes gradual transfer of power from nominated to elected members	1961		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
Fiji (Consolidated) Order in Council: evolution to independent democracy programmes implemented (indigenous enfrachisement)	1963	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Fiji/1.%20Fiji%20(Consolidated)%20Order%20in%20Council,%201963.PDF
Constitutional conference	1965		Unknown if any document still exists

University of the South Pacific established	1968		unclear whether a document pertains to this event
Constitutional conference	1969		Unknown if any document still exists
Fiji independence Act	1970	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Fiji/6.%20Fiji%20Independence%20Act%201970.PDF
Fiji independence Order	1970	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Fiji/7.%20Fiji%20Independence%20Order%201970.PDF
Fiji Constitution 1970 Revocation Decree	1987	<i>Fiji Gazette, 1987-10-01, Vol. 1, No. 1 (extra, p. 1</i>	
Declaration Republic of Fiji Decree	1987	<i>Fiji Gazette, 1987-10-07, Vol. 1, No. 5, p. 1</i>	
Constitution favouring indigenous Fijians, Fiji breaks diplomatic ties with India	1990		http://www.ccf.org.fj/publications/constitutions/1990/
Rabuka establishes Constitutional Review Commission	1995		Unknown if any document still exists
Constitution providing for multi-ethnic govt	1997		http://www.paclii.org/fj/legis/num_act/ca1997268/
Re-admitted to commonwealth	1997		still no doc found
Electoral Act	1998		http://www.paclii.org/fj/legis/num_act/ea1998103/index.html
Amended Constitution comes into force, enables further Indian participation	1998		
Coup led by George Speight	2000		Unknown if any document still exists
Fiji Constitution Amendment Act 1997 Revocation Decree	2000		http://www.paclii.org/fj/legis/num_act/rd2000146/index.html
High Court orders the reinstatement of the 1997 Constitution	2000		http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJHC/2000/121.html
Kiribati			

British Protectorate	1892	The University of Adelaide Library: Barr Smith Special collections: 996.81 G786Wg Also held at British National Archives: FO 534/58	Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Papers relating to the establishment of the Protectorate in 1892 and allied matters. 1891-95 [typescript]. Typescript compilation by H.E. Maude of official documents.
Banaba (Ocean Island) annexed after discovery of phosphate rich guano deposits	1901		Unknown if any document still exists
Annexed by Britain together with Ellice Islands as part of Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony	1915		Unknown if any document still exists
Christmas Island becomes part of colony	1919		Unknown if any document still exists
An agreement made the twenty-fifth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty between His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. of the first part ... and the Pacific Phosphate Company Limited	1920	photocopy available at University of Hawaii	Legal agreement among the governments of Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand to take over the operations of the Pacific Phosphate Company in Nauru and Ocean Island (Banaba in present day Kiribati) and create the British Phosphate Commission. DU715.5 .G74 1920a
HMS Leith takes possession of Canton IS.	1936		Unknown if any document still exists
Canton Island (now a part of Kiribati) becomes jointly administered by US and Britain	1938		Unknown if any document still exists
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Order	1974		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Gilbert/Gilbert%20and%20Ellice%20Islands%20Order%201974.PDF
Ellice islands separate from Gilbert and Ellice to become Tuvalu	1975		Unknown if any document still exists
Gilbert Islands Order	1975		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Gilbert/1.%20Gilbert%20Islands%20Order%201975.PDF
Gilberts become internally self governing	1976		still no doc found
Kiribati Act	1979		mentioned on P. Murgatroyd's Emalus site but no active link as yet to a document. See http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/homepage.htm

Kiribati Independence Order	1979		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Kiribati/Kiribati_Order_1979.pdf
Treaty of Tarawa -US abandons claim on Line and Phoenix islands	1979		http://www.trussel.com/kir/treaty.htm
Marshall Islands			
Annexed by Germany	1884		Unknown if any document still exists
Treaty of Friendship between Germany and the Marshallese Chiefs	1885	The following web page mentions that the original agreement may be in the files of the German Office but not in English	http://marshall.csu.edu.au/Marshalls/html/history/Treaty1885.html
Declaration between Britain and Germany relating to the reciprocal freed trade arrangements in the Western Pacific	1886	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://marshall.csu.edu.au/Marshalls/html/history/UKTreaty2.html
Declaration between Britain and Germany demarcating their respective spheres of influence in the Western Pacific	1886	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://marshall.csu.edu.au/Marshalls/html/history/UKTreaty1.html
Agreement between Jaluit-Gessellschaft and the Reich	1888	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://marshall.csu.edu.au/Marshalls/html/history/JaluitContract.html

There are documents available online from the German administration period from about 1871 to 1895 but I can't read enough German to evaluate their usefulness			http://mdz.bib-bvb.de/digbib/reichstag/drt/@Generic__CollectionView;cs=default;ts=default
Seized by Japan and mandated by League of Nations Trust Territory (Japan)	1914		unclear if there is any related document
President Truman issues directive to Army and Navy ordering testing of nuclear weapons on American warships	1945		Unknown if any document still exists
Bikini islanders evacuated to Rongerik Atoll as testing began	1946		unclear if there is any related document
Became part of US trust territory	1947		
Testing begins on Enewetak	1947		unclear if there is any related document
Operation Bravo drops nuclear fallout all over Rongelap, Rongerik, Utirik and Ailinginae; forcing evacuation	1954		unclear if there is any related document
Bikinians sign over full use of Bikini atoll to USA	195?		
Congress of Micronesia established	1965		
Foundation of Federated States of Micronesia	1975		
Marshall Islands Constitutional Convention adopts the nations first constitution	1978		http://www.pacii.org/mh/legis/consol_act/cotmi363/
Limited autonomy granted to the Marshall Islands by the US government	1980		
Juda vs. the United States lawsuit filed over levels of radiation, but dismissed in 1987	1981		
Compact of Free Association between US and Republic of Marshall Islands, \$2 billion aid grant in compensation for testing	Signed 1983		http://www.fm/jcn/compact/comframe.html
Compact of Free Association Passed and becomes effective	1986		http://www.fm/jcn/compact/compact.pdf
Independence	1990		
Republic of Marshall Islands Changed Circumstances Petition to United States Government	2000		http://www.bikiniatoll.com/petition.html
Nuclear Claims Tribunal ruled that US ought to pay \$563,315,500 in compensation to the Bikini islanders	2001		http://www.bikiniatoll.com/Nuclear%20Claims%20Tribunal%20Dec.pdf

Bikini Islanders file a lawsuit with the U.S. Court of Federal Claims against the US government	2006		full text of claim at: http://www.yokwe.net/ydownloads/2006BikinivsUS.doc
Micronesia			
Pope Leo XIII rules in favour of Spain in arbitrations between Spain and Germany over who owns the Micronesian islands	1885		The location of this document is unknown
Germany recognises Spanish authority in the Caroline and Mariana is in exchange for unimpeded trade	1885		Unknown if any document still exists
Sold to Germany by Spain, administered as part of New Guinea protectorate	1899		Unknown if any document still exists
Japan take over, League of Nations Class C Mandate	1920		
US Trust Territory	1945		
US get UN Trusteeship of Micronesia	1947	University of Hawaii, Manoa: Has both book and microform Call Number: JQ6451.A5 U38	Pacific Islands; text of trusteeship agreement as approved by the Security Council of the United Nations, New York, 2nd April, 1947
Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Japanese Mandated Islands	1947		http://fsmlaw.org/miscdocs/trustshipagree.htm
Administration of the Trust Territory turned over from naval administration to the Department of the Interior	1951		
Ponape Islands Congress est.	1952		
President Kennedy issues National Security Action Memorandum No. 145, establishing United States policy to bring Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands into permanent political relationship with United States and emphasizing need for political, economic, social development of Trust Territory	1962		mentioned at http://www.macmeekin.com/Library/NMlchron/1961.htm , but no full text found
Executive Order No. 11021 vesting administrative power in the Secretary of the interior	1962		http://fsmlaw.org/miscdocs/eq11021.htm
Solomon Report	1963		
Mariana island District legislature charter	1963		advisory body
Truk District legislature charter	1963		advisory body

Congress of Micronesia established	1965		
Yap District gets formally recognised as a legislative body	1968		
Marianas District Legislature Resolution 30-1971 threatens secession from Trust Territory, by force of arms if necessary	1971		The location of this document is unknown
Constitutional convention drafts the Constitution of FSM	1975	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Paclaw/FSM/main.html
Constitution ratified	1979		http://www.paclii.org/mh/legis/consol_act/cotmi363/
Compact of Free Association between Federated States of Micronesia and US	1982		http://www.fm/jcn/compact/comframe.html
First Yap State Constitutional Convention	1982	Yap State Archives	18 shelf feet of files. Excellent condition. Open Access. Contact Yap State Archivist Cheryl Stanborough. PO 1070, Yap 96943, FSM. oarmyap@mail.fm
Compact of Free Association signed into law by US Congress	1986		http://www.fm/jcn/compact/compact.pdf
Amendment to Compact of Free Association	2003		http://fsmlaw.org./yap/constitution/entire.htm
Nauru			
Nauru becomes officially under Germany's sphere of influence	1886		Unknown if any document still exists
Germany annexes Nauru	1888		
Pacific Phosphate company begins mining	1907		Unknown if any document still exists
Captured by Australia	1914		
League of Nations Mandate with Australia as administrator	1920		
An agreement made the twenty-fifth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty between His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. of the first part ... and the Pacific Phosphate Company Limited	1920	photocopy available at University of Hawaii	Legal agreement among the governments of Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand to take over the operations of the Pacific Phosphate Company in Nauru and Ocean Island and create the British Phosphate Commission. DU715.5 .G74 1920a

Occupied by Japan	1942		
Occupied by Australia	1945		
United nations trusteeship UK Aust. And NZ	1947		The location of this document is unknown
Nauru Phospates Agreement	1948	British National Archives, Kew: Call no: FO 371/69112	
Nauruan Resettlement: Purchase of Curtis Island. DECISION 17.	1964	Australian National Archives: Series A5827, Accession no. A5827/1, Barcode 1160233	Australia offers resettlement of Nauruans on Curtis Island, was refused
Becomes self governing	1966		
Nauruans buy the assets of the British Phosphate Commission	1967		havent found this but mentioned in the preable to the Nauru phosphate corporation act of 1969
Independence	1968		
Constitution	1968		http://www.pacii.org/nr/legis/num_act/con256/
Nauru Phospate Corporation Act	1969		http://www.pacii.org/nr/legis/num_act/npca1969323
Control of phosphate mining goes to Nauru phosphate corp.	1970		
Republic of Nauru files suit against Australia in the International court of justice in the Hague for damages caused by mining, Australia settles out of court	1989		
Niue			
Elected King	1876		Unknown if any document still exists
British High Commissioner Sir Arthur Gordon visits Niue to speak about British protection	1879		Unknown if any document still exists
Agreement between Britain and Germany recognising Niue as within Britain's sphere of influence	1886		The location of this document is unknown
The new king, Fataaiki, writes to Queen Victoria asking for protection	1887		mentioned and brief extract in 'Savage Island' by former governor Basil Thompson but unknown if there is an existing original
another petition for British protection	1895		

Samoa convention places Niue under Britain's sphere of influence	1889		see Samoa, 1899 doc below for link
Togia writes to Governor of Fiji again requesting British protection	1899		Unknown if any document still exists
Agreement. With King of Niue Savage Island British Protectorate etc	1900	British National Archives, Kew: Call No. FO 93/71/1	
Basil Thomson sent from Tonga to sign a Treaty of Cession	1900		The location of this document is unknown
Britain declares protectorate (Lord Ranfurly)	1900		The location of this document is unknown
Cook, Etc., Islands Boundaries and Inclusion in New Zealand Proclamation 1901 (Imp.)	1901	Available in the <i>New Zealand Gazette</i>	Digitally available through Lexisnexis nz
Cook and Other Islands Act establishes individual title to land	1902		
New Zealand's Cook and Other Islands Amendment Act establishes a separate administration for Niue under a separate Resident Commissioner	1903		
Severe hurricane devastates islands	1959-60		doubtful a 'founding document' came out of this but still it is a significant event from the perspective that it attracted a good deal of international aid and development attention
Legislative Assembly established	1960		
Niue Act (NZ)	1966		http://faolex.fao.org/docs/texts/niu35434.doc
Niue Island Assembly Land Ordinance provides for group interests in land.	1969		
Niue Constitution Act	1974		http://www.paclii.org/nu/legis/num_act/ca1974188/index.html
Palau			
Formal Spanish annexation	1886		Unknown if any document still exists
Sold by Spain to Germany	1899		The location of this document is unknown
Japan conquers from Germany	1914		
L.O.N mandate administered by Japan	1921		
USA conquers from Japan	1944		

US administered Trust Territory and est. Palau Congress	1947		first micronesia legislative advisory body Palauan Congress July 4 1947
Palau Congress changes to Olbiil Era Kelulau Era Belau	1955		The location of this document is unknown
above becomes Palau Legislature	1963		Unknown if any document still exists
Republic of Palau Constitution	1981		http://www.paclii.org/pw/legis/consol_act/cotrop359/
Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Government of Palau. United States of America Code Title 48, Chapter 18 (Notes)	1986		Available online from Cornell University Law Library http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode48/uscode48_00001931----000-notes.html
Becomes independent republic	1994		
Declaration of Independence	1994	Palau, on-display at the Belau national museum	signed loan agreement between the Archives and Belau National museum for display. One year contract for exhibit only 26/10/05. Excellent condition. Contact archives@palaunet.com , tel: (680)4884720, fax: (680)4884502
Second constitutional convention	2005		http://www.paclii.org/pw/legis/consol_act/scc353
Papua New Guinea			
West half of the North island claimed by the Dutch to the 141st meridian	1848		Unknown if any document still exists
Correspondence on the subject of the proposed annexation of New Guinea, and with reference to the principle of contribution by the colonies interested in the scheme / New South Wales Parliament.	1876	University of Adelaide Library: Barr Smith Special collections Pacific Call No. 325.95 N53	New South Wales Parliament
Queensland Government raises flag at Port Moresby on behalf of, but much to the annoyance of, the British	1883	copy of initial proclamation in: <i>Report of the Proceedings of the Intercolonial Convention, 1883, New Zealand Parliamentary Papers 1883 p.87</i>	

South East British protectorate, North East and Bouganville becomes colonised by Germany	1884		The location of this document is unknown
Declarations between the governments of Great Britain and the German Empire relating to the demarcation of the British and German spheres of influence in the Western Pacific and to reciprocal freedom of trade and commerce in the British and German possessions and protectorates in those regions : signed at Berlin, April 6 and 10, 1886 / presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, November 1886.	1886	University of Adelaide Library: Barr Smith Special collections Pacific Call No. 995 G786d	
Letters Patent passed under the Great seal of the United Kingdom for Erecting Certain British Territory in New Guinea and the adjacent Islands into a Separate Possession, and providing for the Government Thereof.	1888	British New Guinea Government Gazette Extraordinary, Vol 1 No. 2 4 Sept 1888. Copy available at National Library of Australia call no. Nq 354.95 NEW	
Convention between Great Britain and the Netherlands defining the boundaries between the British and Netherlands possessions in the Island of New Guinea : signed at The Hague, May 16, 1895	1895	University of Hawaii, Manoa: Call No. KZ 180.5 .N4 1895 A2 1895	
Australia takes over from Britain	1906		
Australia takes over from Germany following WW1 in L.O.N mandate 1921	1914		
United territories in Military administration (ANGAU)	1942		
Papua New Guinea Act	1949	National Library of Australia: N 345.952 PAP	full administrative union of the former german and british new guinea
United Nations 'Foot' Report recommends national parliament be established	1962		United Nations Visiting Mission, United Nations, New York
House of Assembly Established	1964		

University of Papua New Guinea starts teaching	1965		
Bouganvilleans demand a referendum, led to confrontation btw police and villagers	1968		Unknown if any document still exists
Select Committee Report on Constitutional Development	1971	Australian National Archives Canberra: seriesA1838 control symbol 936/4/17 PART 1	
Self Government instituted	1973		
Papua New Guinea Independence Act	1975		http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/pngia1975247/
Constitution	1975	note: pacii aslo has stuff for Bouganville	http://www.pacii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/cotisopng534/
Bouganville peace agreement signed at arawa	2001		
Samoa			
Captain Bethune of HMS Conway signs 'Commercial Regulations with Samoan leaders at Apia	1838		Unknown if any document still exists
Wilkes treaty similar to that of Capt. Bethune	1839	University of Hawaii Manoa. Call Number: JX1598.S3 S3	Agreement regulating the relations in general between the natives and foreigners in Samoa. Referred to as the first commercial agreement between native Samoan chiefs and the United States enacted during the visit of the Wilkes expedition.
Chief Malietoa appeals to Britain to take the Samoan Is under its protection	1859		Unknown if any document still exists
Chiefs Taimuya and Faipule petition Queen Victoria for protection	1877		Unknown if any document still exists
Germany gets the rights to Saluafata harbour	1877		Unknown if any document still exists
America granted rights to Pago Pago harbour (later American Samoa)	1878		Unknown if any document still exists
Treaty of friendship, &c. between Her Majesty and the King and government (malo) of Samoa, signed at Apia, August 28, 1879 [microform] : presented to both houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, 1881.	1879	University of Hawaii, Manoa	UHM: Has both book and microform, english and samoan in parallel columns

Berlin Conference , agreement of 3 powers on neutrality of Samoa	1880		The location of this document is unknown
Treaty between Maleitoa Laupepa and Germany	1884		
Declaration of war by German consul on Maleitoa, King of Samoa	1887	Alexander Turnbull Library New Zealand : MS-Papers-0040-01A, Stout, Robert (Sir), 1844-1930 : Papers (MS-Papers-0040)	this intervention was to spark military responses by Britain and USA
Independent Government under Maleitoa Laupepa	1889		
Samoa convention: Treaty signed by Germany, America and Britain, agree to partition of Samoa, Samoan kingship system abolished	1889	University of Hawaii Library, Manoa. Call No. JX1598 .S3 F56 1890	Alternate title: Final act of the conference on the affairs of Samoa, signed at Berlin, June 14, 1889 : presented to both houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, April 1890. University of Hawaii Library has both microfiche and paper copies
Germany annexes Western Samoa	1899		
German Flag raised at Mulinau, Upolu, March 2	1900		
Mau a Pule movement begins led by Lauati with aim of overthrow of German rule	1908		unclear is any document is related to this event
New Zealand Annexed Western (German) Samoa	1914		still need to find this document
Samoa Constitution Order	1920		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Samoa/Samoan%20Constitution%20Order%201920.pdf
Samoa Act	1921		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Samoa/Samoa%20Act%201921.pdf
Prevention of Intimidation Ordinance	1921		in response to Samoan hostility, was accompanied by 3 warships, see also Albert Wendt's article found at http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-WenGua-c6.html . The location of the document is unknown
Ex1/29/1 Petition to Minister External Affairs, E.P. Lee, 5 July, 1921.	1921		mentioned in http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-WenGua-c8.html

Western Samoa - Mandate and nationality and status of inhabitants including Native Petitions	1921	ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON: agencyG series48 box/item33 record S/8	
Samoan Administration, League of Nations - Mandate for German Samoa	1921	ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON: agencyT series1 box405 record23/67/3	
Beginnings of Mau Movement: petitions for increased self rule led by O.F. Nelson	1926		The location of this document is unknown
Citizen committee petition to the new zealand government 11 March, 1927	1927		The location of this document is unknown
Ex1/59. Clause 40, Nelson's Petition to League of Nations.	1927		mentioned in http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-WenGua-c12.html
New zealand bans the Mau after riot	1929		The location of this document is unknown
Agitation from 1929 - Includes petition to HM the King	1929-	ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON: agencyG series48 box38 recordS/17(1)	
Petition "Mau" 1930	1930	ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON:: agencyIT-A series5 record25/1/1	
NZ Prime Minister Peter Fraser visits Samoa	1944		unclear if there is any existing document but the event is still quite relevant historically
First meeting of legislative assembly in Samoa, Samoan flag flown alongside New Zealand's	1948		Unknown if any document still exists

Western Samoa Act (NZ)	1961		http://www.legislation.govt.nz/browse_vw.asp?content-set=pal_statutes
Constitution of the Independent State of Western Samoa	1962		http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/consol_act/cotisows1960535/
Constitution Amendment Act	1997		http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/num_act/caa21997295/
Solomon Islands			
Detachment of His Majesty's Imperial Navy Cruiser 'Eagle' Declaration of Bougainville Island, Choiseul and Isabel Island as well as all islands "of the Solomon group, which are situated north of the demarcation line defined by the agreement between Germany and England from 6.4.1886" to be German protectorate. Bougainville, 30.10.1886, signed by the corvette captain of Wietersheim (original)	1886	Australian National Archives Canberra: seriesG225 control symbol 1148	
British protectorate over S. Solomons	1893		Unknown if any document still exists
establishment of protectorate administration	1896		Unknown if any document still exists
Florida Islands (Nggela) code of laws drawn up in annual council of church leaders and chiefs	1888		Unknown if any document still exists
Most of North Solomons given to Britain in the Samoa Convention	1899		see document under Samoa
Buka and Bougainville seized from Germany	1914		
Buka and Bougainville became League of Nations Mandated Territory of New Guinea administered by Australia	1920		
Occupied by Japan, beginning of Maasina Rule movement	1942		
America withdraws from Solomons	1945		
leaders of Maasina Rule Jailed	1947		
Legislative council and Executive Council Formed	1960		
Governing Council replaces Legislative & Executive Councils	1970		
Constitution establishes parliamentary democracy	1974		The location of this document is unknown
The British Solomon Islands Protectorate becomes the Solomon Islands	1975		The location of this document is unknown
Independentists declare Bouganville to be the Republic of the North Solomons	1975		Unknown if any document still exists

Become internally self-governing Constitution	1976		
	1978		http://www.pacii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/c1978167/
Honiara Peace Accord signed between guatalcanalese and malatians	1999		http://www.spc.org.nc/coastfish/Countries/solomons/A_CCORD.htm
Townsville Peace Agreement	2000		http://www.commerce.gov.sb/Gov/Peace_Agreement.htm , also has pidgin version
Malaitan militants overthrow government	2002		
Request for international help from Governor General	2003		The location of this document is unknown
Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI)	2003		The location of this document is unknown
Tokelau			
British Protectorate declared	1889		flag hoisted June 22, 1889, by Commander Oldham, R. N. landing from H.M.S. Egeria The location of this document is unknown
Order in Council annexing Union islands to Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony	1916		
Union Islands Order in Council :disannexing them from Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony	1925		NZ administers Tokelau for UK from Western Samoa as a territory of New Zealand. The location of this document is unknown
Group is officially designated the Tokelau Islands under the Tokelau Nomenclature Ordinance.	1946		
Tokelau Islands Act (NZ)	1948		http://www.pacii.org/cgi-pacii/disp.pl/tk/legis/num_act/ta194899/ta194899.html?query=ta194899tml
Tokelau Administration Regulations	1980		delagates some administrative powers to an official secretary in Apia The location of this document is unknown
Tokelau Amendment Act gives General Fono legislative powers	1996		http://www.pacii.org/tk/legis/num_act/taa1996217/
Draft Treaty of Free Association Between New Zealand and Tokelau	2005		full text copy available at http://www.tokelau.org.nz/
Draft Constitution of Tokelau (failed to gain support in referendum)	2005		full text copy available at http://www.tokelau.org.nz/

UN supervised referendum on independence fails to gain 2/3 majority required in Feb 2006	2006		
Tonga			
The Vava'u Code – the first written code of law in Tonga.	1839		mentioned at: http://planet-tonga.com/HRDMT/Articles/Convention_92/Siupeli_Tal'ai_Eng.shtml but inconclusive evidence of any existing document
Code of Laws promulgated under missionary guidance	1850		Unknown if any document still exists
code of laws with a more sophisticated constitutional nature	1862		
Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Tonga signed at Nuku'alofa, November 29, 1879 : presented to both houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, 1882.	1879	University of Hawaii, Manoa JX1598 .T6 G74 1882	English and Tongan in parallel columns. http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/1%20Treaty%20of%20Friendship%20between%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Tonga,%2029%20November%201879.PDF
Declaration of Independent Constitutional Monarchy	1875		location of the document remains unknown but mentioned in Charles F. Urbanowitz, Tongan Culture: From the 20th Century to the 19th Century. 2003 (1971) http://www.csuchico.edu/~curban/1971TonganPaper.html
Agreement between Britain and Germany recognising Tonga as within Britain's sphere of influence	1886		Unknown if any document still exists
Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Tonga	1891	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/2%20Treaty%20of%20Friendship%20between%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Tonga,%202%20June%201891.PDF

Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Tonga (gives Protectorate status)	1900	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/3%20Treaty%20of%20Frienship%20between%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Tonga,%2018%20May%201900%20.PDF
Points accepted by King	1905	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/4%20Points%20accepted%20by%20King,%2018%20January%201904%20.PDF
Agreement between Great Britain and Tonga,	1927	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/5%20Agreement%20between%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Tonga,%2012%20August%201927.PDF
Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Tonga	1958	British National Archives, Kew: Call No. CO 934/6	digital copy at: http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/7%20Treaty%20of%20Friendship%20between%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Tonga,%2026%20August%201958.PDF
Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Tonga	1969	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/6%20Treaty%20of%20Frienship%20between%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Tonga,%2030%20May%201969.PDF

Exchange of Letters about the cessation in accordance with para.(3) of Article VII of United Kingdom responsibility for External Affairs of Tonga on its independence. Nuku'alofa	1970	British National Archives, Kew: Call No. DO 118/425	Digital copy at: http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/8%20Exchange%20of%20Letters.PDF
Tonga Act, complete independence restored	1970	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tonga/9%20Tonga%20Act%201970.PDF
Constitution	1988		http://www.pacii.org/to/legis/consol_act/cot238/
Tuvalu			
Came under protection of Queen Victoria as part of Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate	1892		Unknown if any document still exists
Tulafono o le Atua Elisa (Faamamaluiga e Peretania) 1894	1894	University of Adelaide: Barr Smith Special collections: 348.9682 T967t Copy 2	Native Laws of Ellice islands protectorate (in the Tuvalu language)
Changed status to Gilbert and Ellice Island Colony	1916		
Fanning, Washington and Tokelau islands added to Gilbert and Ellice Is. colony	1916		Unknown if any document still exists
Referendum on separation of Ellice Is.	1974		Unknown if any document still exists
Tuvalu Order	1975	Australian High Court Library, call no: L8.52	digital copy at: http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tuvalu/1.%20Tuvalu%20Order%201975.PDF

Tuvalu Royal Instructions	1975	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tuvalu/4.%20Tuvalu%20Royal%20Instructions%201975.PDF
Tuvalu Act	1978	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tuvalu/2.%20Tuvalu%20Act%201978.PDF
Tuvalu Independence Order	1978	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tuvalu/3.%20Tuvalu%20Independence%20Order%201978.PDF
Constitution of Tuvalu	1978	there is a digital copy of the document at this web address>>> but the location of the original remains unknown	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/Tuvalu/5.%20Constitution%20of%20Tuvalu.PDF
Vanuatu			
Agreement between Britain and France respecting the independence of the New Hebrides	1878	British National Archives, Kew: Call No. FO 881/5512	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/New%20Hebrides/1.Agrrement%20between%20Britain%20and%20France%20respecting%20the%20independence%20of%20the%20New%20Hebrides,%20January-FEbruary%201878.PDF

Placed under Anglo-French naval commission	1887		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/New%20Hebrides/3.Declaration%20between%20Britain%20and%20France%20for%20the%20establishment%20of%20a%20Joint%20Naval%20Commission,%20January%201888.PDF
Anglo-French Co-sovereignty	1906	British National Archives: Call No: FO 94/873	http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/New%20Hebrides/4.Protocol%20between%20Great%20Britain%20and%20France%20respecting%20the%20new%20Hebrides,%20February%201906.PDF
New Hebrides Joint Regulations	1907	British National Archives: Records of the Colonial Office, CO914	
Anglo- French Condominium established	1911		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/New%20Hebrides/6.%20New%20Hebrides%20Order,%201911.PDF
Protocal re the New Hebrides signed by representatives of the British and French governments	1914	British National Archives, Kew: Call No. FO 881/10563	
New Hebrides Order, 1922, annexing protocol between Britain and France respecting New Hebrides, August 6, 1914	1922		http://www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/library/Online/Texts/Pacific_archive/New%20Hebrides/7.New%20Hebrides%20Order,%201922,%20annexing%20protocol%20between%20Britain%20and%20France%20respecting%20New%20Hebrides,%20August%206,%201914.PDF
NaGriamel political party petition the UN to prevent further land sales to non-indigenous people	1971		Unknown if any document still exists
Walter Lini petitions UN committee	1974		Unknown if any document still exists
Representative Assembly established, constitutional reforms	1975		Unknown if any document still exists
Espiritu Santo 'NaGriamel federation' declares independence unilaterally, unrecognised by Britain or France	1975		Unknown if any document still exists
First autonomous government	1978		

Minutes of the Constitution Drafting Committee	1979	One copy in the office of Don Patterson, another held at University of the South Pacific Emalus Campus Library	
Constitution	1980	Ralph Regenvanu, the Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, says they are still looking for the original copy of the constitution, but it is already digitally available.	http://www.vanuatugovernment.gov.vu/government/library/constitution.html
Independence, adopt name change from New Hebrides to 'Vanuatu'	1980		The location of this document is unknown
Constitutional changes provide for regionalisation	1994		The location of this document is unknown
Other important international documents with a bearing on the Pacific Islands			
Western Pacific Order in Council	1877	British National Archives, Kew: Call No. CO 881/4/21	
Colonial Boundaries act	1895		
17 Sept US 'Proposed plan for Civil Government by the Navy of Certain Pacific Areas under United States control.' applies to Palau, Micronesia and Marshall Islands	1945		The location of this document is unknown
'Pacific Charter' US Naval directive by Admiral Spruance for the direct military government of micronesia etc	16772		The location of this document is unknown
1st South Pacific Commission Conference in Suva	1950		
ANZUS signed	1952		

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514: Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	1960		http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/152/88/IMG/NR015288.pdf?OpenElement
South Pacific Forum	1971		
South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty Signed	1986	ARCHNZW: agencyABHS series6971 accessionW4630 item/box46	
Noumea Accord	1998		