

Kei hea te taunga mai o aku kupu?

Where will my words rest?

Terehia, Biddle

In recent years Archives New Zealand has shifted its focus of providing one-to-one services within its four offices to extending its reach beyond the walls of the institution to Māori communities with the support of digital technology and web-based solutions.

As Treaty claimants and prolific researchers, Māori understand the importance of managing and preserving *taonga* like archives thus have a great appreciation for, and respect of the holdings Archives New Zealand has in its custody. In fact, in some instances Treaty settlements now include provisions for the care and management of hapū-iwi archives.

Working together on specific iwi projects has yielded benefits beyond the expectations of both parties. For example, by the conclusion of each project, staff cultural competency and awareness levels increase and historical knowledge of the local iwi landscape is better known and understood. In effect, providing far greater meaning and significance to an otherwise 'old piece of paper' known as a public record. On the other hand, iwi-nominated researchers (quite often with very little or no experience in the archives sector) working alongside staff has gained valuable experience in terms of understanding archival systems and processes which serve broader iwi-hapū goals to increase capability within this field.

What is becoming more evident to Archives New Zealand is the need for Māori generally to gain greater access to and control over *taonga* using methods which range from the very simple use of digitising to compact disc to more sophisticated web-based solutions.

Combined, these are examples of creative and innovative solutions which respond to Māori in ways that support their aspirations to make discoverable information which would otherwise remain beyond the reach of the people about whom the records are written.

This presentation highlights fundamental aspects which Archives New Zealand employs to ensure the success of iwi-related projects.