Linking the Islands: Pacific Implications of the Web

In the past decade Pacific islanders have been faced with a new force for change: the worldwide web. Although practical and economic constraints have limited its impact so far, the web has already played a role in Pacific economies and politics, and in linking emigrant islanders with their home countries and one another. Its differences from other media give it the potential, not yet fully realised, to affect and interact with island cultures in new and challenging ways. This paper explores that potential against the background of the web’s influence on the Pacific to date.

Rory Ewins
Scottish Centre for Research into On-Line Learning and Assessment
Departement of Higher And Community Education
University of Edinburgh
Paterson’s Land Holyrood Road
Edinburgh EH8 8AQ
Great Britain
r.ewins@ed.ac.uk