Annotated Bibliography

This is a list of Mālama Honua resources that can be useful for anyone seeking more information or materials for use in educational and other settings. The following bibliography is organized by major theme or topic and includes a list of references that are either foundational to that theme/topic or provoke discussion around prevailing theories. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather a tool for anyone inspired by Mālama Honua and interested in deeper learning.

Canoe Construction and Practices

  
  An illustrated children’s reader and workbook describing the entire traditional canoe building process – from selecting a log through launching the canoe. Teachers will find useful activities to enhance students’ understanding of traditional canoe building practices in Hawai‘i.

  <http://pvs.kcc.hawaii.edu/ike/kalai_waa/koakanu.html>
  
  An account of traditional Hawaiian canoe building rituals and practices shared by Koakanu in the Abraham Fornander collection.

  
  This is an exeptional historical resource which guides the reader through every major element of the Hawaiian canoe, providing detailed descriptions, methods of construction, and traditional uses.

  
  A comprehensive work on the Hawaiian canoe, from ancient voyaging canoes to modern racing and sailing canoes. This book also explains the skills, traditions, and materials used to build modern and traditional canoes.

  
  Containing rich illustrations, this is an account of Pacific voyaging past and present, and examines the latest findings from world authorities on voyaging. This book includes many photographs, images of artifacts, maps, and diagrams.
Navigation and Way-Finding


  *This book includes a discussion of theories about traditional methods of navigation, stories of the renaissance of star navigation throughout the Pacific, and materials about navigation systems in Indonesia, Siberia, and the Indian Ocean. Also included is an account of Pwo navigator Mau Piailug’s navigation from Hawai‘i to Tahiti in 1976.*


  *A collection of readings, articles, maps, and activities designed for learners beginning their study of Polynesian voyaging. Topics covered include seamanship, non-instrument navigation, migration legends, settlement theories, and tools used in building canoes. Students and teachers alike are challenged to imagine what it would be like to embark on a brand new journey as did these brave Polynesian voyagers.*


  *An article focusing on the way stars are used by navigators to chart their course.*


  *A documentary of the 1976 voyage of Hōkūle‘a, extensively covering the art of wayfinding, or navigating without instruments. The film explores Pacific migration and the settlement of Polynesia, and also features Mau Piailug, a navigator from Satawal who taught his art to Hawaiian navigator Nainoa Thompson.*

Seamanship


  *The Complete Sailor is not just an instructional book that teaches almost every aspect of sailing, but it also gives insight into a sailor’s approach to the sea, boats, and the wind on the water. With around 600 drawings by noted marine illustrator Kelly Mulford, this book really helps the reader understand how to sail.*

Ancestral Navigators

This resource contains histories of great migrations and navigators, including Mōʻikeha, Laʻa, Hawaiʻiloa, and Pāʻao, as well as canoe building practices and rituals.


**Contemporary Voyaging**


A retelling of the 1995 ceremonies which took place at Taputapuātea marae in Rāiātea, including an analysis of historical events that led to the cessation and then revival of Polynesian voyaging. Finney was present at the 1995 ceremonies at Taputapuātea and describes in detail the events that unfolded as well as their great cultural significance for all Polynesians.

  An account of the remarkable journey of Hōkūle‘a to Aotearoa in 1985.  Describing how navigator Nainoa Thompson guided the canoe over thousands of miles of open ocean without compass, charts, or any other navigational aids, it documents the experimental voyaging approach which has transformed ideas about Polynesian migration and voyaging.


  An account of the events leading up to the momentous first voyage of Hōkūle‘a and the impact it has had, introducing the reader to important figures such as Ben Finney, Tommy Holmes, Herb Kane, Nainoa Thompson, Mau Piailug, and Eddie Aikau.


  Written by Nainoa Thompson, this essay is a chronological look at highlights of the past 25 years and the resurgence of Polynesian wayfinding.  It focuses on visionaries who founded the Polynesian Voyaging Society, reflections on the voyages that have taken place over the years, and what Hōkūle‘a has meant to the resurgence of pride in Hawaiian culture and heritage.

**Peopling of the Pacific and Migration**


  Polynesian DNA has unexpectedly been discovered in the bones of now-extinct Native Americans who once lived in the interior of Brazil.  These surprising findings are raising a variety of suggested answers to how this occurred, including the travels of ancient seafarers or the more recent slave trade.


  Tracing the origins of the Hawaiians and other Polynesians back to the shores of the South China Sea, archaeologist Patrick Vinton Kirch follows their voyages of discovery across the Pacific in this fascinating history of Hawaiian culture from about one thousand years ago.  Combining more than four decades of his own research with Native Hawaiian oral traditions and the evidence of archaeology, Kirch puts a human face on the gradual rise to power of the Hawaiian god-kings, who by the late eighteenth century were locked in a series of wars for ultimate control of the entire archipelago.

  This lively, acessible chronicle works back from Captain James Cook’s encounter with the pristine kingdom in 1778, when the British explorers encountered an island...
civilization governed by rulers who could not be gazed upon by common people. Interweaving anecdotes from his own widespread travel and extensive archaeological investigations into the broader historical narrative, Kirch shows how the early Polynesian settlers of Hawai‘i adapted to this new island landscape and created highly productive agricultural systems.


“Archaeology has assumed the role of combining all the evidence on Polynesian prehistory into a coherent pattern. Patrick Kirch has done this for Hawai‘i with distinction. His book is clearly written, carefully organized, abundantly illustrated, and handsomely produced volume.... A timely and much needed contribution.” — Hawaiian Journal of History. With the publishing of this well-written, profusely illustrated book, Kirch has made a valuable contribution to Hawaiian and Pacific archaeological studies.


“In recent years, I have grown increasingly suspicious of the orthodox scenario, especially as it relates to the settlement of the Hawaiian archipelago (Kirch 1974, 1975, 1984, 1985). This has prompted me to re-evaluate the archaeological evidence upon which the orthodox view was constructed, a process that has convinced me of the need for substantial revisions. This paper addresses those concerns, and focuses on the evidence for initial settlement and colonization in Eastern Polynesia. In particular, the concept of an “Archaic East Polynesian Culture” (Sinoto 1970, 1983b) or “Early East Polynesian Culture” (Bellwood 1978a, b), its material-culture content and dating, will be reviewed in detail.” (Kirch 1986)


This information on voyaging traditions was first published in April 21, 2011 in Mālamalama / The Light of Knowledge: The Magazine of the University of Hawai‘i. It is based on the study “High-precision radiocarbon dating shows recent and rapid initial human colonization of East Polynesia” by Janet M. Wilmshurst, Terry L. Hunt, Carl P. Lipoc, and Atholl J. Anderson, published in the Feb. 1, 2011 proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). It updates the 1999 article.

New research indicates human colonization of Eastern Polynesia took place much faster and more recently than previously thought, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa anthropologist Terry Hunt reports. Polynesian ancestors settled in Sāmoa around 800 BC, colonized the central Society Islands between AD 1025 and 1120, and dispersed to New Zealand, Hawai‘i, Rapa Nui, and other locations between AD 1190 and 1290.

  
  This two-part documentary created by the History Channel gives an overview of various Pacific migration theories. Prevailing theories are discussed, including controversial views regarding possible North and South American contact by Polynesian navigators nearly 5 centuries prior to Columbus.

  
  Scientists looking into the DNA of ancient and modern chicken breeds found throughout Micronesia and Polynesia have determined that they are genetically distinct from those found in South America. The research runs counter to a popular theory that Polynesian seafarers might have reached the coast of South America hundreds of years ago, before European explorers.