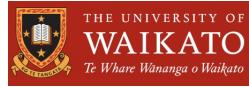


**University of Waikato  
Faculty of Computing and Mathematical Sciences**



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**Report of final prototype - CSMAX570-23A**

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**Whakatōhea's eBook prototype**

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*Group 1 :*

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University year :  
2023A

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# Background and requirements

The Whakatōhea are a Māori tribe located in the Eastern Bay region on the east coast of New Zealand's North Island. However, in the past, the tribe has faced challenges such as land loss. The tribe is committed to preserving and maintaining its traditional values and way of life(whakatohea, 2023). Our aim in creating the digital library is to preserve the tribe's history, traditional knowledge, and cultural heritage to prevent these valuable resources from being lost or forgotten over time. The digital library will help pass on the culture by allowing the younger generation to better understand and learn about their traditional culture and history.

The digital library will provide a curriculum for young people (aged 13-18 years old) that integrates Māori language learning materials into textbooks and provides a Māori language learning environment. For this digital library, the basic requirements include converting e-books, entering them into the back-end database, and displaying them on the front-end to enable deletion, change, and search functions. The e-books will be categorized by age group and relevant historical topics to aid in the search process.

# Backend design

## Introduction

The iwi has a considerable collection of books dedicated to Māori history, which require different versions for different age groups. To organize the content, we will adopt two main approaches. The primary approach will involve organizing the content around critical historical events and figures to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of Māori history. The secondary approach will align the content with the local primary and secondary school curriculum to make it relevant to the education of younger readers. By adopting these two approaches, we hope to make the library's books accessible and engaging for readers of all ages and backgrounds.

It is recognized that collecting all the necessary images, sounds, or texts for these books can present a considerable challenge. To address this challenge, AI tools will be incorporated at specific decorative points in the book designs to significantly reduce the manual collection work. However, given the current limitations of AI tools, users must be reminded to ensure that appropriate materials are used in critical areas. Guidelines on using the AI tools effectively will be provided, and materials will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure their accuracy and relevance.

### 2.1 Two structures

To create a foundation for the ebook design, we have collected significant events in Māori history (Tab 2.1) and assigned them unique identifiers to indicate their respective timelines. When generating the ebooks, we must determine the historical stage to which the book belongs, which will enable us to identify the relevant events and ensure that the book's content is correctly contextualized. Additionally, we will determine the appropriate grade level for the book, ensuring that the content is suitable for the target audience's age and education level. By establishing these parameters, we can create ebooks that are both informative and engaging for readers (Fig 2.1 and Fig 2.2).

In Fig 2.1, each grade level has a unique directory with the ability to add or remove directories, making the management of the book's structure more flexible. All books will initially belong to a fixed directory.

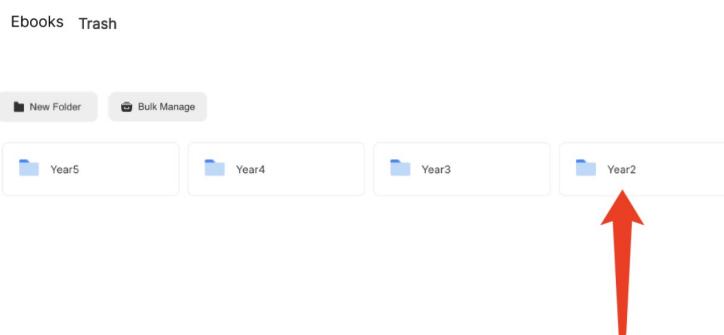


Figure 2.1 – Choose different grade levels

In Fig 2.2, before uploading the necessary materials to generate a book, it is necessary to

Table 2.1 – New Zealand Māori History Timeline

ID	Date Range	Event	Location
1	c. 800-1300	Polynesian ancestors arrive in New Zealand and establish settlements	Multiple
2	1642	Dutch explorer Abel Tasman encounters Māori in Golden Bay	South Island
3	1769-70	British explorer Captain James Cook charts New Zealand and has first contact with Māori	Multiple
4	1814-1840	Musket Wars between Māori tribes for control of resources and territory	North Island
5	1835	Declaration of Independence of New Zealand by Māori chiefs	North Island
6	1840	Treaty of Waitangi signed between Māori chiefs and British Crown, establishing British sovereignty over New Zealand	North Island
7	1843-47	New Zealand Wars fought between Māori and British colonizers	North Island
8	1860-72	Land Wars fought between Māori and British colonizers	North Island
9	1893	Women's suffrage granted in New Zealand, the first country in the world to do so	Multiple
10	1975	Treaty of Waitangi Act established to address Māori grievances and provide restitution	North Island

confirm the historical period to which it belongs. This allows a book under development to potentially belong to both structures simultaneously. This also makes it easier to have a variety of content organization forms in the subsequent prototypes.

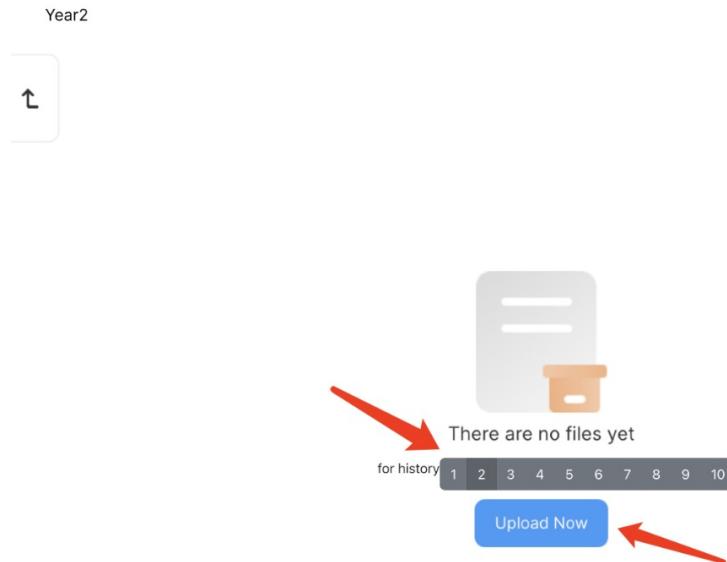


Figure 2.2 – Choose history and grade levels

## 2.2 AI tools

To reduce the difficulty of finding related materials, non-essential elements such as background images that do not affect the core content but serve a decorative purpose are added in places that are not critical. This enables the book to quickly obtain various styles.

The following functionalities may be required in the backend to improve the convenience of generating books and reduce the need for auxiliary materials:

Built-in image and sound libraries: This would allow for quick access to a collection of images and sounds that are relevant to the book's topic.

Content suggestion engine: This could be an AI-powered tool that suggests related content or sources based on the book's topic.

Integrated translation tools: This would allow for easy translation of the book's content into multiple languages.

Automated formatting and layout tools: This would make it easier to create professional-looking books with consistent formatting and layout.

## 2.3 A actual example

As illustrated in Fig 2.3, Stable Diffusion(Diffusion, 2023) was utilized to generate images based on text for the cover of the book. While text to speech technologies can be employed to include audio in the content, accurately modeling Māori language is a significant challenge due to its limited usage. Nonetheless, several research teams(Papa Reo, 2023) (kaituhi, 2023) are dedicated to addressing this difficulty, both in terms of text to speech and speech to text technologies. As for the third text content, generating appropriate images was feasible due to the usage of English. Moreover, machine translation is challenging for minority languages, with only Microsoft announcing support for Māori language(Translator, 2019). Meanwhile, other tools such as ffmpeg can extract images from videos, facilitating the process of book generation.

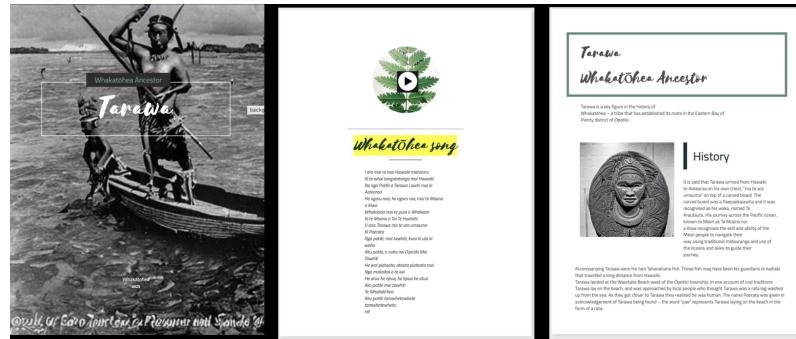


Figure 2.3 – A ebook generated by AI

## 2.4 Conclusion

Overall, the dual attributes of history and grade curriculum make the organization of books more flexible, and the introduction of AI tools is purely to reduce the difficulty of collecting materials when generating books. However, the current AI tools, such as text to image tools, still have high uncertainty in their results and require significant investment. This part may be a problem that must be considered, as it is not enough to simply introduce a service provider to complete it.

All prototypes mentioned in this section have been implemented and can be accessed through the following URL(Figma, 2023).

# Prototype Design

The aim of this project is to design and develop a prototype digital library for Māori language users to meet the needs of Māori language users for book retrieval, borrowing and return functions, and to improve the library experience for Māori language users. The prototype library is aimed at the Maori speaking community around the world, including Maori teachers, students, parents and general users(Pixso, 2022).

Māori language is one of the official languages of New Zealand's indigenous Maori people and is an important part of New Zealand's cultural and social development. In order to promote the heritage and development of the Maori language, the prototype digital library will provide Maori language users with rich and diverse Maori language book resources to facilitate their online reading and learning, and will also make a positive contribution to Maori language education and cultural heritage(newzealand.com, 2023).

## 3.1 Design principles and methodology

The design of the digital library prototype will follow the following principles:

User-centered: The project will focus on user needs, user experience and satisfaction, to provide users with efficient and convenient humanized services.

Diversity and inclusion: The digital library prototype will provide a variety of resources from the rich and diverse Māori language culture, covering different areas and topics, embracing a variety of cultures and ideologies, and reflecting the diversity of Māori culture.

## 3.2 Prototype introduction

### 3.2.1 Main interface

After the user logs in, the main interface will show the Māori cultural background (Fig 3.1), the address of the Maori cultural community, the pictures of the introduction of Maori cultural activities, the links of E-books and multimedia, and the search function of the whole network. Here you can find all the resources we upload and provide, and you can also ask for help to carry out Māori language practice in the community and communicate with other Maori language learners.

### 3.2.2 User interface

After the user logs in, The system will record user information, users can modify information through the user interface, view browsing history and like the collection of E-books or multimedia, also can communicate with friends here and view the comments of E-books or multimedia(Fig 3.2).

### 3.2.3 Māori cultural interface

We add a Māori culture interface where users can find all about the development process of Māori culture(Fig 3.3), migration history and distribution changes, as well as the existing Māori cultural products, which will provide more research channels for current and future learners of Māori culture, from buildings, objects to custom products to show the development process of Māori culture in all aspects(New Zealand Tourism Guide, 2022).

**MĀORI Culture Digital Labiry**

Hi, Jamed

About Us    Help    FAQs    Feedback    Get the APP

Search

MĀORI Culture    E-Books    Multimedia

Māori Language Centre  
The World's Largest Māori Language  
Digital Library

Whakatōhea Maori Trust Board

Help Us Stay In Touch

Email: register@whakatohaea.co.nz

Phone: 07 3158150

If you have moved and need to check if you are registered? You can view our "GNA - Gone no address."

Update Form    GNA

Whakatōhea Maori Trust Board  
Physical Address: 122 St John Street, Opotiki  
Postal: PO Box 207 Opotiki 3140  
Email: register@whakatohaea.co.nz  
Phone: +64 07 315 0199

Search..

Whakatōhea Maori Trust Board (c) 2022  
Proudly Designed by The Digitals

Figure 3.1 – Main interface

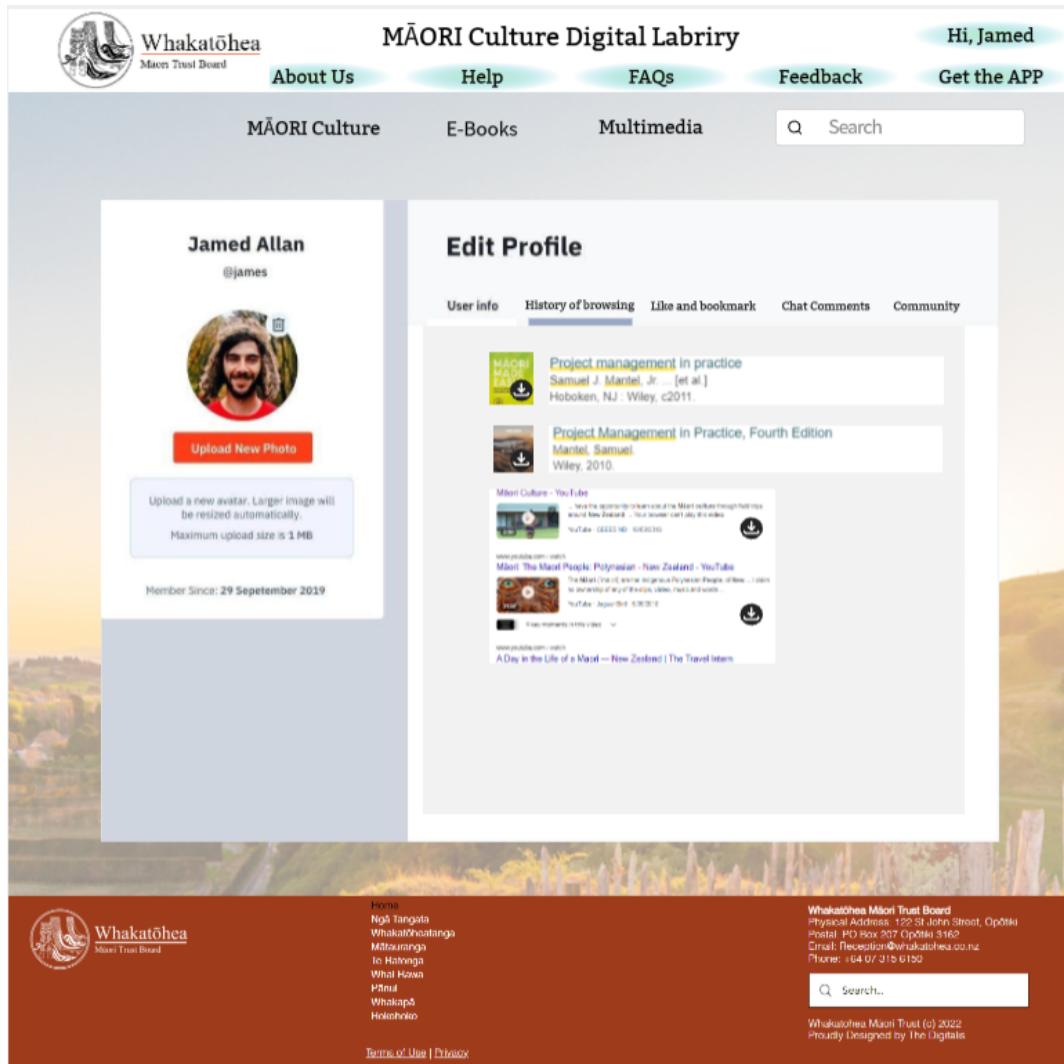


Figure 3.2 – User interface

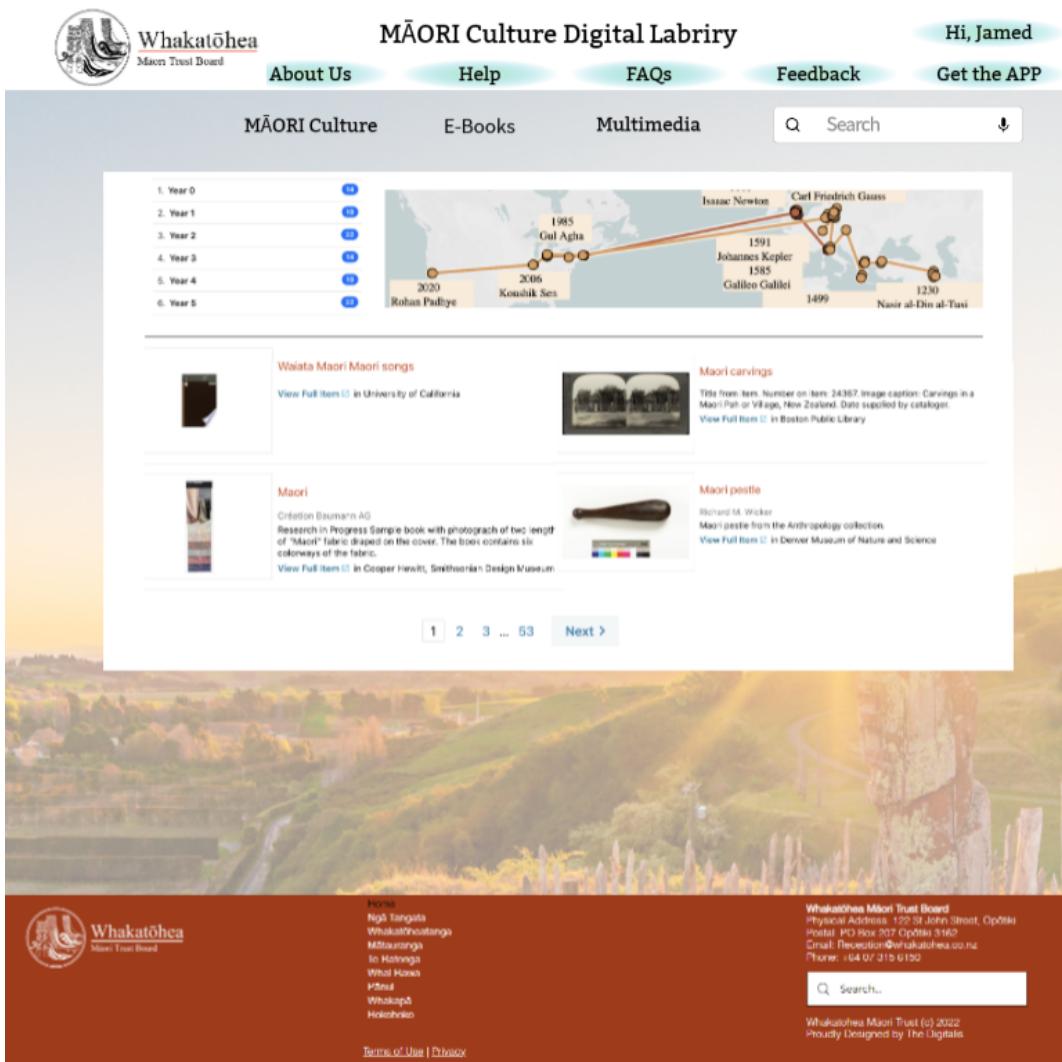


Figure 3.3 – Māori cultural interface

### 3.2.4 E-books browsing interface

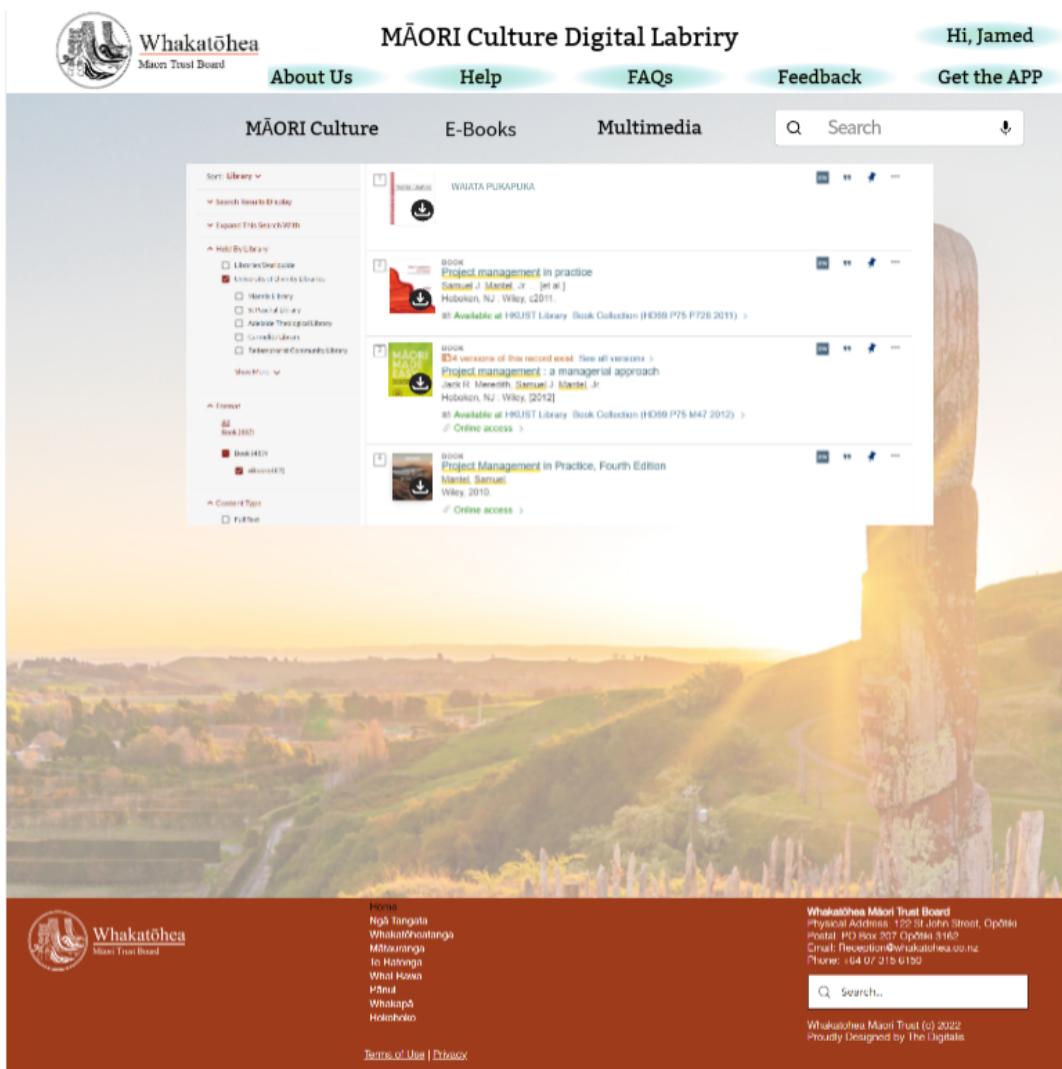


Figure 3.4 – E-books browsing interface

In the E-books browsing interface(Fig 3.4), users can search related E-books through filters, and all filters we designed include the function of voice input, which can provide convenience for some disabled learners. Typing a keyword in the filter or filtering in the left toolbar will display the relevant E-books.

### 3.2.5 The E-book interface

In the E-books interface(Fig 3.5), users can read text or listen to E-books through the voice playback function, and provide translation functions for other languages. All resources provided by the e-library are downloadable.

### 3.2.6 Video interface

In the video interface(Fig 3.6), users can search related videos by keywords or related words. The filter provides many options such as upload time, picture quality, video duration, and subtitles in other language to facilitate Māori learners to view.

The screenshot shows the Māori Culture Digital Library website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About Us', 'Help', 'FAQs', 'Feedback', and 'Get the APP'. A user profile 'Hi, Jamed' is also visible. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a download icon.

The main content area features a large image of a landscape with hills and a river. Overlaid on this image is a white box containing text about Tarawa's arrival from Hawaiki. The text describes Tarawa arriving on his own chest, the carved board he used, and the two Tahanahana fish he brought. It also details the naming of Opōtiki after a natural spring where Tarawa placed the fish.

At the bottom of the page, there are 'Previous' and 'Next' navigation buttons, along with a footer containing the Whakatōhea logo, contact information for the Māori Trust Board, and links for 'Terms of Use' and 'Privacy'.

Figure 3.5 – The E-book interface

Figure 3.6 – Video interface

### 3.2.7 Audio interface

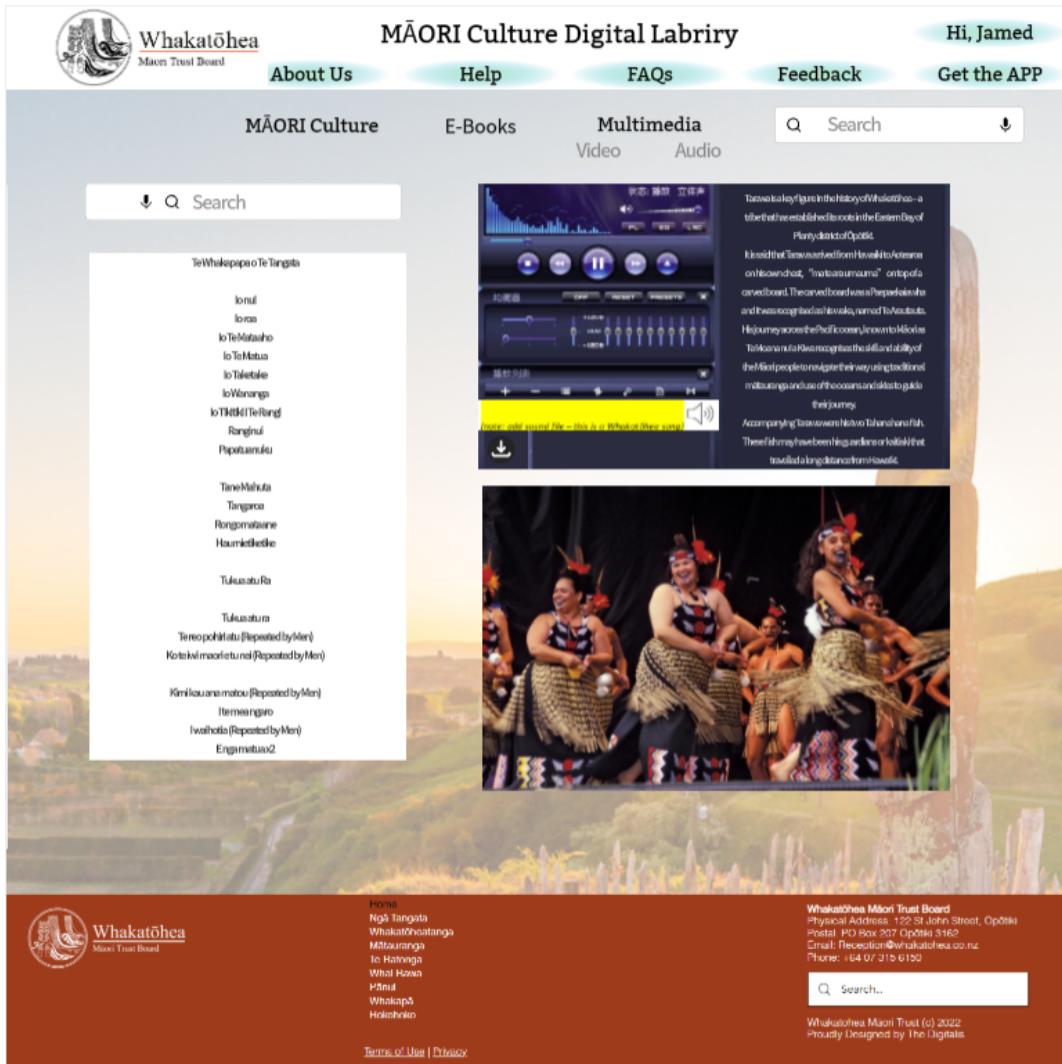


Figure 3.7 – Audio interface

In the audio interface(Fig 3.7), users can search related audio by the keywords or related words. When playing audio files, subtitles in other languages will be displayed synchronously in the player, and the audio content will be displayed on the left side, which can provide learning convenience for Māori language learners. Audio related videos or pictures are displayed below, which provides a good learning environment for audio learning and deafies learners' memory(britannica, 2023).

## 3.3 Conclusion and Prospect

Through the design and implementation of this project, the prototype of digital library for Maori users has realized the main functions such as book and multimedia retrieval. The library prototype can provide rich and diverse Maori cultural resources to facilitate users to read and learn online(Teara, 2023).

The designed prototype still has some limitations and shortcomings, including the process of user interface design and interaction can be further optimized, the function of multimedia interface can be more humanized, and the front-end visualization of the library can be more

abundant to meet all Maori culture learners for learning.

As technology continues to advance and the Maori language community continues to grow, the digital library prototype needs to be constantly updated and upgraded to meet the changing needs and expectations of its users. At the same time, the digital library will also make greater contributions to the Maori language education and cultural inheritance, promote the inheritance and development of the Maori language, and promote the communication and integration of multiple cultures. We look forward to the Maori Digital library becoming an important learning and communication platform for Maori language users and making greater contributions to the future development of the Maori language community(lovenewzealand, 2023).

# Feedbacks

Based on the feedback from the previous presentation, we realized that our focus on the digital library was misplaced and that we should concentrate on the ebook. As a result, we will be implementing a map function to showcase Māori culture. We also received feedback during our weekly meetings that the digital library would benefit from a feature that allows for searching in various formats such as songs, making it easier for users to access information. To address this, we have improved the search function to support audio searches. Additionally, we recognize the importance of developing a community culture that facilitates cultural exchange between different tribes and the international community. This will promote cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding.

# **Conclusion&next steps**

At present, we have developed a basic model for integrating the front-end and back-end of our system. We plan to add more functions in the future, including intelligent features that could assist users who face accessibility challenges. For example, we may explore the possibility of implementing an assistance function on the desktop to help blind users interact with the system. Additionally, we plan to develop testing functions to support learning about Maori culture for students, among other educational goals.

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