

in return for a reciprocal service acceptable to them; information technology students sometimes need to develop home pages for course practical work, so giving your institution a presence on the Internet.

The Internet collates, collects and disseminates information in a totally new way. Information which was previously obtained by visits, phone calls, or by asking librarians is now available 'up-front' to the user. Here I mean access via the Internet to library catalogues, university handbooks, course outlines and directories. A great democratisation of access to the resources of the National Library has taken place, as Averil Edwards at the Canberra ANZTLA Conference outlined to us. The resources of the National Library of Australia are now electronically available to the residents of Australia - not just those who live in the ACT. Visit the National Library Web Site⁵ for a fantastic example of electronic resources, including the university and state library catalogues of Australia. Imagine finding out the location of works in reading lists, and whether they are available on the shelf without leaving home!

All of these information services give the user control and ownership of the research process. Processes which previously took time, or had to be done by others are now directly in the control of the user, with the added benefit of motivating the user by the interface with information.

However, in each of these processes the librarian is the essential link in connecting the Internet to the user, at least for some of our users, and for those without access at home. Obtaining information from the chaos of the Internet becomes possible because sites are collated and available by bookmarks, instruction is available for searching the maze of the Internet and information literacy is taught as needed. There are many more issues which new technologies will force librarians to consider in the future, but the above are some which may come your way in 1996.

Yarra Theological Union Library.

Margaret Lamb

ANZTLA members will be saddened by the news of the demise of the Library of the Yarra Theological Union, one of the inaugural member libraries of the Victorian Chapter. The Library only, let me hasten to add, the Y.T.U. itself continues to flourish.

When the various Catholic religious orders came together in 1971 to form the Yarra Theological Union, each order had its own library to assist in the training and formation of their seminarians; some small, some larger. The YTU set up its lecture rooms and offices on the Franciscan property at Box Hill using St Paschal's library as its primary library resource centre. In 1982 the executive of the YTU decided to start a library collection of their own as a starting point should the Union move to another location.

Gwen Wilson was appointed Librarian and she remained in that position for thirteen years until her retirement at the end of 1994, when she was succeeded by Judi Long who continued until her relocation to Sydney in 1995. Judi retains her connection to ANZTLA by continuing her M.Theol (begun at BCV) with Moore College.

Gwen was guided in the early stages by the Rev. Bill Goldsworthy and among her early helpers have been Janet Secomb and Coralie Jenkin. The Library grew into a "small but significant" (as Gwen referred to it) collection of books and journals numbering approximately 1200 monographs and 1500 journal volumes concentrating on material for the courses given at YTU. Because of its proximity and larger collection of around 50,000 books, the main resource centre for the YTU courses and students remained St Paschal's Library. When Judi resigned last year the YTU executive requested the Paschal Province to have St Paschal's administer the YTU Library and to integrate its books and journals with St Paschal's holdings; the YTU would retain ownership and finance their collection. A similar integration was arranged some years ago with the Missiology section of the Divine Word Missionaries' library, in order to make it more readily available to YTU students. This arrangement has proved quite satisfactory to all concerned, with the books involved now numbering in the vicinity of 900.

⁵ < <http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov/> >

Over the Christmas break, the books and journals were moved across the passage to their new home and the YTU Library as such, was no more. It is now the YTU Book Collection held in St Paschal's Library. This collection is not static and will continue to grow. Should the future see the relocation of the Yarra Theological Union the books will be retrieved and the YTU Library live again!



From the ATLA Newsletter

The Atla Newsletter has a regular column called "Diktuo" which covers items of interest about the Internet. The most recent one talks about searching the Web and is worth checking out if you have any interest in this. I found it very useful.

It covers several search services, but also introduces the reader to the reason why some strategies work better than others in searching the Net. Here is an extract from it:

"Relevant" Strategies

It should be clear that using a relevance engine requires a somewhat different strategy than a traditional Boolean search engine. Of course, you still want to use the most specific and accurate terms you can identify. It still really helps to be familiar with the subject, the characteristics of the database, and the particular search engine you're using. But with relevance engines, more is better. Basically you want to build up a context for your query that will allow software to score results more effectively. For example, if you are looking for sites dealing with the ordination of women in the Roman Catholic Church you might enter something like this:

ordination ordain women woman Catholic Roman priest church clergy female

(Hardly how you'd advise someone to search the local OPAC) It's unlikely that all those terms are going to appear in any one hit, but it's also clear that sites with a high percentage of those terms are likely to be relevant.

Interestingly enough the Boolean "NOT" operator, which is rarely used in traditional keyword searching can be very helpful when working with relevance engines if it is supported....

Check out the Newsletter yourself on <http://atla.library.vanderbilt.edu/atla/>

Western Australia in October is a Remarkable Place!!

Not only is the ANZTLA Tradition and Technology Conference being held in Perth from the 10-13th, but this is the time the country is transformed by a carpet of flowers to a beauty that is hard to imagine and even harder to describe.

This year you have the chance to use the ANZTLA conference as an excuse to see this. Good winter rains should make this year's display a spectacular one and the scheduled visit to New Norcia, the historic Spanish Benedictine settlement, will give those with no extra time for sightseeing the opportunity to have a taste of it.

As well as sightseeing, a program to cater for libraries both large and small; advanced and advancing; and librarians learned and learning has been planned. For more information and enrolment contact Lynn White (ph: 09 3619962; fax: 09362 1603).