

## Tradition and Technology: the 11th Annual ANZTLA Conference

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The eleventh conference of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association was held at Perth College, 10-13 October 1996, attended by 36 delegates from around Australia and New Zealand.

The theme of *Tradition and Technology: Libraries in the Electronic Age* challenged us to put into perspective two ideas which at first glance seemed at odds with each other. It is quite obvious that the traditional role of the librarian must change to embrace the new technology - or is it?

The keynote speaker, Grant Stone (Murdoch University Library) said that in essence, information had not changed, only the medium of its delivery. The librarian is concerned with disseminating information regardless of what medium is used. Margaret Jones (Murdoch University Library) continued this theme, showing that although the tools of the reference service may be changing, the underlying premises are not.

Mike Grant (IMAGO Multimedia Centre) sees libraries as 'knowledge centres' connected to interactive search engines that enable clients to access information. Kerry Smith (Curtin University) spoke about one-person libraries and focussed on time management, the increased use of technology and the principle of 'just-in-time' versus 'just-in-case'.

Workshop sessions dealing with problems and practicalities such as amalgamations, resource sharing, time management and budgeting/financial constraints were held. Stephen Connelly and Robin Dunn shared a session dealing with people and institutions 'on the move'.

Delegates also had a choice of visiting Notre Dame University Library or the Catholic Library, Leederville. Internet facilities were on display at both places with the emphasis at Notre Dame being on electronic ordering. We were also able to visit the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia and after a rather entertaining dose of philosophy from Prior Placid Spearritt, toured the town and the Monastery. We were especially privileged to see parts of the library within the monastic enclosure. At the Annual General Meeting, a proposal from Tony McCumstie (Corpus Christi) for the publication of the 3rd edition of AULOTS was presented. The new edition should be available late 1997. Stephen Connelly (JTL) put a proposal for setting up an ANZTLA email list at Ormond College. Kim Robinson (Moore) gave notice of a proposed amendment to the Constitution enabling the Association to elect a Vice-President (President-elect).

Office bearers elected were: Wendy Davis (President), Val Canty (Secretary/Treasurer), Lynn Pryor (Newsletter Editor - interim), Liz Jordan (Executive member, and Helen Greenwood (Statistician).

The Perth conference was a challenging and inspiring one, with a touch of sadness as we mourned the passing of Trevor Zweck, our Founding President and mentor. It will be remembered for the quality of the speakers and the venue and for the quality and quantity of the social interaction (especially the port at bedtime!)

On a more serious note, the next conference is to be held at Trinity College, Brisbane, 3-6 July 1997. This will overlap with the ANZATS conference. The co-ordinator of the conference is Liz Jordan, who can be contacted at Trinity Theological College, GPO Box 674, Brisbane, Qld 4001, telephone 07 3377 9960.