

## Statistics time again!

The 1996 Statistics forms should have landed on your desk some weeks ago! Are they already buried and forgotten? Don't forget the May 31st deadline! get them in and let's have a better return rate this year! Do you need to be convinced of the worth of statistics? Then read again the short item published in *ANZTLA newsletter* four years ago, written by none other than our very own President, Wendy Davis! In case you can't find it(!) I reprint it here for your edification and encouragement!

### Library Statistics

*Wendy Davis*

Almost every year at the ANZTLA Conference there are mumbblings about why we need to collect statistics. Recently I used the ANZTLA statistics for St Barnabas' College Library to perform a very interesting exercise. The 'gut' feeling I had about the cost of books and the performance of the budget were substantiated.

I presented these statistics to my library committee and then to the St Barnabas College Council. The statistics made a great impact on all to whom they were presented. Unfortunately this has not yet had practical ramifications on the library budget, however ... (one can but hope!).

How the budget has been spent:

	Mono \$	Serial \$	Total \$	Budget \$
1988	6678	1675	8353	7000
1989	6169	1682	7851	8000
1990	6760	2108	8868	9000
1991	6917	2410	9427	9000
1992				10000

  

	Mono %	Serial %	Books purchased	Average book cost
1988	79.9	20	395	16.90
1989	78.5	21.4	246	25.07
1990	76.2	23.7	294	22.99
1991	71.4	28.6	240	25.07

#### Explanation of statistics

Since 1988 Serials / Periodicals have increased as a percentage of actual expenditure by nearly 9% causing a similar decrease in the amount spent on books. At the same time the cost of books has increased by 45%. This has meant a decrease in the number of books purchased from 395 to 240. It is too early to know anything for sure about 1992 statistics but is my feeling that this trend is continuing. I estimate that the average price of books is now about \$30 and periodical prices have increased considerably.

#### Conclusions

Based on 1991 statistics in order to return to the balance of 1988 (20% periodicals, 80% books) the 1993 budget should be increased to \$15100.