ANZTLA in a Nutshell:  
history, conference themes, publications

Compiled by Helen Greenwood

ANZTLA History
1978 & 1979 - Theological Library Consultations held
   Robert Withycombe and New South Wales-based Association of Theological and Religious
   Studies Libraries took initiative.
1983 - 1st ANZATS (Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools) Library
   Consultation.
1986 - 1st ANZTLA Conference. Soon afterwards, link with ANZATS blurred as ANZATS
   wanted to restrict membership to ANZATS institutions; librarians wanted it to be more
   broadly based. Ties effectively severed in 1987, although the timing of ANZTLA
   Conference still roughly at the same time as ANZATS.
   - membership stands at 90+

Aims and strengths
Aims:
   - forum of interaction between theological librarians;
   - foster the development and improvement of theological libraries;
   - support the development and implementation of suitable standards of librarianship;
   - foster inter-library co-operation;
   - publish and distribute literature on theological librarianship;
   - foster contacts with other library associations and groups.
Strengths of our association: alliance of members; fosters a nurturing and cooperative
   environment especially for those who work alone and are isolated. Sharing of experiences
   and ideas is a motivating force for moving forward in the workplace and the profession.

Conference themes and achievements
Primary concentration on professional development but abundant opportunity for growth
   through interaction over those matters which concern us most as theological librarians.

1986 - Canberra. ANZTLA established
1990 - Brisbane. "If libraries can do it, they can do it together"; Second edition of AULOTS.
1993 - Napier. Angles on acquisitions.
1994 - Melbourne. Principles and practicalities: library administration and the day-to-day
   running of libraries. Style manual launched.
1995 - Canberra. Maximising our resources: exploiting information technology. McIntosh
   festschrift launched.

ANZTLA Publications

ANZTLA Constitution - last amended at 1997 Conference.

ANZTLA newsletter, 1986-


ANZTLA Statistics. Collected and collated annually.

ANZTLA-forum. An email discussion list. Still in its infancy, but a valuable tool for the exchange of information and ideas.

Australasian Religion Index, from 1989-


Membership directory - proposed for 1997/98.