

ANZTLA in a Nutshell: history, conference themes, publications

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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.

1996 - 1st non-Christian library joins ANZTLA : Library of the Great Synagogue, Sydney 1997
- 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

1987 - Melbourne. Technology and theological libraries. *Australasian religion index* launched.

1988 - Canberra. Rare books and antiquarian book trade. Standards finalised.

1989 - Auckland. Reference work. 1st New Zealand Conference.

1990 - Brisbane. "If libraries can do it, they can do it together"; Second edition of AULOTS.

1991 - Sydney. Information literacy and user education.

1992 - Adelaide. Working together.

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.

1996 - Perth. Tradition and technology: libraries in the electronic age.

1997 - Brisbane. Strictly theological. Research trends and methodology; postgraduate demands; client expectations. Third edition of AULOTS launched.

ANZTLA Publications

ANZTLA Constitution - last amended at 1997 Conference.

ANZTLA newsletter, 1986-

ANZTLA Standards for Theological Libraries - as adopted at 1988 conference.

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-

Australasian Union List of Theological Serials (AULOTS). Edited by A.W. McCumstie. 3rd edition. Melbourne : Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association, 1997. ISBN 0 646 32051 3

Jenkin, Coralie. *Collections of religion and theology in Australia and New Zealand*. Blackwood SA: Auslib Press, 1992. ISBN 1875145117 [not a publication of ANZTLA, but produced with its encouragement]

McIntosh, Lawrence D. *Religion and theology : a guide to current reference resources*. Wagga Wagga: Centre for Information Studies, 1997. ISBN 0 949060 37 2

McIntosh, Lawrence D. *A style manual for the presentation of papers and theses in religion and theology*. Wagga Wagga NSW : Centre for Information Studies ; Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association, 1995 [reprint with corrections] ISBN 0949060275

'So great a cloud of witnesses': libraries and theologies : festschrift in honour of Lawrence D. McIntosh. Edited by Philip Harvey and Lynn Pryor. Melbourne : Uniting Church Theological Hall and the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association, 1995. ISBN 0 9587731 3 0

Membership directory - proposed for 1997/98.

