

# *President's Report 2000/2001*

The Association is currently holding its 16th annual conference and we can look back on sixteen years of activity and accomplishments. We have achieved a great deal for which we should be very proud. Projects such as AULOTS, ARI, the Newsletter, ANZTLA Forum and the Standards have all been appreciated not only among our own members, but also in the wider library world. Perhaps our most important accomplishment is the creation of a network of colleagues working together. The work of the chapters and the annual conference in building friendships and working relationships cannot be overestimated.

I was able to promote the Association and its work at the 29th General Assembly of Bibliothèques Europeennes de Theologie (BETH) held in York from 30th August to 2nd September and at the Annual Conference of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries following the BETH conference from 2nd to 4th September. Also attending these conferences were representatives from the American Theological Library Association. With representation from most of the world theological library groups we were able to have a very full discussion of the state of theological libraries. I found it encouraging to see the issues and problems we face in Australia and New Zealand are much the same as those faced in the wider, older established library world. It was a privilege to be able to meet colleagues from all over the world. The plans of the American Theological Library Association for establishing a committee on international theological librarianship should be noted and our Association should try to become actively involved when, and if, the committee is formed.

While on the subject of international links I would like to say how pleased I am that we are able to further the links we have established with the libraries of the Pacific region. It is very good to have a large number of delegates from the Pacific region at this conference. There will also be a two-day workshop with these librarians after the conference. It is my hope that the Association will continue to foster close ties with librarians of the Pacific region.

At the conference last year in Melbourne a number of Working Groups were set up. Progress reports of these groups will be discussed in the Practicalities session of this conference but I will mention the work of one of those groups. The Website Group has been very active during the last year and the results of their work can be seen at <http://www.anztl.org>. They have worked hard at creating a web site the Association can be very proud of. The Working Group and the Executive have had many discussions and much correspondence and the *ANZTLA Web Site policy document* is before the Executive for approval. The group has now finished the project they were asked to attend to and the Association will now have to discuss the future management of the site. This matter has been added to the New Business section of this AGM.

The executive has also spent much of the year in discussions with the ARI review committee. Last month we circulated to members the June 2001 report of the committee for information and comment. Shortly after the last conference the Executive was advised by the Centre for Information Studies of its intention to end its commitment to ARI. This meant that the review committee had to refocus its attention from its main function of looking at the existing relationship with CIS to a secondary function of securing ARI's long-term future. The committee took up this responsibility and has worked hard at looking at possible ways forward. I would encourage the members to read this report and to give their views to the Executive by July 30, 2001. The production of

ARI for the last twelve years is one that the Association can take great pride in and its continuance, in whatever format, is of the highest priority.

The issue of the incorporation of the Association has been before the Executive for a number of years. The buying out of the Centre for Information Studies rights in ARI has made the issue one to address with some urgency. The Secretary has outlined in his letter of June 15 2001 the work of a group appointed to look into incorporation. The motions he listed will be put to this meeting in the New Business section.

The Association would like to congratulate one of our members on the publication of her first book. The title by Elizabeth Jordan is *Reconciling women: a feminist perspective on the confession of sin in the Roman Catholic tradition* (Strathfield, NSW: St Paul Publications, 2000. 1876295295)

During the year two long-standing members have left. We wish both Blan MacDonagh and Mara Goodall all the best for the future and thank them for their contribution to the Association during their membership. I also record the death of Elaine Royes, the librarian of the Salvation Army Training College in Sydney. She was a very active member of the New South Wales chapter.

Finally I would like to thank the Association for their support of me during my term as President. Stepping down from this position I look back on a time of some major changes but of much progress. I will continue to support and encourage the work of the Association and the new Executive from my position as a rank and file member.

Kim Robinson  
President

