

*A decade of working together:  
the establishment and early history  
of the  
Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association*

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**Early Efforts**

The ANZATS Library Consultation held at St Francis College, Brisbane, in 1983 was a landmark in the history of theological librarianship in Australia and New Zealand, but it was not by any means the first meeting of librarians and people interested in librarianship in this part of the world. The first such meeting was held in Melbourne in 1978. The chief initiator of this consultation was Dr Robert Withycombe (St Mark's Library, Canberra), with the support of the New South Wales-based Association of Theological and Religious

Studies Libraries (ATRSL), formed in 1977 with Hans Arns as its President. Withycombe appears to have been the first to capture the vision of a body linking at least the theological libraries of Australia, if not indeed the whole of Australasia. High on the agenda of the one-day meeting at Chisholm College, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Vic., was 'the formation of a national association'. In the morning session the 28 people in attendance held a nuts-and-bolts discussion of such issues as resource-sharing (interlibrary loans, union catalogues of periodicals, and duplicate exchanges), and parallel sessions for users of the Dewey and Pettee classifications.

The afternoon session was given over to the principal issue of 'ways and means of fostering national cooperation among theological and religious studies libraries. During this session, the delegates from South Australia, Queensland, and Victoria broke into separate groups to consider the establishment of regional groups along the lines of the ATRSL in New South Wales. The hope at this stage was that each state with a sizeable group of theological libraries would form a regional association and that some sort of federation or combination of these regional groups would come into being to constitute the national association. All the states represented agreed to have local discussions to this end, but in the event only South Australia managed to establish a continuing group, initially the Association of Theological Libraries (South Australia). To further the national effort, it was agreed to hold another consultation in the following year, in conjunction with the joint annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools, the Australian and New Zealand Society for Theological Studies, and the Australian Association for the Study of Religion. Edmund Perrin (United Theological College, Camden, NSW) was elected National Convenor.

**New beginnings.**

At a meeting of the Association of Theological Libraries (South Australia), held on 10 June 1982, the librarians present resolved to seek the support of the local chapter of ANZATS to

Perth in August 1982:

- (1) That a schedule of standards for theological libraries be adopted;
- (2) That an overseas expert be invited to Australia to undertake a survey of theological libraries and to make recommendations for their improvement. (ATL(SA) 1982)

It was Trevor Zweck who subsequently wrote the letter to ANZATS (SA).

A sympathetic response from the local chapter of ANZATS, resolved to forward the letter to ANZATS, supporting the adoption of standards, but expressing reservations about the idea of inviting an overseas librarian. (ANZATS SA 1982) The ANZATS executive keen to arrange another library consultation, along the lines of the one held in 1978. It was not until 1983 that it was possible to hold the consultation. In the event, it was Zweck's letter that determined the agenda and provided a focus and a rallying point for theological librarians, not only for the 1983 consultation, but for many years to come. The historic consultation was held at St Francis College, Milton, Qld, on 3 September 1983, with an attendance of forty librarians and heads of theological colleges. (Zweck 1983) It had been envisaged by the ANZATS executive that this meeting would be an opportunity, not primarily for librarians to talk with each other, but for 'librarians and teaching staff ... together ... to do some forward planning.' (Fullerton 1981, item 8) As it turned out, the papers at the consultation were all presented by librarians, one of whom was attending his first such meeting. The attention of the meeting was directed first of all to library standards, Hans Arns presenting a survey of conditions in theological libraries; though restricted in scope to several states of Australia, it was sufficient to alert delegates to the parlous condition of theological libraries in Australia and the need to take action to rectify the situation, if at all possible. This paper set the scene for Trevor Zweck to present his proposals regarding the adoption of a schedule of standards for theological libraries. Delegates at the consultation received it with a standing ovation. The meeting enthusiastically supported its proposals and resolved that a task force be established to develop them further and proceed with implementation. Their initial task would be to draw up a set of policy standards and (it was envisaged) a set of guidelines for interpreting and applying the standards, together with an instrument and procedure for collecting and disseminating relevant statistical information. Special attention was drawn to the need to draw up specific collection development policies (using the categories established by the National Library of Australia for this purpose). Still more ambitious projects were decided on. Responding to a request from the ANZATS May council meeting of 1983 (ANZATS 1983), the meeting resolved to undertake a survey of theological libraries and other libraries with theological collections to identify special collections, major holdings, and areas of strength. Another resolution called for the establishment of a special collection of information on theological librarianship. There was also a request to develop ways and means (e.g. a workshop and/or a manual) to help unqualified staff become more professional in their work.

Along with such weighty matters affecting the future of theological libraries was included an introduction to the mystifying world of the new information technology which had recently made its entry to Australia. It came in the form of a session of searching on the DIALOG database, using facilities of the MIDAS telecommunications link. There was also a paper by Edmund Perrin on library buildings and equipment. (Zweck 1983)

Without doubt, this consultation was a watershed in the history of theological librarianship in Australia (and, eventually also, New Zealand). Delegates were not unaware of the significance of the events they had been privileged to experience, one principal being heard to exclaim,

'This is the first day in the future of theological libraries.' (Zweck 1983) Less effusively, but with equal perspicuity, the Secretary of ANZATS reported: '...some very important recommendations regarding standards and future developments in theological libraries were discussed.' (Fullerton 1983, item 6)

### **The crucial decision**

An enthusiastic beginning had been made; however, by the time of the 1984 consultation, twelve months later, little progress had been made by any of the 1983 resolutions. The ANZATS task force had not been appointed. Undeterred, the unappointed leaders of the library movement pressed on. It was becoming obvious, once again, that if the kind of program envisaged by the 1983 consultation was ever to eventuate, it would have to be implemented by an organisation bigger and more influential than an ad hoc task force. Thus, a lack of activity on the official level galvanised action on an informal basis and Zweck came to the 1984 consultation with a proposal for the establishment of a theological library association.

The consultation was held at the Baptist Theological College, Eastwood, NSW, 26 August 1984, with an attendance of 25, of whom only one was not a librarian. The main focus of attention (in the morning session) was union cataloguing, with Margaret Baggott (National Library of Australia) advocating involvement in the Australian Bibliographic Network as the best means of Australian libraries gaining access to the collective resources of theological literature. Local libraries also shared their experiences of the CLANN net work operating in the Sydney area.

In the business session (in the afternoon), Zweck presented a preliminary draft of a set of standards; it was discussed by the librarians and then tabled for reference to the ANZATS task force, which it was envisaged would still be appointed. The proposal for the establishment of a theological library association was endorsed with mixed feelings of enthusiasm and trepidation and forwarded to the Annual General Meeting of ANZATS, which was to be held two years later. Zweck and Professor Bruce Upham were appointed to head a delegation to ANZATS, armed with the proposal for a theological library association, and a battery of consultation resolutions. The proposal pointed firstly to the precedent set by overseas groups of theological libraries; secondly it presented a rationale for an association rather than an ANZATS committee to do the work envisaged; and thirdly it proposed some possible aims and objectives, which subsequently became, in the main, the objectives of ANZTLA; and fourthly it contained a possible *modus operandi*. The arguments for an association rather than any other form of organisation ran as follows:

- (1) It would develop more effective leadership and better communication between members.
- (2) It would provide a more suitable point of contact with other library groups and associations, both within Australasia and overseas.
- (3) It could involve individuals and institutions outside of ANZATS.

The ANZATS meeting on 28 August 1984 received the delegation cordially. It had some hesitation about deciding right there and then 'to instigate the formation of an association of Australian and New Zealand libraries', as had been proposed, deciding rather 'to investigate the formation' of such an organisation, leaving it to the next meeting of the ANZATS Council (May 1985) to make the final decision. It was left to the ANZATS executive to

undertake the investigation of the proposal, along with other proposals from the library consultation, including specific recommendations regarding the previously proposed task force on standards. (Zweck 1985)

### **Establishment of ANZTLA**

If the librarians were concerned about the tentative nature of the ANZATS decisions, they need not have worried; what would prove to be of greater concern would be some of the conditions which would be suggested for the proposed association. The May council meeting of ANZATS in 1985, at which the librarians were represented by Hans Arns, passed a five point resolution on the structure and operation of the proposed association, without formally resolving that the association be established. (ANZATS 1985, item 14)

1. The association would be named 'The Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Libraries'.
2. It would have an executive consisting of a President and a Secretary /Treasurer, both of whom would be elected by the annual meeting, together with one representative of the 'state' [sic!] in which the next meeting was to be held.
3. The executive of the association would meet annually to plan that year's library consultation and to consult on cooperative projects in which libraries were currently engaged.
4. A library bulletin would be published regularly.
5. Member schools of ANZATS would be charged a supplementary fee to their annual ANZATS membership fee to be members of the library association.

From the outset, there was strong agreement on the part of both ANZATS and the proposed ANZATL that the two associations would work closely together; however, differences of opinion soon arose regarding the precise nature of the connection between the two. Although the relationship has always been harmonious, the conflict which developed at the outset was to lead within two years to the organisational separation of the two associations.

The idea of having the membership fees of ANZATS libraries collected from ANZATS schools together with their ANZATS membership fees passed on in bulk to the proposed ANZATL was intended to guarantee the involvement of the then 57 ANZATS libraries in the new association. This involvement would both provide stability for the new association and go a long way towards ensuring that the interests of ANZATS in the development of the libraries of its member schools would always be taken into consideration. The difficulty arose from the fact that ANZATS was not willing to support financially an association which included non-ANZATS members, while the librarians wanted to have an association which was open to all libraries and individuals involved in the study of theology and religion. The ANZATS representatives expressed the concern that a more broadly based organisation could come to be dominated by non-ANZATS libraries and librarians who might not only ignore the concerns of ANZATS for its members' libraries but might develop programs which would conflict with the ANZATS aims and objectives. At the same time, it was argued that ANZATS should not be expected to foot the bill for the library association if its interests were not guaranteed in the constitution. The librarians, for their part, contended that as long as ANZATS held the purse strings they would have control over the direction of the library association's policy and program.

To cement the bond between the two associations, a specific commitment to the aims and objectives of ANZATS 'insofar as they apply to libraries' was subsequently written into the

constitution of the new association. The constitution also required that at least one member of the executive should be from the area in which the ANZATS executive was located, so that he/she could represent the library association at the meetings of the ANZATS executive and council. The new association committed itself also to hold its annual conference, where practicable, in association with the ANZATS annual conference; and it was envisaged that meetings of the executive of the proposed ANZATL would be held in conjunction with the May meeting of the ANZATS. As it turned out, the latter happened only once, both Hans Arns and Trevor Zweck representing the library association at the ANZATS May council meeting; thereafter, unfortunately, the May council meeting was discontinued for financial reasons.

The above-mentioned concerns had not yet been fully articulated when 22 librarians and eleven others met at Luther Seminary, North Adelaide on Tuesday, 27 August 1985, and made the historic decision to establish the 'Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association'. The occasion was the 1985 ANZATS Library Consultation, which was to become the last consultation held under the auspices of ANZATS. At this stage the only point of conflict between the new association and ANZATS was the name which the librarians chose to give it, following the patterns generally accepted in library

Circles rather than that proposed by the ANZATS itself. Elected to form the provisional executive of the new association were the three people who had had most to do with its establishment: Trevor Zweck (President), Hans Arns (Secretary /Treasurer) and Robert Withycombe (extra member of the executive).

The professional development segments of the program included a memorable keynote address by Dr Lawrence McIntosh (Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic.) on 'Professionalism in theological librarianship' and a major emphasis on the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). This was the first consultation to be held over two days, the aim being to include more professional development opportunities. A full-day collection development workshop, led by Gary Gorman, then a lecturer at Ballarat College of Advanced Education, was curtailed, in order to conclude the business left over from the previous day, concerning the establishment of ANZTLA, endeavouring to resolve the questions at issue between the ANZATS executive and the librarians. In the event, the attempt was unsuccessful and the two parties never did come to see eye to eye on the matters at issue between them. (Zweck 1985 b)

### **Inaugural Conference**

The inaugural conference of ANZTLA was held at St Mark's Library, Canberra, ACT, 26-27 August 1986, with an attendance of 26, all of whom were librarians. They included two librarians from overseas, both of whom were temporarily located (for differing reasons) at Luther Seminary: Dr Don Huber of Columbus, Ohio and Mr Makis Dunning of Lae, Papua New Guinea. The choice of date was an unfortunate one. It had been deemed impracticable to hold the conference in conjunction with the annual ANZATS conference, as that was being held in New Zealand and it seemed necessary to hold the inaugural conference of ANZTLA in a central location in Australia to guarantee an acceptable level of participation. The choice of date (coinciding with the ANZATS meeting, though in a different place) was intended to express solidarity with ANZATS; unwittingly, of course, it excluded ANZATS members from participation, and there never has been a very significant representation of non-librarians at any of the conferences, other than for joint sessions of the two associations.

The main task confronting the interim executive, which would become the main task of the constituting meeting in 1986, was to draw up a constitution which would be acceptable to the

ANZATS executive on the one hand and the librarians on the other. For both philosophical and practical reasons, they chose to pattern the new constitution on that of ANZATS. This would express solidarity with ANZATS and the experience of ANZATS over many years suggested the adapted constitution should prove to be eminently workable.

As indicated above, differences in thinking between the ANZATS executive and the librarians involved the name of the new organisation, but the really crucial sticking point was the question of membership - ANZATS wanting to restrict the association to ANZATS institutions and the librarians wanting it to be more broadly based. But there was a further question about membership on which the librarians themselves had yet to reach agreement: Was the association to consist of libraries or librarians - or, as it eventually turned out, a combination of both? The constituting meeting made seven other amendments to the constitution proposed by the interim executive, mainly sharpening up the wording of various clauses, but the membership question occupied several hours of the conference's time, including the lunch-time meeting of an ad hoc committee. Eventually, a lengthy amendment was adopted, subject to the approval of the ANZATS executive. It provided for four categories of membership:

- (1) Libraries of the member schools of ANZATS;
  - (2) Libraries of other tertiary institutions offering courses in theological education or religious studies;
  - (3) Institutions or organisations associated with theological education or religious studies
  - (4) Individuals interested in or concerned with theological education or religious studies.
- (ANZTLA 1986, item 4).

These categories were clearly intended to open up membership in the association to institutions and individuals not specifically Christian and, indeed, specifically not Christian. Even at the present date, non-Christian institutions and individuals are noticeably absent from ANZTLA, but it was inevitable that the ANZATS executive, which had voiced its disapproval of the inclusion of non-ANZATS Christian institutions, would disapprove of these even broader amendments to the constitution. The librarians contended that their work in the service of theological education brought them into constant contact with these categories of institutions and individuals and that such categories had already been involved in all of the ANZATS library consultations that had been held; and that, moreover, these libraries had a lot to offer the association which would be in keeping with the aims and objectives of ANZATS for its member libraries. A flurry of letters ensued between the President of ANZTLA and the Secretary of ANZATS, seeking to resolve the impasse which had developed between the two associations.

Subsequently the President and Secretary of ANZTLA met with the ANZATS executive at Hunter's Hill, NSW on 15 May 1987. The meeting accepted the ANZTLA proposal, effectively severing the organisational tie-up between the two associations. There was some concern on the part of ANZTLA as to whether the ANZATS libraries would continue to remain with the ANZTLA organisation. Membership fees were collected from these libraries in 1987 by ANZATS, thus automatically involving them all in the new association. When ANZTLA was left to sell itself to the constituency in 1988, it was a great relief to the organisers to note that virtually all of the ANZATS libraries were happy to renew their membership. To this day, these libraries have remained the backbone of the association, and have also been the greatest beneficiaries of it.

The constituting meeting in 1986 elected Trevor Zweck as its President and has continued to

retain him in that office to the present time. Hans Arns was elected Secretary/Treasurer, which position he held till 1989. Kim Robinson (Moore Theological College, Newtown, NSW) was elected the first editor of the bulletin which was to be established. Barbara Darling (Ridley College, Parkville, Vic) was elected as the extra member of the executive. It was also decided that the gathering of annual statistics should become a project of the association, and Edmund Perrin was elected the first Statistician. It had been decided already at the 1983 consultation that statistics should be collected and an unauthorised beginning had been initiated by Trevor Zweck and Gary Gorman in 1984. The work they had done would now become the basis of the continuing effort. (ANZTLA 1986).

The highlight of the professional development segments of the inaugural conference was a hard-hitting keynote address by Averill M.B. Edwards, Principal Librarian (Planning), National Library of Australia, on the topic, 'Theological librarians: an undervalued asset'. Gary Gorman led a workshop on collection development as a follow-up to his workshop in Adelaide. Marika Simpson (Canberra College of Advanced Education) led a workshop on user education, and Cheryl Pye (ABN) led one on standard subject headings. Some delegates took advantage of being in Canberra to visit the National Library, giving special attention to the rare book collection and to the operation of the Australian Bibliographic Network; others visited either the Canberra College of Advanced Education or the Australian National University. (Robinson 1987).

### **Australasian Religion Index**

The second annual conference, held at Ridley College, Parkville, Vic with a record enrolment of 44, formally ended the organisational link with ANZATS; but it was significant for the inauguration of a project which would bring major benefits to ANZATS schools, as indeed to all researchers in religion and theology. The continued production of the Australasian religion index on a shoe-string budget and with a team of more than twenty volunteer indexers from across the length and breadth of Australia and New Zealand has been one of the truly remarkable achievements of ANZTLA and a major contribution to the world of theological bibliography. The idea was the brain-child of Gary Gorman, now lecturing at what was to become the Charles Sturt University Riverina, Wagga Wagga, NSW. Acting on his own initiative, he presented a carefully researched paper and specific proposals to the Ridley conference. He noted that there were more than 300 religious serials being published in Australia (apart from New Zealand), of which only nine were being indexed in *Religion index one*. He noted further the noticeable absence of specifically Australian research tools in the fields of theology and religion. The need was an obvious one, and the conference adopted the proposals with some trepidation, but with considerable enthusiasm. A pilot project, coordinated by Gorman, was set in motion and, on the basis of this trial venture, ANZTLA joined forces with the Centre for Library Studies (later to become the Centre for Information Studies), Wagga Wagga, NSW to make the publication of the index a permanent project of ANZTLA. The index now covers more than 60 theological journals published in Australia and New Zealand. It is published semi-annually, with an annual cumulation. The index provides an alphabetical listing listing by author, with subject and Biblical indexes leading back to the listings through a control number. It also includes a book review index.

The elections at the 1987 AGM produced a change in editorship of the Newsletter and commenced a partnership which was to last for six years and publish 17 issues. Lynn Pryor

(Whitley College, Parkville, Vic) was elected Editor and Philip Harvey (Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic) Assistant Editor. Peter Mendham was elected as extra member of the executive and Trevor Zweck and Hans Arns re-elected President and Secretary respectively.

### Standards finalised

It had always been intended that ANZTLA would, whenever practicable, hold its conference in conjunction with the joint annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools and the Australian and New Zealand Society for Theological Studies. This happened in Melbourne in 1987, the ANZTLA conference preceding the ANZATS/ANZSTS conference, the two groups coming together briefly in the dining room of Ridley College; however, in 1988 it proved possible to have an overlapping joint session, the ANZATS/ANZSTS conference on this occasion preceding that of ANZTLA. Held in Australia's bicentennial year, the conference featured Australian and New Zealand religious history. The joint session with ANZTLA was commenced by Dr John Henley (Melbourne College of Divinity) and Dr William Dumbrell (Moore Theological College) echoing one of the major concerns of the 1983 consultation on the need to provide adequate facilities and resources for theological research in Australia and New Zealand. These addresses paved the way for the ANZTLA keynote address, delivered by its President, Trevor Zweck on 'The future of theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand'. Not surprisingly, it highlighted the lack of both human and financial resources, outlining some proposals for improving the status of resources and services.

The 1988 conference was held at Burgmann College, Australian National University, Acton, ACT on 8-10 September with an enrolment of 22. Other professional development sessions included an address on rare book collections by Margaret Dent, Rare Book Librarian, National Library of Australia and another on the antiquarian book trade by Brian Howes, a lecturer in library studies at what was then the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education, Wagga Wagga.

One of the momentous decisions of this conference was the decision to proceed with the publication of the *Australasian religion index*. Equally significant however was the finalisation of the standards document which had been in gestation for five years. The task force envisaged by the 1983 consultation to produce this document had not yet been formed when the next consultation was held in 1984, but a draft set of standards was offered by Trevor Zweck. Following lengthy discussion and revision, this document was submitted to the ANZATS executive and was approved for distribution to ANZATS schools by the ANZATS May council meeting in 1985 (the same meeting that approved the formation of a library association). Another revision by Zweck was presented to the 1985 consultation, but had to take second place to the more urgent business of the establishment of ANZTLA. When the document was eventually sent out to ANZATS schools for comment, it was significant that the only response came from Lawrence McIntosh (a librarian specifically connected with no school). It was he who was given the task (at the inaugural conference in 1986) of undertaking a further revision. He presented a greatly expanded and very much improved document to the 1987 conference. It was referred to the ANZTLA chapters for further study and, with minor amendments, finally adopted by ANZTLA on 9 September 1988. They subsequently received endorsement by the Australian Library and Information Association (in 1989) and the New Zealand Library Association (in 1991). Thus was realised the concept which had



given the initial impetus to the foundation of ANZTLA. The standards cover objectives, governance and administration, staffing, finance and budgeting, delivery of services, collections, facilities, instruction, associations, and cooperation.

Election time took on a special significance at this meeting, as it was necessary to put in place an administrative structure for the production of the *Australasian religion index*. It had been decided that the index would be published by the Centre for Information Studies, Wagga Wagga, NSW with Gary Gorman as Coordinating Editor. The meeting gratefully accepted the offer of Joint Theological Library to attend to the collating and primary editing of the data sheets from the voluntary indexers; thus it was inevitable that the Editorial Management Committee would be centred in Melbourne and Lawrence McIntosh was elected Convenor of the Committee and Philip Harvey, Convenor of the Technical sub-committee. An Editorial Board was also appointed, with representatives from all the states and New Zealand joining the representatives of the Centre to direct editorial policy. In other elections, Judith Bright was elected as extra member of the executive. (Pryor 1988).

### **The New Zealand connection**

1989 was the year in which the theological library movement came with full force to New Zealand. There had been one New Zealander (a non-librarian) at the 1983 consultation, but no New Zealand librarians had attended any of the meetings until the 1985 consultation, at which ANZTLA was formed. They were few in number, but made their presence felt, delivering a passionate plea for the inclusion of New Zealand in any plans and projects involving theological libraries. Since then, there has been a solid representation of New Zealanders at all the ANZTLA conferences, and their needs and concerns have been impossible to ignore. In 1989 came their turn to host the conference in Auckland.

So it came about that nine Australians and fourteen New Zealanders came together on the magnificent campus of the College of St John the Evangelist on 2-4 July for a truly memorable conference, important not only for the high-class professional input and social activities it provided, but particularly for the boost it gave to theological librarianship in The Land of the Long White Cloud. The organisers had managed to round up almost the full complement of theological librarians in the country and followed the conference itself with formation of the New Zealand chapter.

The focus of the conference was on reference work. Rev Harold Pidwell (Baptist Theological College of New Zealand) presented a survey on reference from a user's point of view; Coral Riding (Auckland Public Library) brought a lifetime of astute library experience to her paper on the reference interview; Margaret Tibbles (Satis, Auckland) took up the highly specialised topic of telephone reference services (backed up by a John Cleese video); and Lawrence McIntosh presented a scholarly address on the evaluation of reference tools.

The elections saw the retirement from office of the founding Secretary/ Treasurer, Hans Arns, his place being taken by Val Canty (Parkin-Wesley Theological College, Wayville, SA), the present incumbent. Liz Jordan (Trinity Theological College, Auchenflower, Qld) was elected as extra member of the executive.

### **AULOTS**

*The Australasian union list of serials in theological collections (AULOTS)* rates only a passing mention in the minutes of the 1990 annual meeting, with a resolution encouraging its distribu-

tion and use, but this brief mention belies the inestimable value that AULOTS has been to theological librarianship and theological research. It had its origins in a union list of periodicals published in mimeograph format by Fr John O'Rourke (St Francis Xavier Seminary, Rostrevor, SA) in 1975. When a new edition was required, the task was picked up by Hans Arns; working with the aid of a computer, he edited the data sent

in on 5 x 3 cards and had it published in hardcover by the National Catholic Research Council, soon after the 1983 consultation. Reacting to the rapid growth of both libraries and serial collections, ANZTLA decided in 1987 to undertake a revision. Again, Hans Arns took up the challenge of compiling it; this time not simply on his own initiative, but at the mandate of ANZTLA. The first task was to create an interactive database from the data held from the earlier edition. Computer listings were compiled for all previously contributing libraries and sent out to them for updating. The resulting second edition was published by the Catholic Institute of Sydney in 1990. It contains locations and holdings information for 3339 periodicals in 85 collections in Australia and New Zealand. The value of such a research tool to theological libraries is obvious enough, but is especially important in the Australasian context, where the vast majority are not automated and have no access to the national bibliographic databases; however, AULOTS has become a vitally important research tool for academic and research libraries, which are the beneficiaries of most of the interlibrary loan traffic of theological libraries.

Held in the dove-shaped buildings of Pius XII Regional Seminary, Banyo, 5-8 July, the 1990 conference attracted an attendance of 36 and gave special attention to the practicalities of theological librarianship. The keynote address, given by Coratie Jenkin, Librarian, Country Fire Authority, Melbourne, was on cooperation and rationalisation, introducing a theme which was to be taken up again: 'If libraries can do it, they can do it together'. Philip Harvey presented a thoughtful and perceptive paper on the problems of subject cataloguing for theological libraries. Concurrent classification workshops were held for users of both the Dewey and Pettee classifications. The latter were to become a regular feature of ANZTLA conferences. Other sessions took up a variety of practical issues, such as automation, cooperation, collection development, journal indexing, the uses of CD-ROM technology, the work of the Christian Research Association, directories of theological libraries, and the collection and use of statistics.

### **User education**

The aim of the 1991 conference was to highlight the need for information literacy and to establish user education on a more scholarly and scientific basis. Held at Morling College, Eastwood, NSW, 5-8 July, the conference attracted a record attendance of 52 participants. In a double keynote session, Joyce Kirk (School of Information Studies, University of Technology - Kuring-gai) presented a paper on the topic 'Information literacy: what does it mean for user education?' and Robin Walsh, Reader Services Librarian, Macquarie University, spoke on 'The changing face of reader education'. Although the timing was purely coincidental, a conference with such an emphasis on user education was an appropriate occasion to introduce a proposal for a style manual for research and writing in the fields of theology and religion. It was to take several years to bring to fruition. Published in 1994 by the Centre for Information Studies in association with ANZATS and ANZTLA, it was written by Lawrence McIntosh and revised by a committee of representatives of the two associations. It recognises the need for a manual which is adapted to the literature of religion and theology and which takes into account a range of local circumstances, including the style preferences of both the

Australian and New Zealand governments.

As the conference was held immediately prior to the ANZATS/ANZSTS conference, the opportunity was taken, for the second time, to hold a joint session with representatives of ANZATS. The focus was on faculty-librarian relationships, Lawrence McIntosh leading a discussion on such topics as the role of the library committee, the roles of librarians and lecturers in book selection, and the qualifications of librarians.

### **Working together**

Working together has always been the objective of ANZTLA, and never was the aim more clearly focused than at the seventh annual conference at historic Luther Campus, North Adelaide, SA, 26-29 June 1992, with a near-record attendance of 51. The theme was set by Mr Euan Miller, Director, State Records and Information Policy for the South Australian government, addressing the topic 'The third millennium : the place of theological libraries in the Australian and New Zealand theological community'. The theme was picked up by Ms Margaret Henty, Conspectus Officer, National Library of Australia, emphasising the role conspectus and the distributed national collection have to play in developing the facilities for nationwide cooperation. Gary Gorman had addressed the 1985 Adelaide consultation on the topic of collection development, and he was back in Adelaide again for this conference, speaking on the topic of collection evaluation, the necessary prerequisite to conspectus. These lectures on the theory of cooperation were backed up by two reports from the field.

Mara Goodall and Gai Smith reported on the production of a cooperative collection development policy for the Sydney College of Divinity, the first such coordinated approach ever undertaken by theological libraries in this part of the world. This was followed by a report by Barbara Frame of cooperative collection development efforts among libraries with theological collections in the Dunedin area of New Zealand.

### **Publications**

Some of the most important activities of ANZTLA are reflected in publications of considerable importance to theological librarianship. The *ANZTLA newsletter* has been a valuable source of professional education and enrichment, as well as a frontline information service on the activities of the association, its member libraries, and librarianship in general. The *Australasian religion index* has established itself as an indispensable resource for theological research, providing a unique coverage of local theology and church history. The *Australasian union list of serials in theological collections* has likewise become an indispensable resource for the location of periodicals required for theological research. 1991 saw the appearance of another important resource and the beginning of work on yet another. *Collections of religion and theology in Australia and New Zealand*, is not, strictly speaking, a publication of ANZTLA, but it was produced with the encouragement of ANZTLA and is proving a valuable resource for its libraries. Compiled by Coralie Jenkin and published by Auslib Press, it is a directory of more than 300 theological libraries and religious or theological collections in other libraries. Lawrence McIntosh's *ANZATS/ANZTLA style manual for writers of papers and theses in theology and religion* is also essentially a work of private authorship, but is published by ANZTLA in association with ANZATS. It adapts the prevailing thinking on style to the needs of theological research, taking the needs and requirements of the local situation into special consideration.

### **A decade of achievement**

In his report to the Annual General Meeting in 1992, the President was able to point to a decade of significant achievement in cooperative activities among theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand. Theological librarianship has come a long way in Australia and New Zealand in the decade under review, due, in no small measure, to the influence of ANZTLA. The association has opened up the lines of communication between libraries, providing valuable points of contact and fostering a sense of the importance of theological librarianship as a profession. It has provided leadership and direction to individual libraries, providing librarians with a focal point for voicing their concerns and their aspirations. It has been a major agency of professional enrichment, through its conferences and its newsletter. Its publications are providing a vital service to the field of theological research and have won a position of respect in the wider library community. A decade of working together has won for ANZTLA an indispensable place in the theological community. While many challenges remain to be faced and many problems remain to be solved, ANZTLA has shown that it is capable of facing the issues and providing the leadership required by the theological library community.

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## **Expressions of interest**

sought for the position of

**Editor**

**ANZTLA Newsletter**

**The April 2002 issue of the Newsletter will be the final production from the desk of the present Editor. Members of ANZTLA are encouraged to consider offering for this responsibility.**

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