

- Explore strategies for shared professional development through, for instance, regional staff training programs or workshops (listed on the website) covering issues like software, time management, information literacy
- Strengthen and extend the use of the ANZTLA Forum for professional and educative purposes, including reporting on insights gained from conferences, colleagues etc
- Strengthen *ARI*
- Maintain the currency of *AULOTS* via the web
- Explore consortia for library automation software
- Develop and maintain a community borrowers' directory
- Establish a cooperative approach to promoting standards for, eg, salaries and conditions
- Provide support for Asian and Pacific Island libraries through eg "how to" manuals, and standards for setting up libraries

**One important consortia issue - the incorporation of ANZTLA - has already been achieved!**

*Nancy Clarke*



## The President's Dinner Speech

*The President's Dinner Speech is placed here as, it seemed to the Editorial Committee, it relates quite well to the issue of Co-operation.*

On talking to the communications lecturer at my place of work about this speech, he suggested that I should start with a joke - one appropriate to the occasion. I told him that I was going to talk about doors, and that I wasn't much good at jokes. A few days later he phoned and told me that he had the perfect library joke for me. He said that it was such a terrible joke that it was bound to amuse.

*A Librarian was asleep in bed at 3 am when the telephone rang. A voice at the other end wanted to know when the library opened. The Librarian, quite annoyed at being woken, said grumpily that the library opened at 8.30 am, whereupon the caller said that he had hoped it was sooner. The Librarian wanted to know why anyone would need to get into a library before 8.30 am. The response was "I don't want to get in, I want to get out".*

Doors. Why doors? Canberra is a place of significance for ANZTLA. It is our birth place. As you will know, in August 1986, a group of us met as the first Conference of the Association here in Canberra, at St Marks. Some of those inaugural conference people are here tonight. So I thought it might be fitting to reflect on what ANZTLA has given us over these 17 years.

For me personally, and no doubt for all of you, ANZTLA has been a doorway: in particular a doorway to colleagues working in the same specialised areas of librarianship. It has been the doorway to friendships, both within Australia or New Zealand and across the Tasman, stretching also to Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, and Vanuatu. It has been a doorway to asking for that tricky interloan request, knowing that the librarian at the other end

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of the email or fax or letter, you have most probably drunk a glass of wine with, late at night in one conference venue or another.

ANZTLA has provided many doorways to theological information. Trevor Zweck, writing on the occasion of our 10th birthday (also celebrated here in Canberra) highlighted the six aims of the Association as being the framework of what we had achieved together. In his summary,

- we have provided a forum for interaction,
- we have fostered the development and improvement of theological libraries,
- we have developed and implemented standards for theological librarianship,
- we have fostered inter-library cooperation,
- we have published and distributed literature on theological librarianship,
- and we have fostered contact with other library associations and groups.

What Trevor didn't include was all the sampling of the coffee bars, restaurants, being straight nosed in other theological libraries, the bus trips and all those other things that happen as side lines at conferences.

For a small group with limited funding, I believe we have achieved huge things and together, with each one contributing, we can continue to achieve huge things. So I would ask you all when back in your own libraries to reflect on how the opening of doors has assisted you as a theological librarian and your clientele in accessing our libraries.

Reflect also on whether the doors are open in your libraries. One of our distance library borrowers obviously felt the doors were completely open to him. His overdue books came back with the following note

*Dear Librarians,*

*I'm late. It would be hypocritical to say I'm sorry, for the return is reluctant, and*

*intellectually premature - but I can say 'please forgive me'.*

Last year, while on leave in England, my research interests caused me to open doorways to some of the more significant of research libraries in England. This was not quite as easy as it generally is in Australian and New Zealand theological libraries, as there were no known colleagues to assist.

The most memorable request for access was to the Bodleian Library, in Oxford. Having written ahead, early one morning I joined the queue to apply for a reader's ticket. I filled in the answers to many questions, the most significant of which appeared to be whether I was a graduate of Oxford University or not. I had to confess not, and offered the name of one that they probably didn't know of in Canterbury, New Zealand. I was then in turn ushered in to Dr Pusey (which seemed somewhat significant to my Anglican College background). He also checked the lack of Oxford background, and then asked me to read the following:

*I hereby undertake not to remove from the Library, or to mark, deface, or injure in any way, any volume, document or other object belonging to it or in its custody; not to bring into the Library or kindle therein any fire or flame, and not to smoke in the Library; and I promise to obey all rules of the Library.*

It is somewhat difficult to keep a straight face reading those words from another era in front of a computer screen where your photograph has just been scanned, and with a room full of other people listening to you. I later found out the reason for the "Are you an Oxford graduate?" Apparently, if so, the learned gentleman goes and dons cap and gown in your honour.

So Canberra, who hosted the beginning of opening the door into our theological libraries, and as the only city to host four ANZTLA conferences, we appreciate being back here once more.

*Judith Bright*