
**Setting the scene
for compiling a
Professional Development Portfolio**

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Ongoing Professional Development is a topic which holds a great deal of interest for me. I have been involved in professional development very intentionally for the last 10 years or more. I have found that it brings a focus and a richness to my daily work and keeps me in touch with innovations or advances in the library profession.

There are many ways in which you can continue to develop your skills and also give something back to your profession. Whether it be by taking courses in Library and Information Studies, attending short courses, attending conferences and belonging to the local branch of your Library Association.

Remember to apply for funding via scholarships or through sponsorship from your local region of ALIA (Australian Library & Information Association) or LIANZA (Library & Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa). The more areas in which you can be involved help build networks which can then be used to enhance your career options.

At the recent AGM of LIANZA, Hikuwai region, held in Auckland, the guest speakers were Chris Szekely (who many of you will remember as our plenary speaker at the ANZTLA Conference in Auckland, 2001) and Alison Dobbie, Library Manager from Auckland City Libraries.

Chris spoke about his visit to the International Indigenous Librarian's Forum in Jokkmokk, Sweden. Chris has been instrumental in establishing the Indigenous Librarian's Forum and he spoke about the personal and professional benefits of establishing international networks.

Alison Dobbie is a member of the prestig-

ious Bertelsmann Foundation in which librarians engage in research. She also highlighted the benefits both professionally and personally of building networks and encouraged all librarians to think of ways in which they could expand their networks.

I will now outline my most recent undertaking in the professional development area. In my contract as Librarian at Carey I am entitled to study leave which can be used either for ongoing study or for a particular project.

As I was travelling to the UK, I decided to put a proposal to the Principal of the College suggesting that I visit Theological College Libraries while I was in that part of the world. I chose colleges which were doing the same core business as Carey or similar. So they were colleges where students were training for Pastoral Ministry or they offered courses with a Mission focus.

My main focus for discussion with colleagues was to be that of Collection Development. I also wanted to see what they were doing in the area of Information Literacy and what technologies they were using to support the library and its mission statement.

Once the proposal was accepted, I then made contact with the librarians at each of the colleges to make a specific time to visit. Each college had a website plus a library home page which made it an easy task to contact each librarian in person. When I came to make the actual visit I felt as if I already knew some of the people as we had communicated several times.

We started our trip in Singapore and here I visited the Singapore Bible College

(www.sbc.edu.sg) We stayed on site at SBC and so I was able to get a good look at their campus.

The library is a pleasant airy building which has only recently been finished as a purpose built library facility. The English and Chinese collections are equal in content and size with the collection numbering about 50,000 items.

We offer a Diploma in Mission (Mandarin) at Carey and by viewing this collection it reminded me of our responsibilities to provide adequate resources for our Mandarin speaking students.

We then travelled to Oxford where I was able to visit The Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (www.ocms.ac.uk) This is a post-graduate institution which is dedicated to the research and practice of wholistic Christian mission.

OCMS is situated in the heart of Oxford in Woodstock Rd. They are using a building which was originally a church; thus there are disadvantages in not having a customised building.

There is a bookshop on site where I was able to see a listing of their publications under the name Regnum Press. The Librarian was away on other business at the time I called making the visit less helpful than it otherwise could have been.

Regent's Park College, Oxford (www.rpc.ox.ac.uk) (*picture p.25*) is the equivalent of our college in NZ in that we both train students for Pastoral Ministry in the Baptist denomination and also have independent university students. These students have access to their own library plus the multitude of electronic databases and publications available from Oxford University, which contains approximately 35 colleges.

On the same site is the Centre for Baptist History and Heritage which contains the Angus Library and Archives. The Angus Library contains more than 70,000 items relating to the life and history of Baptists in Britain and the wider scene.

I was able to visit the College twice while

in Oxford and once I was accompanied by a lecturer from Carey who has a strong interest in archival matters. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to talk with our colleagues in a "sister" college of such long standing. We were made to feel extremely welcome and the exchange of ideas was beneficial to both parties.

I was able to purchase books and pamphlets from the Archives and get a complete listing of their publications. There were two librarians plus an archivist working there and we discussed attending conferences in one another's countries and even discussed the idea of doing a job exchange!

I next visited All Nations Christian College in Hertfordshire (www.allnations.ac.uk) (*picture p.25*). All Nations offers training for mission. Their mission statement reads "Mission training - not just a specialty it's everything we do".

I had a personal interest in visiting All Nations because the father of our current Principal at Carey had been the Principal at All Nations, during the 1980's. Their book stock which numbers 38,000 volumes is scattered through the rooms of the stately old home and there are strong periodical holdings. There is an excellent, well stocked Bookstore on site which must be extremely useful for the student body and the Librarian.

The College is in a beautiful location but there was a sense of isolation and lack of connection to other colleges for sharing of resources. We were shown around the campus by a theology student who was a librarian in a former life! Stan Bruce, the librarian, was away on leave during the Easter break. I discovered that Easter is not a good time to make formal visits as many staff take extra leave around this time.

While in London, I went to visit Spurgeon's College in South Norwood (www.spurgeons.ac.uk) (*picture p.25*). The college was established in 1856 by Charles Haddon Spurgeon who was a prominent Baptist preacher.over

They train students for ministry and mission so their core business is also the same as ours and they are another "sister" college of long standing. We were made to feel very welcome and enjoyed our time having lunch with the students and staff, who are a vibrant and stimulating bunch!

The library contains c.50,000 volumes and subscribes to 100 journals. The library rambles over 3 floors with a self-issuing system on the top floor. The various floors are watched by the Librarian on closed circuit TV - with signs around saying "Big sister is watching you"- which is rather fun or maybe not! The students have to come to the bottom floor to ask for Reference help so the situation is less than ideal.

Plans are drawn up regularly for a new Library facility but never seem to come to fruition! The old perennial problem of money!

Spurgeon's College has reciprocal borrowing arrangements with three other Institutions and so their students are well catered for in the range of material available to them. Judy Powles, also manages the Heritage Room which houses the material relating to Charles Haddon Spurgeon. This material is in high demand, particularly by Americans who make regular visits to Spurgeon's in order

to lay their hands on any material relating to Spurgeon.

How did I benefit both personally and professionally from my time in the UK?

- By meeting up with Judy Powles (Spurgeons) and Susan Mills (Regent's Park College) in particular, I was able to renew the links which had previously been made by Kim Robinson when he attended the ABTAPL Conference in York in 2000.

An invitation was issued to me to attend the ABTAPL Conference in Chester in April 2002 but unfortunately our travel plans couldn't be reworked to fit it in. There will be another time!

- As a result of these contacts being made, both Judy and Susan are interested in attending the ANZTLA Conference in Perth in July 2003!
- By visiting the specifically chosen Libraries, I gained much by interacting with my professional colleagues, I enlarged my networks, I affirmed what I was doing in my role at Carey and I came back inspired.

There is something very stimulating about having time-out to talk with one's colleagues who "speak the same language" and enjoy taking the time to chew the fat. **Start compiling your Professional Development portfolio today!**

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

New South Wales

The **Australian College of Ministries** (formerly the Churches of Christ) recently moved from its premises in Carlingford and will in future be providing courses only through distance education. It is planned that ACOM'S library will be relocated to the library of Wesley Institute for Ministry and the Arts at Drummoyne in Sydney. However this is pending the approval of money by Wesley Institute for the housing and processing of the collection.

The **Columban Mission Institute** is closing its College at North Turrumurra after 43 years of training priests for the mission fields of South America, Asia and the Pacific. The Columbans will instead establish three new centres in Sydney as well as a Student Formation Centre at Strathfield. The three centres, to be established at the Australian Catholic University, will include a centre for promoting communion with the Church in China, for Christian-Muslim relations and for peace, ecology and justice. The Columban missiology library will be housed in the Veech Library of the Catholic Institute of Sydney in Strathfield, with other sections of the library going to other Catholic institutions.