
Tabor College, Tasmania

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History

Tabor College Tasmania had its beginnings in 1986, as a part-time Bible school offering one subject per semester. In 1995, it became a registered training organisation, The Tasmanian College of Ministries, offering full/part-time accredited study toward an Advanced Certificate of Religious Studies (Applied Christianity) and then, in 1997, a diploma in Community Services (Christian Ministry).

In 2000, the college became part of Tabor College Australia and now offers a Certificate IV or a Diploma of Christian Studies, a Diploma of Christian Ministry and a Diploma of Christian Counselling, as well as supporting Tabor distance students who are studying at degree level.

The Library

The library began to take shape in 1995, with my agreeing to "help sort out a few books" to provide a resource that met the required standards. So began my library "career"!

The aims of the library are to support the college's desire to pursue excellence in teaching, research, and empowering for service to the community, by providing quality resources and services appropriate to the courses being offered by the college; and to encourage the students in their learning and the faculty in their teaching, by providing materials that facilitate quality research.

Difficulties

The most difficult aspect has been space-related. I keep running out of it! Sound familiar? However, I have reached the place where there are no more spaces to

usurp for library purposes! Having to function in very restricted conditions can become disheartening when one longs to provide quality materials and facilities.

Not having Internet access tends to isolate me from the assistance that I could receive from other library catalogues. Happily, the Hobart College of TAFE campus, which offers the Library & Information Studies (LIS) diploma, is a five-minute walk away. So I have access to various authorities and librarians "tools".

Fulfilment

The aspect I most enjoy is seeing students and faculty find just what they are looking for. It is also very satisfying to have distance students studying through Tabor in Adelaide, or some other theological college, expressing their delight at being able to find what they are needing—right here in Hobart. (Non-Tabor students may subscribe for a small fee.)

Along the way, I have had the help of many volunteers (cleaning, covering, processing, stocktaking), the constant, active support and encouragement of the principal and faculty members and ever-increasing interest from outside the college. I have at times been overwhelmed by donations of books! So, despite the problems which are inherent to librarianship, I have not felt bereft.



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