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ANZTLA

Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association

ANZTLA Newsletter No. 58
Autumn 2006

Katharina Penner on Theological Libraries in
Central and Eastern Europe

Kerrie Stevens on Performance Evaluation

Sean Volke on Blogs, Wikis & RSS

Kerrie Hunter on the Australian Baptist
Heritage Collection

Lesley Utting on ABTAPL in Prague

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LIMITED
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ANZTLA is an association of libraries and individuals involved and interested in theological librarianship. It seeks to cooperate with the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools and to promote its aims and objectives insofar as they apply to libraries and librarianship. However, membership is open to all libraries and individuals sharing the interests of the Association, upon payment of the prescribed fee. ANZTLA holds an annual conference and local chapters of the Association in the major cities provide a forum for local interaction.

For further information see the web site: www.anztla.org

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- relevant articles and items of interest to theological librarianship;
- scholarly articles;
- information on all aspects of librarianship;
- book reviews;
- library profiles; and
- news about libraries and librarians.

Articles should be typed and submitted to the Editor, on disk, or preferably forwarded via e-mail as an attachment.

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Editorial Note

At the Association's AGM in Sydney in 2005 it was agreed that the frequency of ANZTLA Newsletters be reduced from three issues per year to two issues. This change takes effect in 2006, from now on you can expect an Autumn issue and a Spring issue.

Philip Harvey & Kathryn Duncan

Theological Libraries in Central and Eastern Europe

Katharina Penner

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Introduction

It will be very difficult, if not impossible, to discuss in one short paper theological libraries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)¹ with their needs, challenges and opportunities, so I am bound to either repeat in review fashion already known clichés or generalise on certain issues without differentiating how they apply to each of the various theological libraries in particular. Central and Eastern Europe are blessed with a rich diversity in cultures and languages, with a variety of denominations and contrasting church structures, with a breadth of library activities in theological schools and a variety of methods libraries use to get their work done. Perhaps one can speak about needs and challenges of libraries in a particular country, but even this would not take into account all the local differences, the specifics and management structures of individual libraries, and their different funding situations.

Because we are dealing with libraries of theological schools, the contexts will vary even more widely. These schools each seem to require an individual analysis; they are influenced by local circumstances, by denominational attitudes, by the fact that their budget is based on donations and not on governmental support, by the attitude of the school's leadership toward the library and what importance the library is given in the overall educational process² and many other factors. Often the decision

1. The term "Eastern and Central Europe" is not quite clear and is being used in different ways. Still carrying Cold War connotations Eastern Europe is thus understood as the post-Soviet territory while Central Europe covers several countries of the former Warsaw Pact; such as Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Often other countries are included in this term, such as Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav states, Albania, which more precisely should be called South Eastern Europe. It is interesting to note that at the end of the 18th century Europe was understood in its northern and southern parts, but not with the division into East and West (Virkus, 2003).

2. One will usually encounter statements such as the "library is at the centre of the educational process", but what practical consequences follow from this? In what ways is the library central in the institution? Does it become obvious, for example, in the quality of staff hired to work in the library, in the budget allocated to the library, in an

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making process does not take place in the library, but by a faculty representative without library training who has received the responsibility for the development of the library. One can thus not expect any uniformly informed perception of library issues and standardised ways of dealing with them - each school and library develop their own survival mechanisms. Some schools have a well functioning Library committee and emphasise team leadership, others do not and, if the library has more than one employee, library management usually mirrors in the library structure the leadership structure of the school.

It is, nevertheless, possible to list some issues that are common to theological schools in Central and Eastern Europe and point out several aspects that cause problems and need to be addressed in order to advance theological libraries in this part of the world. In this article I will only selectively mention some issues from the past that still have implications for today and then move on to three aspects of library work, view of technology, personnel and resources, that I consider crucial at this moment of development in theological libraries of Central and Eastern Europe.

1. Issues from the past and implications for today

Central and Eastern European countries used to have good public and research libraries, often holding multiple copies of books, especially textbooks. They were

emphasis on self-directed learning that takes place in the library instead of scheduling the days full with one-way lectures, in how intimately teachers are familiar with the library collection and are using it themselves? It has been often observed that libraries in CEE often have a "rather marginal status" in the overall university power structure, without "any tradition of liaison with academic staff" (Pors and Edwards, 126; see also Pejova, 2002). Theological schools seem to continue this mentality.

The statement by Raymond Morris, former librarian of Yale Divinity School, may sound somewhat idealistic, but it does underline this issue: "Few indices point more accurately to the health of an educational institution than its attitude toward its library, and the sacrifice it is willing to make for it", quoted in Trotti, 158.

well supported by the state that promoted a culture of the book - emphasised literacy, subsidised prices for books, organised reading clubs and other literacy supporting activities in libraries.³ Since the breakdown of communism, the situation has changed dramatically. Funding for libraries has dropped tremendously, which means libraries have had to cut back staff, cannot perform all of their previous services or purchase new books and periodicals. Many of these countries are at the moment going through a phase of "pure capitalism", less socially balanced than in countries who had professed capitalism for some time. Only profit-making enterprises survive in pure capitalism - libraries do not make a financial profit⁴ and are overrun by the developments. Libraries in theological schools encounter similar problems; they are perceived as a large black hole that takes up much money from the (constantly limited) budget but returns no visible product, at least not immediately.

Censorship and the suppression of religion under communism meant that there were no or very few theological libraries. So when in the early 1990s the Iron Curtain fell and theological schools and their libraries received a chance to develop, often they started from scratch. To be sure, theological schools did exist before (Orthodox, Catholic, and some Protestant schools) and theological literature was being published - openly as well as underground, in the countries themselves or in the *diaspora* - but not in sufficient numbers and/or quality to stock a theological research library in

3. See, for example, a report on Bulgaria by John Pateman "Libraries in Eastern Europe: then, but not now", *Focus on International and Comparative Librarianship* 29/2 (1998):110.

4. Consider, however, the UNESCO White paper on information literacy in developing countries, prepared by Zdravka Pejova, where it becomes abundantly clear that "lack of knowledgeable, skilled and efficient use of information [which libraries, if equipped well, can provide access to and teach how to use]...directly affects productivity in all spheres of life and work - in education, research, business, administration". Insufficient attention to develop strong libraries and information centres now, be it in theological or business and governmental institutions, will prove very detrimental later.

the national language. This scarcity of theological materials in national languages remains depressingly obvious today and a significant change is not foreseeable in the near future.⁵ Thus CEE theological libraries continue to encounter serious problems in acquisition; the output of publications in national languages, especially in the area of religion, is quite low and often these are (well or less well done) translations from other languages, devotional materials, fiction or poetry. The latter sell better and in higher numbers. If libraries acquire English language theological materials, they struggle with insufficient finances as they need to pay in hard currency; it is difficult to select valuable materials and catalogue books in a foreign language. They often also question whether they appreciate such an influx of English language textbooks and with it the dominance of Anglo-Saxon theology, which may be quite different from their religious tradition.⁶

One observes quite a different attitude toward information in CEE countries when compared to Western Europe. Before the recent changes, information was not for sale, it was not a marketable service. Information had "cultural value" but was not and often still is not considered "an economic good" (Virkus, 2003). This is clearly seen in copyright laws; in CEE countries they were user-orientated, guaranteeing more rights to access and use of information for readers without expected payments. The laws attempted to ensure that information would be freely circulated, with the idealistic expectation

5. Many of these problems were voiced during the January 2005 Conference for Theological Librarians held at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague. Over fifty participants from countries of Eastern, Central and Western Europe as well as from North America discussed their experience in theological libraries and learned from each other. The papers of this conference have been published at the website of BETH (Bibliothèques européennes de théologie) at <http://www.beth.be>.

6. It has been recognised that the spread of the English language, not least through the ubiquitous teaching of English as second language, includes as "part of the agenda, consciously or subconsciously, ... something like linguistic imperialism". English language is perceived as "a means of communicating a whole value system" (Cripps 2004).

that knowledge can and will change society, boost development, improve lifestyle, provide enjoyment. This is not like in Western Europe where laws give a strong position to the owner (usually not even, the author but a publisher who purchased the right to the information from the author) who makes economic profit from it. The European Union is now forcing countries that have joined the Union to adopt different laws and some have already done so (Haavisto, 2000).

Theological libraries in CEE struggle with these changes both for economic and ideological reasons. Their mission is to enable students and faculty access to valuable and necessary information, but they often cannot afford the cost it takes to purchase multiple copies of a textbook that students cannot afford on their own, or materials produced in good quality in the West (books, periodicals, electronic resources). In their ethical understanding the user is still central and should be entitled to have affordable access to study materials, especially if we speak about training in theology and for ministry. Because access to information is considered a human right in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they question whether it is ethical for Christians to create economic barriers for their fellow sisters and brothers by pricing materials so high. It must be said in defence of Christian organisations in the West that more often than not they are very willing to waive or reduce payments and grant permission for photocopying materials, if asked. Much listening and learning of and from each other's attitudes to information and copyright still needs to be done so that Christians can understand the reasons for certain laws and learn ways of dealing with information that are acceptable to the producers of information.

2. Developments in Information Technology

In the past libraries in Central and Eastern Europe, both theological and state libraries, fell far behind comparable libraries in the West because of a poor technological infrastructure. Investments in technology in these countries were made for the purpose of defence, but not for cultural or developmental purposes. Technology was "unavailable, unaffordable, and discouraged" for political reasons (Virkus, 2003). On the one side, communist ideology was afraid that access to technology would enable access to Western ideas. On the other side, Western governments prevented Eastern block countries from obtaining newer technology so as to prevent them using it in military ways. This Cold War mentality resulted in disadvantages for and stagnation of developments in civil areas, including libraries.⁷

Although technology, including that for libraries, is more easily available now and some of it has even been developed in the national contexts, it often remains unaffordable and less fully developed than that in other areas. Western foundations have given much money to automate national and some university libraries, but especially smaller and private school libraries, including theological libraries, have a long way to go. Often, either due to lack of knowledge and/or experience with technology or because they depend on the decision of the donor who pays for the library software, libraries end up with programmes that are not really suitable for their setting or don't "speak" their national language. At times academic libraries in CEE purchase software designed for elementary schools in North America which does not have the full features needed for adult learners and, on top of this,

7. "Lack of access to electronic information was especially dramatic in medicine, which appeared to Western visitors in small countries in the beginning of the 1990s to be tens of years behind modern developments" (Simon and Stroetmann, 1998:24).

librarians have to learn a foreign language to be able to operate the library software.⁸ Another way that is sometimes chosen to save costs, to speed up or maximise, as is believed, the automation process is to design "home grown" software. Although at first it seems very attractive that the library can influence all decisions as to the system's functions, interface and other aspects, in the end, this often turns out to be "the most expensive way".⁹ The creation of library software requires an experienced expert team that has learned from previous mistakes and that is not testing its new and extraordinary ideas on your library. The team needs to not only design the system but to provide long-term service with follow-up improvements, which is often not the case with an ad hoc group of enthusiasts put together for the sole purpose of designing library software. There are many problems librarians encounter with homemade library software. One of the most serious is that it is not possible for a small library staff to have had enough experience to make good suggestions to in-house software developers about the functions needed in a good library software package. Only a group of highly experienced librarians working together with a group of similarly experienced software developers will have the breadth of knowledge to include all or at least most of the functionality needed. A library with a homemade system has no colleagues to turn to for an exchange of frustrations and delights about the same software. It also has no user group to get in touch with when problems appear in the homemade system. Homemade systems, in virtually all instances, lack adequate documentation for end users. There will

8. Many librarians in CEE do speak surprisingly good German, English or French, but for many language is an obstacle. My own experience in the library at JETS with a foreign language software has not been quite easy. Although most of the interface features are translated into English, some aspects still remain in Dutch, which is not very helpful if the problem that one is trying to solve is connected with exactly this feature! It is also difficult to figure out the advice from the Helpdesk that from time to time comes in Dutch instead of English.

9. Compare Drobikova's presentation on "Library Automation".

be no manual explaining how to make use of the functions that were included. If the employees who developed the system accept new jobs, there is also no one who can 'trouble shoot' and provide technical support. Many more potential problems exist for homemade software but this short list will make almost anyone aware of the dangers of this approach.

It is interesting to observe that, although many countries of Central and Eastern Europe had developed their own national ways of organising materials, in recent years many of them are in the process of adopting Anglo-Saxon ways of operating a library, not because these are better but because they are more widely known and their use has spread more easily, not in the least by way of the English language (Walravens, 1999:935). Library software coming from USA or the United Kingdom has gone through several generations of development and has integrated previous experience. It is often cheaper because there is more competition and more of it is produced and sold; there are more machine-readable data and ways of cooperation in data exchange. CEE libraries are pressed by the need to automate as quickly and at the least possible cost and so choose their software and ways of operation according to market principles. In this way they lose some of their distinctiveness.

Technology is one of the areas where theological libraries in CEE can and, pressured for economic survival and quick automation, should cooperate, for example, in exchanging information and experience about library software and the automation process, in creating networks and consortia to purchase the same software, in exchanging machine readable data, in forming consortia to licence electronic databases. The above is a very brief and non-exhaustive list of possibilities but can give an understanding that much can be achieved by inter-library cooperation. Cooperation between libraries in general and theological libraries in particular

has, unfortunately, not been a priority in CEE in the last 10 years for various reasons: little perception of its value, a competition for donors, distrust that, in a time of tremendous and quick changes, the other side will (be able to) keep the agreements, or cooperation terms, uneasy feelings about cooperation because during communism it was forced upon libraries on state terms. Nevertheless, many ways are open here to underline that theological libraries are part of the one body of Christ, they are connected in one mission and one cause. Working together they can not only achieve more - the pragmatic reason for cooperation - but also demonstrate the love of God and its power in conflict resolution, in overcoming differences and difficulties, in crossing denominational and national barriers - the witness and missional aspect of cooperation. The moral, and sometimes idealistic, commitment to cooperation will be severely tested by the realization of the efforts and costs it takes to reach out to other libraries, but it will also underline the unity of their mission.

Some Western foundations have, via requirements attached to their donations, "pressured" CEE institutions to cooperate with each other. Caidí, in a study of state libraries of four CEE countries (Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia) describes four different (non-linear) stages of cooperation that CEE libraries have experienced during recent years:

1. Artificial, or forced, cooperation during the socialist regime;
2. Resistance to get involved in any large scale cooperative projects (because it resembles too much the centralised model) and the attempt to modernise libraries on one's own;
3. Directed cooperation, cooperation initiated by foreign foundations and/or state agencies having identified some common goals of libraries;

4. Voluntary cooperation, which sometimes developed upon the withdrawal of foreign and state finances (2003:103-117).

In my observation, some theological libraries in CEE have found their way into voluntary, maybe even self-initiated, cooperation on a local or regional level but it is still much less intensive or effective than cooperation between, for example, the faculty or academic leadership of the same theological schools. Probably, the philosophical framework is still missing to understand the importance of the library and the necessity of regional and inter-denominational cooperation between libraries.¹⁰ Many libraries, however, continue at stage 2, either because of lack of vision, or lack of time and/or resources for cooperation.

While libraries that have already gone through the automation process and use electronic resources have a more differentiated view of technology and are aware of the different kinds of problems that technology creates, for many libraries it is probably still true that "expensive information resources remain heavily under-utilized" (Pejova). These will only mean something if people (staff and readers) can effectively employ them as useful instruments, that is, if users receive continuous training, if hardware is regularly updated, if there is some cooperation between academic and library staff as to available resources and their potential for use in teaching and learning. When an investment has been made in a library to purchase and install excellent library management software and/or excellent bibliographic databases for faculty and student use, it is imperative that the leadership of the theological school provide staff and time for all to be trained in the

10. One can list many examples of faculty cooperation of organisations, such as the Consortium of European Baptist Theological Schools (CEBTS), the Euro-Asian and the European Evangelical Accrediting Associations (EAAA and EEAA respectively), but only a few events specifically dedicated to library cooperation.

use of these resources. It is necessary for this training to be repeated each year with new students and new faculty but it is also important for continuing staff and students to review library resources each year since new things will almost certainly be available and they may even have forgotten how to use what is already available. It is also important that there be a good reason for each of these purchases. If teachers do not give assignments which require the use of the precious resources of the library, there was no reason to buy them in the first place. Cooperation between teaching staff, leadership and anyone with influence over the curriculum can make sure the library has what is needed to support the curriculum and that the resources, once purchased, are actually used by both faculty and students.

3. Library Personnel

The question of personnel in theological libraries is a difficult question for almost any theological school. What kind of people are being hired: are they primarily people and service orientated or goal orientated? What kind of training do they have: professional training in librarianship or are they trained in theology as they have to work with theological materials and serve theology and ministerial students? How much love for and experience with technology do they bring? What is different about theological librarianship: is it a specific ministry or is it not more of a ministry as a Christian accountant would have in a theological school? Sometimes these questions receive an extensive discussion but the person that would fit the ideal answers is not available or not affordable. Sometimes these questions are dismissed as unnecessary (because no real ministry is envisioned for a librarian) and the difficulties arise when a person is hired who does not fit with and/or is not able to fulfil the mission of the library.

We need to affirm that librarianship in a

theological library is a ministry in its own right. It also provides support to multiple other ministries. Traditionally, librarians were perceived as stewards and guardians of the treasures from church history handed down from previous generations and collected in a library. Although this certainly does not sufficiently describe the function of a library, librarians are, in a sense, quite literally "surrounded by a cloud of witnesses"¹¹ who have left their testimony of how they have understood God and his people, life in community and the Christian calling to extend the kingdom of God. Librarians need to help people to engage with these witnesses by making materials available, by managing the current information overload in such a way that they order the best available materials and then manage (classify, catalogue, process, circulate, retrieve, reshelve, repair, etc.) these materials for the use of all readers and scholars, and by teaching skills for finding and evaluating necessary information. As good stewards they will acquaint readers with new trends and enable them to discern these developments while also encouraging learning from past testimonies. Their position amounts to gatekeepers of knowledge and much more. Administrators of theological schools will need to decide whether they employ librarians who are skilled to open rather than close, to encourage learning rather than repel from discoveries; who help to wisely discern rather than passively withdraw to their offices. The search for, selection of and then support of the librarian in her central role should receive as much prayerful attention as the search, selection and support of the theological teaching staff.

Someone has remarked that "librarianship tends to recruit people who are interested in materials rather than in people, who are introvert rather than extrovert, and whose ultimate career aspirations lie in management rather than in direct

11. This expression is taken from "The theological library: in touch with the witnesses" by John Boone Trotti, 157.

operational involvement" (Coleman, 1981:67). The great temptation for librarians, usually under work load pressures, is to become material orientated rather than people-centred. For a theological library, which together with teachers and other staff is engaged in spiritual formation, not storage and management but service and providing access to materials are the first priority. Librarians are needed who are aware of and think ahead about students and faculty needs, create active links between people and materials, offer hospitality in sharing what they have collected, in breaking down personal and institutional barriers that hinder access to information, in inviting readers into their own space. They are visible and active beyond library walls, they maintain contacts with faculty, students and staff and are able to speak to academic issues from the perspective of the library. They are at the intersection between theology and library, and those who are intimately familiar with both areas will certainly be more effective.

Using the image of the body from 1 Corinthians 12, Peterson (2001:231) has compared the ministry of theological librarians as that part which is the "memory in the Body of Christ". This has never been so true than in contemporary Eastern and Central Europe where, after the break up of communism, national churches and Christians are developing valuable theological materials in national languages. These need to be collected and preserved for several reasons. First of all, to enable wider use and access, in view of the tremendous scarcity of theological works in national languages. They are also needed for future reference for historians, for the second and third generation of churches in these countries, for international researchers. Not the least, these materials are invaluable for the process of global theologizing when local theologies inform and enrich theologies from other geographical locations and religious traditions.

While theological schools in the West, if they are seeking state or other accreditation, have often been forced to employ professional librarians to meet expected standards, professionalism has not been a major issue in Central and Eastern European theological schools. Most of the theological librarians in these schools have either no or very little library training, although many do have at least some theological training, which is not necessarily a requirement in Western theological schools. Often library work is done by long or short term volunteers, wives of theological teachers, graduates from the school's theology programme who have an inclination to organize and manage materials. These people often come with much enthusiasm, love for books and for people who need to use them, with a deep dedication to the work. The disadvantages, however, also can not be overlooked. Because they have no or little training, it is difficult for them to keep up with new developments, they often have the feeling that there is a problem, that something is not as effective and efficient as it could be, that the mission of the library could be realised in better and fuller ways but they don't know what it is and how to change things. Under work pressure and with the feeling of not being as successful as they could be the initial enthusiasm may quickly turn into disappointment.

While requirements for a professional librarian in Western theological schools have caused a trend to a One Person Library with the budget covering only one paid librarian who has to cope with all of the library work more or less effectively, Central and Eastern European libraries are still able to pay several, though untrained, staff.¹² This may change soon, depending on economic developments and personnel costs rising also in the East. CEE librarians will then be even more under pressure to

12. To Western librarians and administrators libraries in the East seem to be overstaffed, with a "lack of a customer focus and the lack of a market orientation...still struggling to achieve the necessary culture change" (Pors and Edwards, 125).

be efficient and get more things done more quickly, to meticulously organize their day and be proficient in multi-tasking.

4. View of Resources

As mentioned above, librarians have always been perceived as collectors and stewards of knowledge handed down through the centuries and created anew in each generation. Libraries were considered storehouses of information and the bigger a collection a library was able to assemble the better and more successful it was considered to be.¹³ Materials were purchased with the expectation that users would one day (if not immediately) need to use them. When certain programmes were taught or introduced in a theological school, the library needed to provide the necessary materials to support these programmes and supplement them each year with new materials.

The shift to a different model of librarianship came in the West in the 1980s when, due to an explosion of information that became available year after year, a simultaneous explosion of costs for books and journals, and a stagnation of library budgets, libraries could not afford any more to purchase all the valuable information that they perceived necessary for their educational programmes. In Central and Eastern Europe, the shift came somewhat later, after the collapse of communism, when libraries received free access to a much broader range of materials but no longer had either the budget nor infrastructure to purchase them. Theological libraries in CEE, as mentioned before, have always faced a depressing lack of serious research materials in national languages; they are often not able to buy even what they consider essential, and this situation will not change in the foreseeable future.

13. See the excellent article by Kane on "Access versus Ownership" in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Studies*.

The shift has often been described as a shift from the principle of ownership to the principle of access, from purchasing materials "just in case" someone would need them to making materials available "just in time" when they were requested (Moahi, 2002:341-9). Technological developments during the last twenty years took away the urgent necessity for libraries to store all materials in their own facilities and gave libraries a position of one "link in a network of shared resources" (Kane, 2003). Materials are available online on the Internet, they can be scanned and e-mailed to the user, materials from electronic databases can be disseminated very quickly and efficiently. The shortage of materials, for example in CEE, can be addressed with many other creative methods besides just collecting and storing (like in a museum): "the access/ownership dynamic encourages us to look at ourselves more creatively: we need to focus more on function rather than organization, on content rather than medium, and on services rather than tradition" (Anderson 1991:7). Sharing of resources is also less costly than when each library purchases the same materials themselves.¹⁴ It is not helpful to consider these two principles as "either-or", they need to supplement each other and balance out each other's weaknesses. Although libraries may be able to purchase fewer materials, they can today provide access to a much broader range of documents than ever in history.

This shift causes changes not only in the acquisition of materials but in almost any area of library work, but first of all a change in attitude, in priorities, in budget decisions. The priorities will shift to making materials

14. Bruce R Kingma and Natalia Mouravieva describe in their article "The economics of access versus ownership" a study conducted at the Library for Natural Sciences at the Russian Academy of Sciences in order to analyse the costs of the library's subscription to foreign journals and the costs for providing access to individual requested journal articles by interlibrary loan. The results of the study are very clear that the most cost-effective way to provide access to scientific journal articles within Russia is to allocated additional funding for international interlibrary loan rather than increase the number of foreign language journal subscriptions.

available, or to concentrating on providing "integrated information services via any and all media" (Pejova, 2002) more than on collecting and managing books and periodicals. Service, then, means knowing and anticipating the needs and questions of readers and building up experience in responding to them, that is, knowing the potential of neighbouring libraries, whether and where materials are available in different formats (e.g. electronic sources), creative thinking in the establishment of active links between materials and people, a commitment to servicing all users of the library. To really exploit the technological revolution librarians in CEE need to stop being depressed about that which is not available to them for purchase, and think of their collection as being the whole universe of knowledge stored anywhere in the world to which they need to find the code for access. Internet sources, if properly selected and evaluated, can in the same way belong to the library's holdings as materials held in the nearby library to which readers can be sent or the materials which can be ordered into one's own library. The librarian's new job, then, is to be a detective, a hunter, a manager and navigator of knowledge, and a proactive planner.¹⁵ Although the library does not "own" some materials, it is responsible to provide the information about them: catalogue Internet sources, provide links to OPACs of other libraries, develop the Library website as a portal, or gateway, to available information. Students and faculty can be great helpers in the process of finding and selecting electronic sources: students because they are often more technologically minded than librarians and faculty because they have the professional expertise to help evaluate what is worthy of selection. If librarians fail to integrate electronic resources in the overall library collection, they will soon lose their readers and become helpless and irrelevant.

15. See the article by Virkus, 1995 "Cyberdetective, Infonaut, Knowledge Engineer, Cybrarian or What?" for a challenging and creative definition of a librarian who masters the technological revolution.

Especially in theological libraries of CEE cooperation as to acquisition and availability of sources has become indispensable. Much has been written in the West about cooperative collection development; however, the application of this principle has been very slow, if not impossible, in the East. Why not, in an already existing network of theological schools, assign to each school priorities in the acquisition of books and periodicals in a certain subject area? While each school will make sure they have the basic essential reference materials, one school will concentrate on research materials in church history, the other in contemporary theology, the third in Biblical studies, and the fourth in some other subject area. Because of specialisation, resources that would have been spent on each school purchasing identical materials will then go into serious research collections that can be shared with each other. Possibly, before such arrangements will become possible - because they require a lot of trust between the schools, much planning, some equity of funds invested by each school - some simpler steps can be taken. Why, for example, purchase the same book, periodical, CD-ROM if a theological or state library that is located in close geographic proximity already has it and it can be borrowed from that other library? This will encourage libraries to get to know each other's collections, for example, through Union lists of periodicals and on-line catalogues, to develop clear interlibrary lending agreements both locally and regionally and to make a commitment for cooperation. It will, however, also require some rethinking in the library: more staff time and finances will need to go into operating the interlibrary lending services, automation will need to be moved ahead more quickly so as to make information about one's collection available, and even the safety of postal services or other delivery services will need to be considered.

Conclusion

Theological libraries in Central and Eastern Europe often find themselves on a difficult journey, surrounded by a society that itself is going through a stressful transition. Although circumstances may be difficult they also bear many positive opportunities. Because often theological schools and libraries are designed almost from zero there is a chance to create something more contextualised and adapted to the current situation without being tied down too much with an already existing tradition. On the other side, there is much experience in state libraries and theological schools worldwide to selectively borrow from.

To be able to optimise their development and actually utilise the great opportunities that they have, theological libraries in CEE will greatly profit from an overall conceptual framework that would help to integrate different views of and experiences with information technology, perceptions of availability and use of resources, emphasis on service rather than creating storage places of information, tested and contextualised management structures, and many other factors. It is indispensable that this framework include cooperation with other theological libraries regionally and Europe wide. It seems that in the last 10 years most theological libraries have tried to survive and develop on their own, without sufficiently considering opportunities for cooperation, and this way limited themselves in their potential. It is hoped that the shadows of the past that hampered the willingness to cooperate will lose their influence and that creative and practical possibilities are found to bring CEE libraries closer together.

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It's ANZTLA Statistics Time Again!

Please complete and submit your
2005 ANZTLA Statistics Form to
Kerrie Stevens before 30 June 2006.

If you didn't get a Statistics Form, contact Kerrie at:

Librarian, Harvest Bible College, PO BOX 1036, Waverley
Gardens VIC 3170 or kstevens@harvestbc.com.au

**We want as many Libraries as possible
to participate and make this a valuable
resource for all in ANZTLA!**

Performance Evaluation by Evaluating Performance

Kerrie Stevens

This article comes out of research undertaken for the subject Performance Evaluation as part of my Masters degree studies at Charles Sturt University. I found the subject so interesting that I thought others may benefit from some of what I learnt.

A word of caution: please don't be upset if a ratio seems to indicate something that you're not happy with. The ratio results are here purely to make people think about how they could be used in their own situations. I am not trying to say one library is in any way better or worse than any other. All libraries selected as examples were randomly picked from the statistics tables published in the ANZTLA Newsletter, No. 57 and are not meant to suggest anything other than illustrating the usefulness of ratios.

I can be contacted at kstevens@harvestbc.com.au or (03) 8791 5214 for any clarification, comments or opinions.

What is Performance Evaluation?

Performance evaluation is crucial to a library wanting to show senior management the quality of service being provided to clients. It's a bit of a buzz-word at the moment, but what does it really mean?

The aim of any evaluation exercise should be to identify means of improving the performance of the situation being evaluated.¹ Performance evaluation is more than just collecting and presenting statistics to management. What does a page of numbers show about your library's performance in meeting its stated objectives? Statistic gathering, according to Cram, relates what is done rather than what is achieved.² How can

1. Lancaster, FW 1993, 'Purpose of evaluation', *If you want to evaluate your library*, 2nd ed, University of Illinois, Chicago, pp. 8-9

2. Cram, J 1997, 'Practicality: how to acquire it', in *On the Edge: Proceedings of the Seventh Asian Pacific Specials Health and Law Librarians' Conference*, (12-16 October 1997) Australian Library and Information Association and the Australian Law Librarians Group, Perth, pp. 23-32.

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you decipher if your library is performing better than the one down the road, if all you have to compare are numbers? It's more difficult than you think!

'Performance management is an important exercise that is much more than a simple statistical exercise.'³ As Statistician of ANZTLA, I have tried to find ways to make the statistics tables 'interesting' and useful to you, the libraries that contribute. One way I have identified of making this possible is with the use of performance indicators. Performance indicators are essentially two statistics combined to form a ratio. This enables comparison between seemingly incomparable organizations; i.e.: the little college and the multi-site, large university can be compared by using ratios. The results may not be definitive, but they can certainly make the job of comparison a lot easier, and provide you with some ammunition to use when dealing with management for resource allocation. 'Statistics alone cannot produce all the information needed.'⁴

Let's look at some examples using the recently published statistics from 2004.

By simply looking at the statistics tables, it is very difficult to see which libraries have an effective ratio of loans to borrowers; that is, how useful the collection appears to be to its users. Remember, this doesn't take into account the fact that there may be non-circulating items in a reserve collection being highly used, or that people use materials in the library without borrowing them, but it can give an indication as to how well your users use your library.

Let's look at total loans compared to registered borrowers in 2004 for a few libraries.

Library	Loans	Borrowers	Ratio
Adelaide College of Divinity (SA)	14,730	500	29.46
Alliance College of Australia (ACT)	614	129	4.75
Bible College of New Zealand (NZ)	9,266	661	14.02
Garden City College of Ministries (QLD)	2,361	368	6.42
Presbyterian Theological Centre	4,672	130	35.93
Trinity College (VIC)	10,607	2045	5.18
Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies (TAS)	9,499	174	54.59

This illustrates that although Trinity College has the largest number of registered borrowers, it averages only 5.18 loans per borrower. Trinity is part of Melbourne University so its registered borrowers have more than one library to get their loans from. This may account for the lower number. The Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies averages 54.59 loans per registered borrower, possibly indicating that the borrowers value their library very much and use it extensively, or that they have nowhere else to go.

These figures are not to illustrate anything other than the usefulness of comparing library indicators in the form of ratios. There are other factors which must be taken into consideration when comparing libraries. Are your goals and objectives the same? Are you trying to do the same things? Are your collection sizes similar? What factors influence the ratio results?

3. Linley, R & Usherwood, B 1998, *New measures for the new library: a social audit of public libraries*, British Library Board, United Kingdom.

4. Department of Education and Science, cited in Goodall, DL 1988, 'Performance measurement: a historical perspective.' *Journal of Librarianship*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 128-144.

Now, let's take some similarly sized libraries (15,000-20,000 volumes in collection) and see how they fare.

Library	Collection	Loans	Borrowers	Ratio
Burleigh College (SA)	19,000	3,026	198	15.28
Phlair International College (NZ)	16,970	3,185	790	4.03
Queensland Baptist College of Ministries (QLD)	19,070	6,864	200	34.32
Catholic Education Office (SA)	16,301	12,676	4,874	2.60
St. John's College (NSW)	16,400	2,471	40	61.77

These ratio results indicate that the second smallest collection (St. John's College) is very heavily used by its registered borrowers and could be used to illustrate that their purchasing policy is 'right on the money' in selecting items that will be of most use to its constituents. That's not to say that the SA Catholic Education Office or Phlair International College have less useful collections, but rather may indicate that users prefer not to borrow items but to use them in the Library itself, or have other places to get their resources from as well.

There are many reasons why results work out the way they do and it's a good opportunity for you to work out where your library stands by analyzing what those reasons are for your particular situation.

What about purchasing power? Some libraries seem to have a never ending resource of funds (not many, I know!) while others are forever cost-cutting. Do statistics show you are purchasing comparable amounts of materials to other libraries?

Library	Monograph Budget	Monographs Added	Ratio
Joint Theological Library (VIC)	\$152,900	2,565	\$59.61
Australian Lutheran College (SA)	\$41,500	938	\$44.24
Catholic Theological College (VIC)	\$40,900	953	\$42.91
Carmelite Friars (VIC)	\$30,000	925	\$32.43
Ridley College (VIC)	\$37,494	1,371	\$27.34
Harvest Bible College (VIC)	\$15,000	4,062	\$3.69

No single library (from the statistics respondents) has a monograph budget close to that of the Joint Theological Library but see how it compares to smaller budgeted libraries. It actually spends more per monograph added than the other selected libraries. This may be due to the types of publications it purchases or where they originate from (overseas materials can be very expensive).

These ratios may indicate several things, none of which are being attributed to any library in particular:

- a library may be getting great value with their supplier in getting books at a lower average price;

- a library may be getting many donations that don't actually come out of the monograph budget, but are still included in the monographs added;
- a library may make a particularly expensive purchase of a special item that would not be a regular occurrence, thereby increasing the average price paid per monograph added.

In the example above using my own library, Harvest Bible College, it's not that I am a real bargain hunter for new resources, but I added a lot of donated resources during that year, thereby lowering the average cost per item to just \$3.69. The real purchasing results, I suspect, would be much closer to the higher end of the ratio results in the above table.

The above table also shows that the Australian Lutheran College and the Catholic Theological College are quite close in the average amounts they spend on monographs added into their collections which are of similar sizes (ALC 86,475; CTC 90,000). However, using the ratio between registered borrowers and loans for the year, (ALC 7.56; CTC 42.16) it can be seen that the borrowers at CTC seem to use their collection much more heavily. What does this mean? Not a lot if ALC has heavy in-library use of its materials, or maybe CTC doesn't have the space for users to utilize materials in the library. I don't know, but there are many reasons that need to be analyzed before the ratios can provide informative data and that's what you need to look at before making definitive statements in comparing your library to another.

Organisational Goals

It is critical that what is evaluated relates to your library and your organization. 'Numbers alone are no assurance of excellence'⁵ and libraries should be demonstrating to management that they are achieving their stated goals and objectives in an appropriate manner.⁶ The statistics you choose to collect for your library 'should be designed to meet the explicit needs of management, in the areas of planning, development, budget and public relations.'⁷

If one of your library goals is to provide resources for the student body to assist with their study, then a loans-borrower ratio may be of use. On the other hand, if your goal is to collect all materials published on a particular topic regardless of their subsequent usage, then that particular ratio wouldn't be of much use. An average cost of items added may better illustrate to management that you are achieving your stated goal.

I have found using ratios to be very helpful in demonstrating effectively to management how much of a 'good job' I am doing and how much support I need to be able to further it even more. I hope these will help you too!

There are many other performance management techniques, products, and resources and this is a very brief article outlining just one of them. As for the ANZTLA statistics from 2005, I plan to incorporate ratios into the results tables for you to use as you see appropriate.

5. Coughlin, CM & Gertzog, A 1997, 'Evaluation', in *Lyle's administration of the college library: 1997 text edition*, Scarecrow Press, Lanham, MD, pp 151-159.

6. Marnane, B 2005, 'Customer satisfaction in 21st century libraries', paper presented at the ANZTLA Conference, Sydney, NSW, 8 July.

7. Allen, G 1990, 'What's right or wrong with library statistics?', *National Think think tank on library statistics: papers presented at a meeting held 29 September 1990, Perth, Western Australia*, LISWA Research Series, no. 1, Australian Library and Information Association, Western Australian Branch Council, Perth, pp. 37-40.

Encouraging interaction online: the emerging roles of blogs/wikis/RSS in fostering and encouraging user participation

Sean Volke

This paper was originally presented at VALA 2006 13th Biennial Conference and Exhibition held on 8-10 February 2006 in Melbourne. It, along with other conference papers, is available from the VALA website (www.vala.org.au) and is reprinted with permission,

Abstract:

This paper provides an overview of three technologies: blogs, RSS and wikis. It gives an introduction to each and explores how they are being used within the library community. RSS is of particular interest to libraries; it provides opportunities for interacting with library users and is already being incorporated into library catalogues and websites. Wikis too show promise for future development.

Introduction

The problem with new technologies is working out which ones are going to hang around and which are merely a flash-in-the-pan. As librarians we particularly need to evaluate new developments¹ as they come to light, assess which are likely to be useful in the library environment and which are likely to be around for a bit longer than the next few months. There are three technologies, somewhat interrelated, that have been around for several years now, and are beginning to achieve critical mass within the library community. The first of these, blogs (or Weblogs), are probably the most well known, although they have not had a great deal of mention on the Australian library scene, with only a handful of Australian Library bloggers currently. The second technology is one that has been picking up a lot of steam internationally, and that is the idea of syndicated feeds, more commonly known as RSS. Thirdly, there is the wiki, a framework for developing and contributing to a collaborative website online. All three have been discussed at great length on some of the tech librarian mailing lists, most notably Web4Lib.²

What are blogs?

For years and years, this thing that we point at and say "that

1. Gartner puts out regular press releases on technology trends including a substantial piece on Aug 23 that referenced blogs, RSS and wikis. <http://www.gartner.com/press_releases/asset_134460_11.html>

2. Web4Lib mailing list <<http://lists.webjunction.org/web4lib/>>

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is a blog" was the domain of the geek, the techie, the nerd. Starting out as little more than annotated lists of links, they moved into commentary, discussion and so forth to become blogs. According to Rainie (2005), in a survey of Americans online, 8 million Americans (7%) have started a blog, and 32 million Americans (27%) read them; however, 62% do not even know what a blog is. These days a blog is a form of public diary, usually run by a single person, although there are also collaborative blogs, guest bloggers and so forth. A blog has become a list of thoughts, opinions and links appearing in reverse chronological order. Below is an example from Australian blogger, explodedlibrary (aka Morgan Wilson)³, and includes the title at the top, blog entries in the middle with links to related areas on the sides.

this was "a" top 50, not "the" top 50. It was an informal study and tended to focus on English language blogs in North America, although two Australian blogs were included in the initial sample. A second study, Farkas (2005), run by Meredith Farkas⁴ was done as a survey over a few weeks to which anyone could respond. While the majority of the responses were US based, there was a smattering of responses from several regions including Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Australia, and Asia. One hundred and sixty five people (96 female, 69 male) responded to most of the 19 questions asked covering demographics, attitudes, qualifications, libraries, and blogging experience. Of those surveyed: 78% had a library degree (with most gaining their degree aged 25-40), a broad range of

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'explodedlibrary' blog. At the top, the title 'EXPLODED LIBRARY BLOG' is displayed. Below the title, there are several sidebar sections: 'Subscribe to this blog's feed', 'Add me to your TypePad People list', 'MY ONLINE STATUS' (showing 'AW: explodedlibrary'), 'PHOTO ALBUMS' (with thumbnails for 'meria island', 'tasmania', and 'ask to wellington falls'), and 'RECENT POSTS' (listing 'a little update'). The main content area features a post titled 'a little update' with the following text: 'Even though I'm in this new job and haven't had the chance to accrue much vacation leave, I was able to take off the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve because the library was completely closed during this period. That was very nice and I was able to escape Sydney's oppressive heat by visiting Tasmania and catching up my family and friends there. I had so many fresh cherries there too - another person might have got sick of them, but I can never have too many cherries. Now I'm back at work and it seems as if the summer slowdown has officially ended with the orientation of this year's new MBA class. Then I realized, wow - it's been a little while since my last blog post. It's been good to have a little holiday from blogging too. I've enjoyed reading the 2005 retrospectives and New Year posts which some bloggers have written recently. I plan to do no such thing today - I do enough of this already from time to time.' The right sidebar contains a vertical menu with links: 'ABOUT THE EXPLODED LIBRARY BLOG', 'BUSINESS AND ISSUES', 'AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIANS', 'BLOGS', 'connecting libraries', 'exploding', 'librarian space on the web', 'library issues', 'misc information', 'old new things', 'real public library', 'resources', 'couldn't connect visible', 'post's tag', and 'spoke the librarian'. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text 'January 19, 2006 at 07:46 PM by Exploded | Permalink | Comments (0) | Trackback (0)'.

In 2005, there were a couple of attempts to measure what some have coined the "biblioblogosphere", that is library/librarian related blogging. The first of these was by Crawford (2005) and examined the issue of which blogs had the best reach and proposed a top 50 of library related blogs. He was quite keen to point out that

libraries and librarians were represented, about half the library blogs have been around for a 'year or less (with 23.9% in the 13 months to 2 years category), Blogger is the most-used blogging software (44.5%) followed by Wordpress (20.7%) and Moveable Type (11.6%).

3. <<http://www.explodedlibrary.com/>>a

4. Blog: Information Wants To Be Free <http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/>

Some blogs provide a mechanism for interested parties to add comments, although this has become less popular due to the ever-increasing tide of spam. On blogs, you can read everything from current political commentary (eg talking points memo⁵) to a day in the life of the author (eg dooce⁶). Finding the right blog to read is rather akin to finding the right book. To paraphrase Ranganathan, to every blog its reader and every reader their blog. Coming into play are issues of provenance, writing style, mode of commentary, as they would for any activity.

Finding a single list of Australian library blogs has been difficult, however Libdex⁷ maintains a list of library-related blogs that can be updated upon request. Currently there are ten library related blogs listed for Australia, 14 for England, one for New Zealand and 206 for the USA. Morgan Wilson (of explodedlibrary.info⁸) is maintaining a list of Australian based blogs by libraries and librarians. He currently lists 13 blogs by librarians (not including himself) and four blogs by libraries. Of those blogs listed on Libdex, there are some that are currently inactive; of those, some may become active again, but it is something of a chore to keep checking sites to see if they have been updated. Can a blog ever be declared dead? Following active blogs can also be tiresome, particularly when your list of preferred sites hits double or triple figures. That is a lot of sites to check on a regular basis. This is where RSS feeds come into their own; they do the work for you. Set them and forget them as it were.

What is RSS?

RSS is more commonly translated these days as "Really Simple Syndication", although it is often referred to as "RDF

5 .Blog: Talking Points Memo <<http://talkingpointsmemo.com/>>

6. Blog: Dooce <<http://www.dooce.com/>>

7. LibDex. A list of library related blogs <<http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html>>

8. <<http://www.explodedlibrary.com/>>

Site Summary" or "Rich Site Summary". In not too dissimilar a way to that of the television show that is made in one place and syndicated to many locations, so too RSS is a single feed that lots of people can subscribe to in order to keep track of a single source of information. Unlike TV, however, the end user has a lot more control over what feeds (or channels) they choose, how they are displayed, and what types of programming are accessible. To use another analogy, RSS provides the data in order to construct a personalised newspaper containing only those bits that interest the reader. A sports fan could construct a site full of nothing but sporting feeds from around the world.

A typical RSS feed, or channel, being the content that is provided via RSS, is usually a formatted XML file that requires a tailor made RSS reader to parse or interpret it. Some of the newer web browsers such as Firefox and Opera can include RSS reading as part of the browsing experience. You can choose to install an RSS reader (or aggregator), of which there are many⁹, or use a web based service.¹⁰ RSS comes in a range of versions including 0.9, 0.91, 0.92, 1.0, 2.0 and Atom. As Hammond (2004) comments,

"RSS goes by many names and sports multiple version numbers that do not reflect any true lineage or patronage so much as a branding (and it must be confessed, afervoured and sometimes fevered politics)."

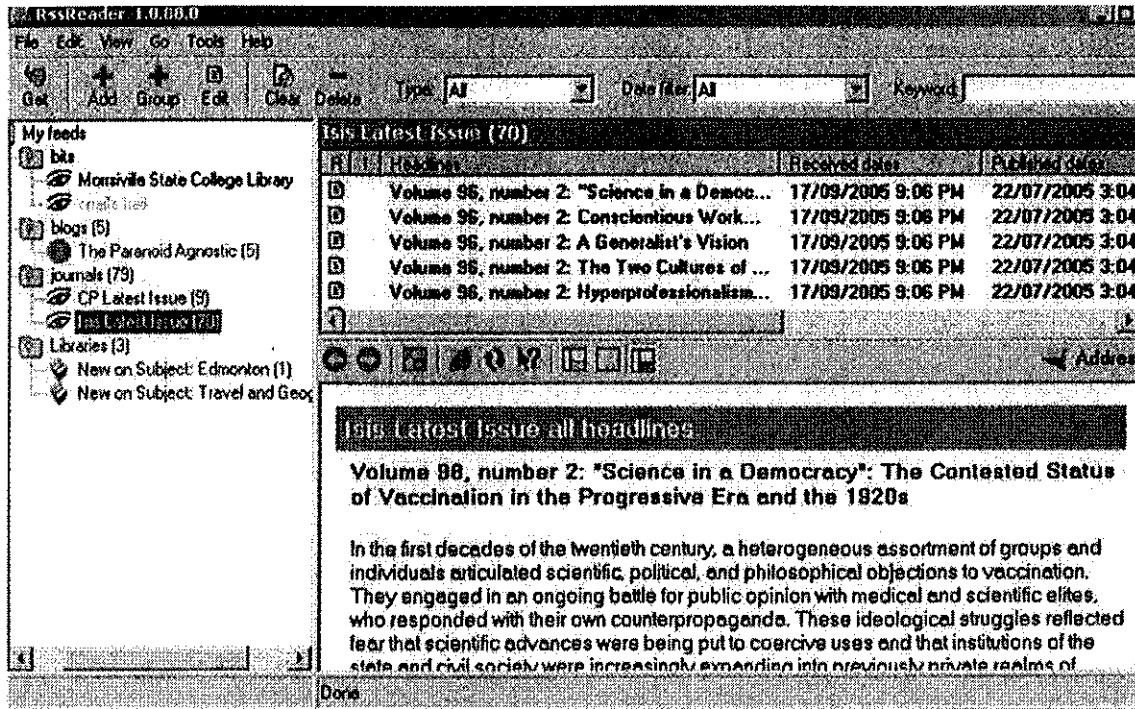
Most aggregators are able to read most, if not all, types of feeds. Displayed is a typical view of an RSS reader in action. It has a 3-panel layout, not dissimilar to email software with a list of blogs down the left-hand side, divided into various categories as preferred by the user. On the right hand side, the top panel displays a list of subject lines (taken from the RSS feed) while the

9. A list of RSS readers <<http://www.rssfeeds.com/readers.php>>

10. The most well known of the web based services is Bloglines: <<http://www.bloglines.com/>>

bottom panel displays the content of that item.

when the list is accidentally deleted, email addresses expire, or, more simply, the,



If you are providing a feed, find the format that suits and stick with it. There does not seem to be a big need to support all types of feeds on your site. Similarly when selecting a reader or aggregator, choose one that supports everything, which should be fairly straightforward with the current crop. Then it won't matter what feed a site has, you will be able to subscribe to it. The emphasis is on making it as easy possible for the user; users should not be required to jump through hoops in order to keep up to date.

The simplest way to describe the significance of RSS feeds is to begin with a comparison with email alerts. Some websites offer an alert service whereby you would register your email address and receive an email when the site changes, or has been updated, or new announcements made. This required you supplying your email address, the hosting site keeping track of that address, or list of addresses, and ensuring that content changes were sent to the list. This process breaks down

alert email is discarded by the user's email software as spam.

For RSS, you simply visit the site once, subscribe to the site's feed (adding it to your RSS reader, whether it be on your machine or the web) and forget about it. The RSS reader software takes care of polling the RSS feed origin for updates; some readers do this automatically, although most have settings whereby you control how often sites are polled. It is usually not a good idea to poll a site too often (once an hour or every few hours is a good minimum to work with), as that can affect performance if too many readers poll too often. Do not assume everyone is running the best server with the best access.

Many journal publishers (eg OUP, Nature) now provide RSS feeds for the table of contents (TOC) for each edition of their journals. For example, OUP provide two links for each journal (eg Applied Linguistics¹¹) one covering the current

11. Applied Linguistics, Oxford University Press <<http://>

issue and the second providing the three latest issues (including the current one). Also included are links to resources on RSS and RSS readers. Some database aggregators are starting to provide some feeds, although these seem primarily to be basic news services and updates. While they are interested in delivering content in a way that satisfies their users, at the same time they want to ensure that access is restricted to just their subscribers.

For aggregators, authentication can be a thorny issue; ie guaranteeing that the person receiving the feed is also a subscriber. Factiva, for example, has an exclusive agreement with Newsgator that requires Factiva users to use only Newsgator to access Factiva's RSS feeds.¹² By working with Newsgator exclusively, Factiva have come up with a model that satisfies their authentication requirements; the disadvantage for the user is that they are unable to use their preferred aggregator and are locked into a particular brand.

The presence of RSS is making an impact on Library Management Systems, with several catalogue vendors announcing RSS support including Innovative, Dynix and Sirsi (the last two have recently merged). According to Levine (2005), Sirsi was the first to introduce RSS and its inclusion in catalogues seems to be gaining in popularity.

One of the more useful applications for RSS, courtesy of the library catalogue, is the humble new books list. This list is an indication of new arrivals within the library, and while books have often been its focus, it should not be restricted to a particular type of material. Production of a new books list has long been a combination of tech and non-tech, depending on the capability of the library, and remains one of the better ways of informing patrons of what is available. If an RSS feed can be
appliedjournals.org/rss/

12. Factiva's information page on their RSS implementation
<<http://fca.factiva.com/rss/marketing.htm>>

generated automatically at the catalogue level, either as a general feed, or a subject specific feed, then a lot of the grunt work of producing the new books list can be eased. Library patrons can subscribe to the RSS feed of their choice, perhaps travel books for France, and receive a feed update every time a new item becomes available on their topic. The Australian National University Library is one such example,¹³ currently providing nine feeds covering some of their collection including: Asia, Science, Social Science as well as a single feed for new serial titles. This is via their Innopac system, and titles in the feed link back to the relevant catalogue entry.

Even better are moves to incorporate search strategies as part of the feed, such that the user is effectively subscribing to an RSS version of an email alert. XMLhub¹⁴ provides the facility to generate a custom RSS feed for searching the Open Directory Project (DMOZ).¹⁵ There are two options, the first by which you can generate a feed based on search terms; searching on "librarian" and "blogging" produces this feed URL:

http://www.xmlhub.com/odo_rss_feed2.php?search=librarian+blogging&cat=&all=no&t=

Alternatively you can specify a specific directory within DMOZ and generate a feed for that directory. HubMed¹⁶ provides a similar service for feeds based on searches on PubMed. You enter a search term and it produces RSS and Atom based feeds:

<http://www.hubmed.org/feeds.cgi?g=cancer>

Nor is RSS restricted to text-based content, as RSS feeds are available for photos (eg Flickr)¹⁷ podcasting¹⁸ and music files. A

13. <<http://anulib.anu.edu.au/ebooks/innopacnewbookss.html>>

14. XMLhub <http://www.xmlhub.com/odp_feed.php>

15. Open Directory Project <<http://dmoz.org/>>

16. HubMed <<http://www.hubmed.org/>>

17. Flickr photo archive <<http://www.flickr.com/>>

18. Wikipedia entry on podcasting <<http://en.wikipedia.org/>>

good example of RSS in action is the VCU Libraries news service:¹⁹

The entire page is constructed of RSS feeds from several sources including: American Medical News, The Scientist, VCU Libraries News, lii.org, LISNews.com. The page is refreshed hourly and contains current headlines from each site and the occasional full entry (eg lii.org items).

Librarians' Internet Index: New This Week

New and newly-discovered Web sites for librarians and everyone else, updated every Thursday morning. See more resources on our site, <http://lii.org/>.

Significant Terrorist Incidents, 1961-2003: A Brief Chronology
Brief summaries of assassinations, kidnappings, hostage abductions, hijackings, bombings, and other terrorist events around the world from 1961-2003. "This document... is not intended to be a complete or comprehensive account of all terrorist incidents during these years, and it is not an official expression of U.S. policy." From the U.S. Department of the State, Office of the Historian.

News from The Scientist

The latest biological and medical news from The Scientist, in association with BioMed Central

Hwang faked results, says panel
Korean investigation committee concludes researcher manipulated data on 9 out of 11 stem cell lines; Hwang resigns
23-Dec-05

Why do Christmas trees survive?
A new report shows conifers circumvent their circulation handicap using highly efficient valves
23-Dec-05

RFI student and blow in scientists

campaign for the 2004 US Presidential election. As discussed in Rand (2004):

"In the run-up to the recent US presidential election, both George W. Bush's and John Kerry's Wikipedia entries were frozen due to a continuous flow of biased edits ranging from the mildly partisan to the complete defacement of a page."

VCU Libraries Offers Training Workshops for Electronic Theses and Dissertations
Electronic Theses and Dissertation Workshops begin February 2, 2006

VCU Libraries Launches Public Awareness Campaign
Cell phone use and Food and Drink regulations in the VCU Libraries.

Scholarly Communications News

New Copyright Booklet
A new booklet on copyright issues for colleges and universities is now available at no charge -- Campus Copyright Rights and Responsibilities: A Basic Guide to Policy Considerations (PDF format)...

Updated Version of Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography Available

Video and Materials from Intellectual Property Symposium Available
Streamed video and other materials are now online from the recent UCLA Symposium on "Managing Intellectual Property: What Faculty Need to Know to Publish and Teach in the Digital Age."

What are wikis?

A wiki is a collaborative website. Think of a website, any website, where you notice an error and think "gee, I wish I could fix that" A wiki gives you that freedom. Wiki-based sites allow anyone to sign on and modify the pages. For a wiki, modification can be anything from correcting a spelling error through to writing and contributing pages yourself. Of course, there is nothing to stop someone else from coming along and modifying your pages. Nor is there a problem with you deleting their modifications and restoring your original text.

One of the better-known examples of editing wars, whereby entries change back and forth rapidly, occurred during the

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Introduction>

19. VCU trial RSS demonstration page <<http://www.library.vcu.edu/cfapps/rss/>>

Fortunately, this does not seem to occur nearly as often as one might expect and is usually caught and dealt with.

"Wikipedia is an encyclopedia written collaboratively by many of its readers. Lots of people are constantly improving Wikipedia, making thousands of changes an hour, all of which are recorded on the page history and the Recent Changes page. Nonsense and vandalism are usually removed quickly, and their creators banned".²⁰

Wikipedia is perhaps the most well known example; on a lesser scale we find projects like Automata,²¹ which is the web site of a print magazine devoted to covering aspects of the underground music scene.

20. Wikipedia introduction <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Introduction>>

21. Automata magazine's wiki <http://www.flamingfish.com/automata/index.php/Main_Page>

As of 18 Sept 2005, it had 841 articles submitted by interested parties covering band biographies, songs, interviews, albums, etc with 319 artists represented. A subsequent check, on 23 Sept 2005, found that a further 47 articles had been added, giving a total of 888 articles on the wiki. Wikis are dynamic; they are regularly being added to, deleted and updated.

In the lead up to the American Library Association's annual conference in 2005, ALA 2005 in Chicago, a blogger, Meredith Farkas, proposed and provided server space for an unofficial conference wiki:²²

A total of 34 bloggers added themselves to the list of conference bloggers, most hoping to either blog during the conference or upon returning home afterward. One interesting page that popped up was a space for newbies (or new conference attendees) to ask questions²³ and seven questions were raised. Of those seven, one was not responded to and a few had multiple answers as different folk added information as it was discovered; not dissimilar to an online forum although a bit more readable and without a clunky web interface slowing things down. This is not to say that some wikis cannot be clunky

Navigation:

- Main Page
- Community portal
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help

search

Go Search

article discussion edit history

Create an account or log in

ALA Chicago 2005 Main Page

(Redirected from Main Page)

Welcome to the unofficial wiki for the 2005 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago! [edit]

With your help, we can create a great guide to the conference and the Chicagoland area.

The conference will take place from June 23-29, 2005.

Click here for the official ALA page for the Annual Conference.

Anyone who wants to add to or edit topics on the wiki can do it. You don't need to ask before making a change -- this wiki belongs to all of us. If you know something about Chicago or have some ALA Conference tips, please contribute to the wiki. I went to my first ALA Annual Conference in 2004, and I know it would have been great to have had advice and suggestions on what to do in Orlando and at the Conference.

Bloggers and other interested parties were invited to add entries, conference reports, blog references and other ephemera, leading up to the conference, during the conference and after it was all over. What emerged was a comprehensive site covering tips, for new folk, conference details, who is blogging what, what sessions folk were attending (via their blog entries), things' to do for librarians at large in Chicago, links to the official site, and of course reports of the various sessions.

22. Unofficial ALA 2005 Wiki <<http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wiki/>>

nor that all online forums are.

Concluding remarks

As can be seen, there is much to interest libraries with some of the newer technologies although implementation remains an ongoing problem. Blogging leans more toward individual activities; however, wikis provide a solid platform for collaboration, particularly where there

23. Questions for New Attendees at ALA 2005 on the unofficial wiki
<http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wiki/index.php?title=Questions_from_Newbies>

is a specific focus in mind. RSS can be likened to a thread that binds everything together. Blogs and wikis require human interaction to supply the content, whereas the strength of RSS is that once the feed has been set up and subscribed to, the computer does all the work of keeping up to date, freeing the user for other tasks. Blogging itself does not yet seem to have an obvious benefit to libraries although blogs themselves are a useful way for keeping in touch and networking with fellow librarians. RSS within the library community has reached critical mass in the last year or two, particularly, with its incorporation into library catalogues, journal databases and news resources.

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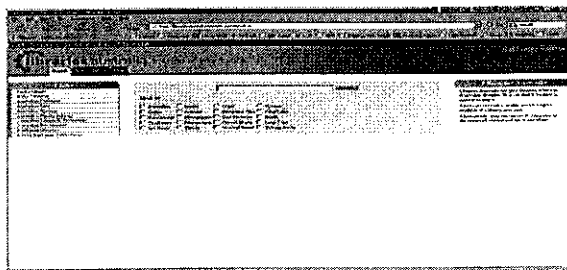
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Libraries Australia Announcement



Libraries Australia, a service that enables anyone with an Internet connection to select from more than 40 million items held in over 800 libraries across the nation, was launched on Monday 27 February at Parliament House, Canberra by Senator Helen Coonan, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

This innovative service is an Australian first, opening up the collections of Australia's libraries to the public.

Libraries Australia, developed by the National Library of Australia, is an e-ticket to a world of information consisting of books, journals, newspapers, theses, pictures, music, manuscripts, maps and much more. Many online resources such as digitised images and full text government publications can also be accessed immediately online.

Underpinned by cutting edge technology and data contributed by the nation's libraries, Libraries Australia makes it easy to search for information across the collections of the national, state and university libraries and most public, research, government, health and other special libraries.

Jan Fullerton AO, National Library

Director-General, says that Libraries Australia changes the dynamics of the way people use libraries. "Libraries have continually been at the forefront of technology to improve the way people find the information they need.

"The beauty of Libraries Australia is that it uses a very simple search mechanism to find the item the person requires. Once found, the item can be borrowed, copied or purchased. All this can be done from home or work in regional centres or major cities.

"It puts the individual looking for the information in charge of their search, rather than a librarian. This saves time and is empowering for the information seeker." Some of the features of Libraries Australia are the ability to instantly access many digitised items; borrow from a local library or order from another library; copy selections of items at a small price; buy from online bookshops; and find library locations nationwide".

Libraries Australia can be used to further education or personal interests, advance research, obtain information to develop business opportunities or to facilitate lifelong learning. It is available at librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au.

Background

In 1981, the National Library of Australia developed an online service called the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) designed to be used as a working tool by librarians. The aim of the ABN was to enable Australian libraries to share the task of cataloguing resources and to know what titles were held across Australia so that libraries could borrow resources from each other for their users.

At the time the ABN was set up, the Federal Government required the National Library to operate it on a cost recovery basis. Since 1981 the service has had tremendous support from the Australian library community, which has invested millions of dollars in its development and maintenance. Australia has the only truly national database that lets people find out what resources are held by libraries across Australia .

Development

In 1999, the ABN was moved onto a new technical platform and was given a new name, Kinetica. About the same time, the National Library began strongly encouraging Australian libraries to allow their users to search Kinetica directly rather than having to ask library staff for information about resources held in other libraries.

Some of the larger state and university libraries, which were paying an annual subscription to search the database, agreed to allow their users to search the database directly. However, many smaller libraries, especially those paying each time they used the database, could not afford to allow their users to search the database directly.

Libraries in the Online Environment

In 2002, the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (ECITA) References Committee conducted an Inquiry into

Libraries in the Online Environment. The Inquiry received 155 submissions with the critical issue raised in most submissions was the importance of providing free public search access to Kinetica.

The Committee reported in October 2003. One of its key recommendations was related to the provision of free public access to Kinetica.

This recommendation is a strong indicator of the value of Kinetica to Australian libraries and the communities they serve, as well as of the need to provide Australians with the capacity to do their own database searching in line with growing user expectations of easy, immediate online access to information via the Internet.

Towards Libraries Australia

In late 2003, the National Library commenced a two-year project to redevelop the Kinetica service so that all Australians could search the database through an easy 'Google' style interface. This redevelopment, released in two stages, was completed in November 2005.

The National Library also sought ongoing financial support from the Australian library sector for the core Kinetica service in order to offer a free public search interface. On completion of the Kinetica redevelopment, the service was re-branded Libraries Australia.

Libraries Australia public access

From 27 February 2006, the National Library will offer a free search interface to Libraries Australia, accessible via the Internet to all Australians. No other country in the world has an equivalent national database representing the nation's library collections.

Libraries Australia contains information about more than 40 million books, journals, newspapers, pictures, maps and much more.

The Australian Baptist Heritage Collection

Implications for the management of geographically distributed special collections

Kerrie Burn

This paper was originally presented at the RAILS2 Conference (the 2nd Research Applications in Information and Library Studies Seminar). The conference was organised by the School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University and sponsored by, and held at, the National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT, 16-17 September 2005.

In this paper I hope to provide both a snapshot of the work that I am currently undertaking and also a brief outline of my particular journey in becoming a research student.

My research topic, entitled The Australian Baptist Heritage Collection: implications for the management of geographically distributed special collections, was largely conceived within my own theological library context. The Baptist Heritage Collection Project commenced at Whitley College in 2003 with a view to organising the resources that we already had, articulating a collection development policy, and subsequently developing our Baptist resources into a specialist research collection. The Baptist resources to which I refer are publications by or about Australians who identify themselves or are identified by their affiliation with the Baptist Christian community in Australia. The works are mainly theological in orientation but not limited to this subject area. Most of the material has been published in the public domain, although the project also seeks to incorporate private material deemed to be of significance.

Although theological library networks are very active within Australia and New Zealand, these networks do not tend to be very well known within the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) or the wider Australian library community in the same way as other existing special library networks, such as Law or Health libraries. The Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association (ANZTLA) has an annual conference, active chapters in each state, a web-site and list-serve, and has formed a consortium for the purchase of several online databases. It has over the years produced a number of significant publications for the theological library community. These include a regular ANZTLA newsletter (1987 onward); Australasian religion index (1989-) - an index to articles and book reviews published in over 80 Australasian religious and theological journals; a union list of serials (McCumstie 2002);

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a style manual for works in religion and theology (McIntosh 1994); a set of ANZTLA standards (2000); and a festschrift in honour of the former Chief Librarian of the Joint Theological Library in Melbourne (Harvey and Pryor 1995). ANZTLA librarians often come from one-person or small library environments and librarians who only participate in their theological library networks can often experience some degree of isolation from the wider library community. Seminars such as RAILS are therefore a great opportunity for feedback from practitioners in the wider Library and Information Management sector.

Where it all began....

Whitley College is a residential college of the University of Melbourne. It is also a theological college for the Baptist denomination in Victoria. The College currently has around 130 residential students and 250 theological students enrolled in a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. A relatively small number of these theological students would be on a pathway towards ordination and to becoming ministers in the Baptist Church. Most students are studying out of general interest and come from a variety of backgrounds and work environments. Degrees are awarded by the Melbourne College of Divinity (MCD), an ecumenical body that was established by an Act of the Victorian Parliament in 1910. The MCD has been affiliated with the University of Melbourne since 1993. However it still retains its autonomy and degree conferring status, and in 2001 was listed as a Schedule 1 Higher Education Institution by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

Whitley College, formerly the Baptist Theological College of Victoria, is the oldest Baptist theological college in Australia (established in 1891) and has one of the largest collections of Baptist resources in the country. In my role as custodian of our Australian Baptist resources I became

interested in finding out exactly what material had been already written by or about Australian Baptists. Initially this was for collection development purposes, so that I might acquire resources that we did not currently have in our collection.

In April 2004, I was awarded a small grant by the MCD which enabled me to travel to all of the other Australian Baptist theological colleges, in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth. The primary purpose of these visits was to liaise with the librarians, archivists and historians who manage the Baptist collections in each of these cities. Another aim was to gain access to possible rare or uncatalogued resources that may not be available via the libraries' websites. Indeed, when I started my research, not all of the libraries even had an online catalogue, so site visits were a necessity in order to ascertain their Baptist holdings.

At the same time as this project was taking shape, on a personal level, I was interested in enrolling in a Masters program so that my project would count towards a qualification. I also wanted to broaden my area of research so that it would be of relevance to the wider library and information sector as well as to Baptist or other denominational institutions. In 2004 I explored a large number of options to determine through which institution I might undertake my research. I took rather a broad approach initially, investigating a number of library and information schools as well as Australian history or religious studies departments around the country. The responses I received to my initial expressions of interest at each institution were quite mixed, from one institution telling me that nobody does bibliographies for a Masters anymore, to several others who went to great lengths to encourage me.

At the same time as I was investigating institutions I was also seeking funding support so that I might be able to reduce

my workload and potentially be able to work full time on my research. In September 2004 I was awarded the ALIA YBP/Lindsay & Howes Research Award for Collection Services and in December 2004 I was also awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award, which has provided me with a scholarship for my Masters in 2005/6. These have been great opportunities and I would encourage others to investigate all of the grant or other funding options that may be available to them.

The final outcome for me has been that I eventually enrolled in an MA by Research through the Melbourne College of Divinity. As part of my Masters with the MCD I have also been able to take a unit in Digital Libraries through Curtin University of Technology. I have two supervisors, Dr Ken Manley who is an Australian Baptist historian and Dr Paul Genoni who is a lecturer in the Department of Media and Information at Curtin University. This combination takes into account the cross-disciplinary nature of my research topic and so far has worked exceptionally well.

Getting down to business....

The first stage of my research involves the identification of publications by and/or about Australian Baptists and the subsequent compilation of a comprehensive bibliography of these Australian Baptist-related resources. There have been a number of different sources of bibliographic data. Initially records were imported or manually entered into EndNote from online library catalogues. Significant publications in the area have also been a source of bibliographic data. These have included *The national guide to Australian Baptist historical resources and services* (Parker, 1998) and a bibliography from the draft version of a soon-to-be-published book on the history of Australian Baptists (Manley 2005). The guide contains sections for each of the states and the Northern Territory with additional sections for the two national bodies, the Baptist

Union of Australia and Global interAction (formerly the Australian Baptist Missionary Society). It is a valuable reference tool, which lists many publications, includes a list of all Baptist serials held by Australian libraries, and provides details about the various archives, historical societies, and other relevant bodies that hold material related to Australian Baptists.

Personal visits to all of the Australian Baptist theological college libraries¹, state archives and/or Baptist historical society collections then provided access to rare, uncatalogued and/or previously undiscovered items and an opportunity to liaise with collection managers. Site visits also involved the documentation of all Masters and PhD theses by students and faculty at each of the institutions. Holdings information has been incorporated for each item in the bibliography and this will help in determining significant or unique items and those potentially at risk. The National Library of Australia and some state libraries hold significant Australian Baptist resources and, where appropriate, holdings information for these libraries has also been included in the bibliography. Contact with the various librarians, archivists and historians around the country has resulted in being more accurately informed about the exact nature, scope and content of Baptist collections held in each state, and developing an understanding of the collection development strategies of each institution and their available facilities and services. This information, along with a history of the Baptist collections in Australia, provides the formal context for the bibliography.

The bibliography has now grown to include approximately 1,000 items. As the project progressed I decided that there was a need to define the scope of the bibliography and

1. Apart from Whitley College in Melbourne, other Baptist theological colleges visited included the Queensland Baptist College of Ministries, the Baptist Theological College of Western Australia, Burleigh College, South Australia and Morling College: the Baptist Theological College of NSW.

to exclude some formats or categories of item. The bibliography now consists primarily of print material in English, particularly monographs and periodical holdings. Items such as audiocassettes and video material have not been included. The optimal arrangement of material in the final publication has been decided upon after surveying a number of similar bibliographies, including a Canadian Baptist publication (Griffin-Allwood, Rawlyk and Zeman 1989), the New Zealand bibliography of religion and theology and a bibliography to Congregationalism in Australia (Lockley 2001). As well as a traditional alphabetical-by-author format, the bibliography includes a breakdown of resources according to subject area, which would be useful for researchers as well as those interested in the publication from a collection development point of view.

Australian Baptists: a bibliography - Why is it important....

An Australian Baptist bibliography will be the first Baptist publication of its kind in Australia. While Baptists in Australia have always remained a religious minority, internationally the Baptist World Alliance represents a community of approximately 110 million people who are associated with over 210 Baptist unions and conventions throughout the world. In Australia, Baptists have often exerted public and institutional influence far beyond their demographic percentage of the population. From renowned and prolific author F.W. Boreham², to the contemporary contribution of the Costello brothers, Tim and Peter³, Australian Baptists have contributed

2. F.W. Boreham was a much-loved Baptist minister who published over 50 books and wrote approximately 3000 editorials for the *Hobart Mercury* and the *Melbourne Age*. He wrote one each week between 1912 and 1959, not missing a week in over 47 years!

3. Tim Costello is a high profile Australian figure who at the time of this publication is the CEO of World Vision Australia. Peter Costello at the time of this publication is the national treasurer.

significantly to the ingenuity, culture and spirit of this country. The bibliography will be a significant reference resource and collection development tool, of interest both nationally and internationally to students, researchers and librarians interested in Baptist history and theology. It will document items in library, archive and historical society collections around Australia that are related to Australian Baptists, and that may otherwise be inaccessible to researchers. It will be of particular interest to organizations such as the Baptist World Alliance and the various Baptist colleges, archives and historical societies within Australia and overseas.

What I have discovered....

- A significant amount of material has been written by and/or about Australian Baptists. This material includes general histories, Baptist church histories and biographies, as well as literature for children, theses and many items addressing various social issues and concerns. Subject areas covered include biblical studies, ministry, education, missions, ecumenism, worship, pastoral care, social justice, reconciliation and spirituality.
- Most Australian Baptist collections within theological colleges and archives operate on only limited staffing levels and/or exist largely because of the labours of passionate volunteers. This has resulted in a huge variety of cataloguing standards and inconsistency in the way that bibliographic information about each item has been recorded. This has necessitated checking the hard copy of as many items as possible for the sake of accuracy in the final published bibliography.
- A large amount of material, particularly of an historical nature, remains uncatalogued or not available online and therefore remains largely

inaccessible to researchers.

- Time and funding are also in limited supply, making the systematic development of collections, digitisation initiatives or other collaborative projects difficult to start and manage into the future.
- Custodians of collections have been extremely helpful, often drawing together resources from within their collections and making them available when I visited.

Outcomes for the Australian Baptist community....

The initial outcome of my project is the publication of an Australian Baptist bibliography. Another outcome is the establishment of a list of librarians, archivists and Baptist historians who are interested in the subject material of my project. From this small network comes the opportunity to contribute to improved relationships between the custodians of Australian Baptist collections; and to promote the development of future cooperative and collaborative ventures between the various institutions. My aim is to develop a set of recommendations for possible future directions, projects or further research. I hope that the results of my research might encourage members of the various Australian Baptist organisations to consider collaborative projects that would advance the purposes of all Baptist institutions both individually and collectively. This may include outcomes such as the development of a national collaborative collection development policy which includes appropriate conservation and preservation strategies; the development of a website with links to all of the collections; the sharing of duplicate resources; and the encouragement of those responsible for Baptist collections to add their holdings to the National Bibliographic Database. One particular outcome of the project

will be the creation of an order of priority for the conservation and/or digitisation of unique or at-risk resources. Online availability of resources is an important strategy to ensure the preservation and availability of valuable heritage material, giving more people the opportunity to learn about Australian Baptists and their place in Australian history and society. Many items in the bibliography relate to a time in Australia's history when formal religion played a much more significant role than it does today. Ensuring Australian Baptist materials are preserved and made available ensures that the lived experience of these Australians is available to future researchers.

Australian Baptist heritage materials are geographically distributed around the country. Several Australian states have their state Baptist Archives affiliated with their state theological college and there are obviously many potential advantages of such an arrangement. Other states have separate premises for archive and theological college collections. While many churches have handed over their records to their state union archives, some individual churches, particularly the larger and longer established ones, continue to maintain their own archives or indeed hold part of the archives of the various state Baptist unions. Some states also have significant Australian Baptist heritage materials in their relevant State Library, or located at one of the university libraries. In particular, resources are held at the Mortlock Library of South Australia (State Library of South Australia), the Mitchell Library (State Library of New South Wales), the John Oxley Library (State Library of Queensland) and the University of Tasmania. The National Library of Australia's holdings include books, newspapers and biographical clippings files on many Australian Baptist figures.

My research will investigate the benefits of bringing geographically dispersed special collections together (as in the integration

of Baptist state theological college and archive collections). It will also investigate some of the challenges and issues that need to be addressed before such mergers occur. The wider Australian theological community, which includes many other denominational and religious collections, may also be able to participate in some of these proposed co-operative ventures. It is also anticipated that information about Australia's Baptist Heritage Collection and the bibliography would be linked to the Baptist Heritage pages of the Baptist World Alliance website (www.bwa-baptist-heritage.org).

Outcomes for the wider special library community....

Although initially based on work with Australian Baptist resources, this project also has broader implications for the theory of collection management. This project will enable me to develop specific expertise in the area of managing geographically distributed special collections and to develop and trial policies, management strategies and methodologies for collection development. These initiatives will also be broadly applicable to other library and information environments, particularly special library collections that are distributed around the country or even the globe. The cost of maintaining several discrete collections for many organizations is increasing in terms of both personnel and space. This drives the need for increasing shared collection management strategies across geographic boundaries and a greater reliance on document delivery to the desktop. Questions to be addressed in my research include how digital technology might be used to facilitate the sharing of collections and the maximising of access to significant and rarely held material. My hope is that the published results of this research will be a resource to inform best practice for all organisations dealing with issues related to the management of their geographically distributed collections.

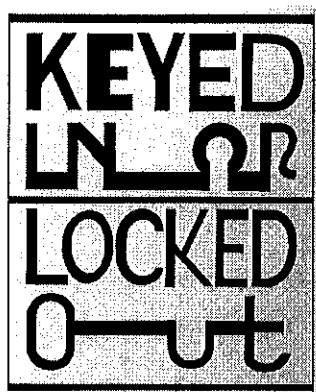
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21st Annual ANZTLA Conference

13 -16 July, 2006

St Mark's College, North Adelaide



The theme of the ANZTLA conference for 2006 has a philosophy behind it.

Theme and logo: The logo was designed by Yvonne Ashby, Artist in Residence at the Adelaide College of Divinity. The original idea of the key symbol harks back to the notion of 'coming of age' at 21 years. Taking the image further, a key can allow entrance as well as prevent it.

The image of libraries and librarians which Linda Heald gave us at the conference last year (see ANZTLA Newsletter 57, pp.2-8) makes a useful introduction to the theme for this year. We will be looking at ways we can be "keyed in" to technology so as to achieve our goals of serving our client base. The amazing advances in computer technology have probably challenged all of us in recent years. There is a real danger that, if we ignore these challenges, we risk being "locked out" in more ways than one. So, how can we make technology work for us? We hope there will be answers coming out of our time together.

21st conference. We want to celebrate the 21 years of ANZTLA. To this end we invite members to send/bring photographs and/or other mementos of past conferences. Images can be sent to val.canty@flinders.edu.au. The ANZTLA Archives would like to preserve as many of these photos/mementos as possible. If you can give a copy to the Archives, it will be appreciated.

As part of such celebration there may be members who would like to reflect on their own journey and involvement with ANZTLA. Such reflections may be suitable to be included in forthcoming issues of the Newsletter. Contributions welcomed.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM YET? The form is on the ANZTLA website <http://www.anztl.org/Conference/conf06.html> in both pdf and rtf formats. If you are unable to access the form, please advise val.canty@flinders.edu.au Registration forms should be forwarded to Jan Barwick.

Preservation and Management of Nationally Significant Materials

Lorraine Mitchell & Robin McComiskey

In late 2005, Whitley College Library, through the efforts of the then Senior Librarian Kerrie Hunter, was awarded a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia, to the value of \$6,500.

This grant was earmarked for two projects: the undertaking of a preservations survey of the Whitley historical collection, and a workshop for the members of the Victorian Chapter of ANZTLA on the preservation and management of nationally significant collections.

Melbourne based conservator, Guy Morel visited the Whitley library during April and May, and his interim report identifying strengths and weaknesses in the current management of the collection has been received. It will form the basis of developing an action plan for the needed improvements to current collection practices, a plan that may include further applications for funds and grants to enable this work to be carried out. The report will support such application.

The second phase of the project occurred on May 18, when Whitley hosted the preservation workshop. Conservator, Kim Morris who has extensive experience with the Australian War Memorial, and the National Library of Australia was contracted by CAVAL to facilitate the day. It was attended by 13 members of staff from several theological libraries in Melbourne, and proved to be a most informative and helpful event.

For the un-initiated, the handling of historical materials – often in fragile or damaged conditions, and with varying degrees of deterioration – is sufficiently daunting to cause most to want to put it all back in the cupboard and hope that someone else will deal with it!. There is also a deep suspicion that to do anything will be an expensive exercise.

Using a combination of lecture, small group exercises, and practical demonstrations, a range of topics were addressed:

- storage and display environments (lighting, temperature, pest control etc.)

*Lorraine Mitchell &
Robin McComiskey
are Joint Library
Managers at Whitley
College in Victoria*

- how to identify items of significance
- the difference between preservation, conservation and restoration
- risk management
- practical and inexpensive storage options
- dealing with photographs, books, papers, works of art
- training needs for staff and others wanting to access the material

The feedback from participants at the end of the day revealed that much of the apprehension about handling historically significant materials had been dispelled, and it had been most pleasing to learn that solutions need not involve the purchase of expensive materials, nor take inordinate amounts of time and effort. In many cases, placing an item in an unsealed plastic bag or copy-safe ring binder plastic pocket is sufficient to protect it and arrest further deterioration. Kim demonstrated how easily a custom made box can be constructed using acid-free cardboard.

It was a most worthwhile workshop from which we all felt a good deal more confident in being able to handle and manage the valuable and historically significant materials in our collections.

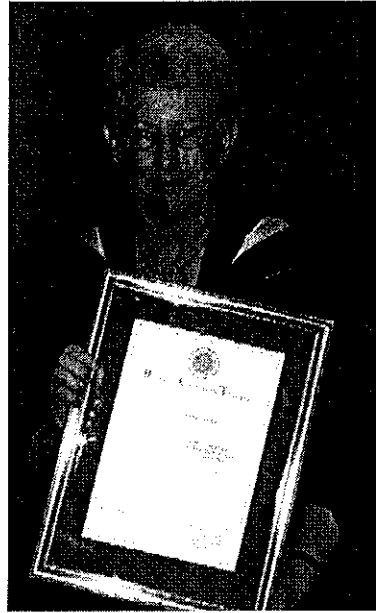
Award for Carolyn Willadsen

Carolyn Willadsen has been nominated for an Award for Outstanding Service to the Brisbane College of Theology. The nomination has the support of the principals at the three BCT member schools: St Paul's Theological College (Catholic), St Francis' Theological College (Anglican) and Trinity Theological College (Uniting Church).

The Nomination:

“That Carolyn Willadsen be presented with an award at the 2006 graduation ceremony in acknowledgement of her achievement and contribution to theological librarianship and the BCT”

Carolyn has been with the Pius XII Seminary, and more recently as librarian for ACU-St Paul's College at Banyo, for nearly 25 years. Many students and scholars have commented on her quick response and knowledge of theology and library expertise. Theological librarians throughout Australia and New Zealand value Carolyn's expertise and knowledge of the field. Her general knowledge of theology and its resources is outstanding, whether in systematic theology, biblical studies, Greek, Latin, or other related areas.



- Carolyn is a founding member of the Australian and New Zealand Library Association (ANZTLA)
- Since 1988 Carolyn has contributed as an indexer for the Australasian Religion Index (ARI) and AULOTS
- Carolyn's contribution and achievement has been done very quietly and without fuss
- Many published theological scholars have relied on Carolyn's sharp eyed expertise to proof-read their manuscripts
- Carolyn is sincerely committed to the theological community she serves and supportive of the library community in which she works.
- Carolyn has contributed to theological education with commitment and dedication.

Many scholars, colleagues, past and present students would be very supportive of the BCT recognising Carolyn's commitment and achievements over this long period of time.

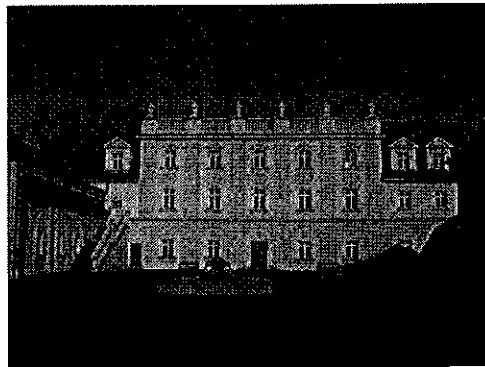
Highlights from Prague

Lesley Utting

Lesley Utting of Ayson Clifford Library, Carey Baptist College, Auckland, New Zealand attended the Golden Jubilee Conference of ABTAPL, the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries. The Conference was held from 6-10 April 2006 at IBTS, the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague, Czech Republic. Here is Lesley's report.

The Location

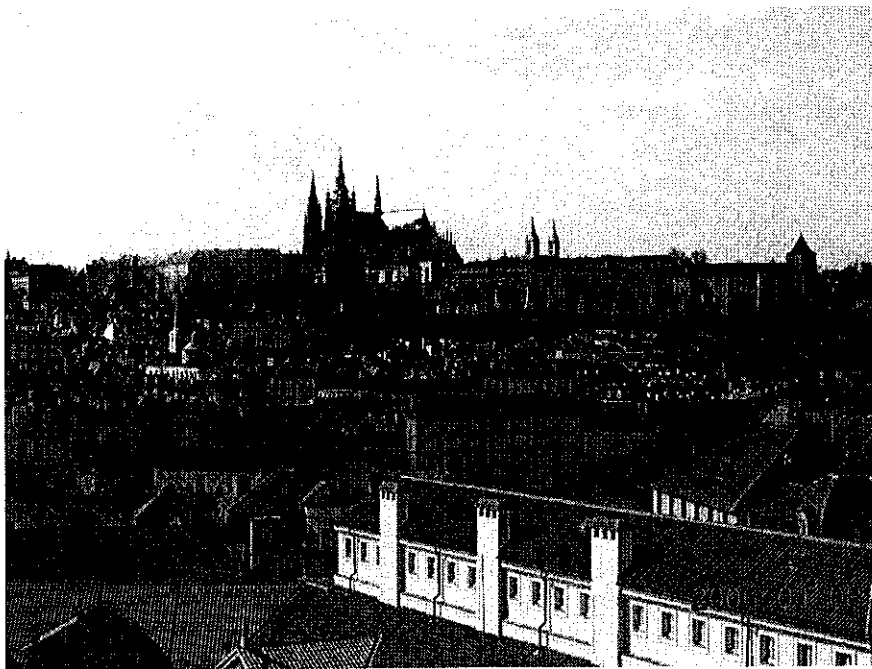
IBTS sits in the village of Jeneralka, about 30 minutes from the centre of Prague. The Jeneralka area is a wonderful setting and location for a Seminary! The IBTS buildings were formerly Jeneralka Castle. During World War II the buildings had been used by the German SS as the SS were based in the area.



The Welcome

We received a warm welcome from our ABTAPL and BETH (Bibliothèques Europeennes de Theologie) colleagues and from Dr Keith Jones, the Rector at IBTS. This set the stage for a great time of networking, exchanging ideas and talking about projects that are underway. Having breakfast, lunch and dinner together is an excellent way to build relationships and make lifelong professional connections.

Lesley Utting works at the Ayson Clifford Library, Carey Baptist College, Auckland, New Zealand.



The People

It was wonderful to meet people from theological libraries throughout the United Kingdom, the USA, Eastern and Western Europe. My husband Ray and I had travelled a long way from New Zealand, but not as far as Victor Kuhleshov who had travelled from Ukraine via train and bus for at least 34 hours. Wherever librarians gather we have much to talk about, comparing notes and exchanging ideas! A talkfest!

The Programme

As an introduction to IBTS we were given a brief snapshot of its history by a staff member. Prior to our visiting the historic city of Prague, Tim Noble from IBTS gave us an address titled "Putting Prague in context: an overview of the city's history and culture". This was a bonus. On Friday evening Wim Francois from the Catholic University in Leuven spoke about The Biblia Sacra project www.bibliasacra.com, Bibles printed in the Netherlands and Belgium. Chris Beldan from Lancaster Theological Seminary spoke about his success with a digitisation project. "The frugal digitiser:

setting up and using a \$500 digitisation workstation". The Golden Jubilee dinner was a highlight as we dined and watched the spotlights lighting up the beautiful city of Prague. The AGM was brief and to the point, which is always popular with the participants.

The Visits

The Czech National Library is housed in the historic Klementinum building which is in the Old Town district of Prague. We were taken on a tour of the beautiful Baroque galleries and were shown some unique items from the Library's collections.

We saw the Nostiz Library. The Nostiz family were a prominent noble dynasty of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Although the collection is not explicitly theological or philosophical in character it is a comparatively rare example of an intact European aristocratic library. The collection is now in the care of the Library of the Czech National Museum. The curator was thrilled to be able to show the collection to a group of librarians and we were equally thrilled to see this private collection, along with the security guard!



The Strahov Monastery was founded in the 12th century and the present buildings date from the 17th - 18th century. We were shown into the theological and philosophical libraries by the librarian. Once again we had a librarian who was delighted to be able to show his treasures and his kingdom to a group of colleagues. The libraries are housed in beautiful Baroque galleries with furniture and furnishings to match. The spectacular Baroque chapel within the monastery complex, was also a sight to feast your eyes upon.

At Charles University we found the Protestant Theological faculty library. Charles University is the oldest university in continental Europe north of the Alps.

The study of theology was prohibited during the Communist era and somehow the theological collections in the university managed to survive intact. The collection therefore reflects acquisitions from the previous era and now more recent acquisitions.

The location, the programme, the visits and the people made this conference a highlight for me. Ray and I had planned a trip to Europe for 2006 and were fortunate that our dates could mesh with those of the conference. Next year's conference for ABTAPL is to be held in Edinburgh. Why don't you think about attending? Put it in your budget for next year! It will be well worth it!

