

The library of the Tasmanian College of Ministries

Barbara Hattrell

Site insight

The Tasmanian College of Ministries library and my library 'career' began in February 1995 when I volunteered to get 500-600 books on the shelf ASAP, to provide resource materials for students enrolled in an Advanced Certificate of Religious Studies course. The TCM had taken the big step of becoming a registered provider of this two year full-time course. Many challenges and changes have taken place since then. The college is now a registered training organisation providing a Diploma of Community Services (Christian Ministry) to full-time, part-time and casual students.

The library has grown to 2,500 volumes. A welcome supplement to our reference collection is the TAFE collection which last year was given to us on permanent loan. A separate faculty resource collection is available, though not properly listed as yet. Many books have been donated; others given on permanent loan by enthusiastic supporters; others have been discovered in second-hand shops or garage sales (some real treasures!). But each semester we have stretched the budget to purchase new books to meet the needs of specific modules.

For me it has been a huge learning curve (vertical?) but immensely satisfying to be able to put into practice what I have been learning through the Library & Information Studies Diploma course at TAFE. There is certainly a lot more to managing a library than meets the eye! And a librarian's work is never finished!

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ANZTLA Pacific Sponsorship Scheme

Theological librarians from the Pacific region, not including Australia and New Zealand, are invited to apply for funding under ANZTLA's new **Pacific Sponsorship Scheme**. Small grants are available under the programme for such purposes as

- attendance at the annual conference of ANZTLA
- the purchase of professional resources
- training or education (including travel)
- expert assistance or consultancies
- introduction of new technology

If you wish to apply for a grant under the Scheme, then write to Stephen Connelly, the Secretary of ANZTLA, c/o The Joint Theological Library, Ormond College, Parkville, 3052, Australia. Your letter should state the amount sought and the reasons it would be useful to you. The deadline for applications is 31 October 1999.

Applications will be considered by the Executive of the Association. All applicants should know the result of their application by 31 December 1999.

Preservation or access: the Kinder Library's New Zealand and Pacific Collection

Judith Bright

I am going to speak on one of the special collections in the Kinder Library, St John's College, Auckland, and, to set it in context, the work of a Heritage Responsibilities Group in the New Zealand library scene.

In 1992, the annual conference of the then New Zealand Library Association was held in Nelson. It was, in effect, a "Library Summit" at which a number of major issues facing the library industry were discussed. One of the groups formed out of the discussion was a Historical and Cultural Information Group (later renamed Heritage Responsibilities). The brief that this group took from the conference was to define the responsibilities and roles of libraries in collecting, providing access to and permanent preservation of New Zealand cultural and historical information and artifacts.

The achievement of this action was seen as a vital contribution to the creation of a complete and comprehensive record of New Zealand culture. An Auckland based steering group, (of which I was a member) started with the idea of a pilot project, which later became a national survey, the results of which are published as *Heritage collections in New Zealand Libraries: report of a survey*.

The group defined heritage collections as "those collections built and maintained with the intention of permanent retention". Most will be of New Zealand related material, but there are many exceptions, for example, bequest collections on non-New Zealand subjects, non-New Zealand rare books). Collections may be in many formats, for example, books, plans, photographs or microfilms.

Note that this was a survey of libraries, not of archive repositories, although many of the libraries surveyed did indeed include manuscripts and archives within their collections. The breakdown of collection content that requested asked for total measurement of manuscript collections. (And the four members of the steering committee all came from libraries where this was so).

I don't want to detail the results of the survey here, as they are not relevant to the majority of you, as few were theological libraries, and they were all in New Zealand. But it did show up some interesting statistics

- that NZ theological libraries as a group gave equal weighting to heritage collections as to other collections. This was well above the results overall.
- that most libraries had some restrictions on access to these collections for a variety of reasons ranging from the value of the collections, the lack of trained staff, or inadequate finding aids.
- that few libraries had a budget for conservation for these collections.

The findings of this survey led in time to the formation of the National Preservation Office at the National Library of New Zealand, which has been available to offer advice to librar-