



Atla-ANZTLA Scholarship Recipient Report

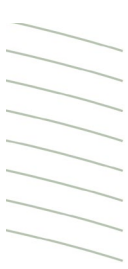
by Cindy Lola

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It was indeed a remarkable journey and experience throughout the course of the Atla-ANZTLA scholarship from the very beginning when I first applied and was apparently accepted, and through to travel arrangements and eventually to the actual attendance of the conference in Sydney, Australia and back to Papua New Guinea.

Late last year, I was introduced to the Atla-ANZTLA scholarship through an application form provided to me by the Head Librarian of Pacific Adventist University Library. The purpose of the scholarship funding is for the professional development of library staff from applicants of ANZTLA member institutions, however, non-member institutions' applicants were also encouraged to apply. Without delay I decided to explore this opportunity and submitted a completed application for the scholarship as a non-member applicant. I was fortunate to have been considered successful in January of this year, 2019.

Pacific Adventist University Library is a Christian Academic Institutional Library and therefore the conference was suitable and relevant. Although the length of the conference was quite short, the benefits this conference has on my role as a librarian was enormous. It has greatly impacted the way I behave and do things and has also changed much of my perception in the field of Library and Information.



Travel and Logistics

Travel arrangements and other logistics relating to travel have been quite troublesome for me but I was very grateful for the hardworking staff of ANZTLA, who tirelessly worked closely with me to ensure that all was in good order before my travel date. Application for visa and subsequently the approval was dragged into the last one or two days prior to travel.

Accommodation and Meals

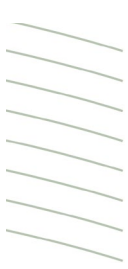
Robert Menzies College (RMC) was the best and ideal place for visiting conference attendees' accommodation, including the meals and general hospitality of the college. The college is accessible to public transport and it is also convenient to nearby facilities. The college provided three balanced meals daily and it was fun and exciting enjoying meals with the college students at RMC.

Conference

One of the many highlights that I took home with me to PNG was the short ceremony done during the Welcome reception/ Welcome to Country by the Aboriginal spokesperson as a cultural practice, to formally welcome the delegates to the country. This has much relevance to the many cultures we have in Papua New Guinea, particularly the discharging of our cultural rituals during special ceremonies. I was basically moved and inspired, so as to value culture after having seen this from a western dominated society.

The conference presentations were outstanding. It was closely observed that the facilitators were very well prepared, had sound knowledge of the content of their presentations, and were high profile professionals who were very competent in their deliveries. The content presented was well in line with the conference theme - **Boundless**. Presenters kept within timeframe and there was a high level of professionalism in the manner in which things were done during the conference.

I have decided to adopt ideas from Keziah Van Aardt, Rev Dr Leo Kelly Library, Champion College, Lightning talk "Library Displays", with permission, to my local library. Her presentation was enlightening and motivated my own ideas for the display settings in my library. This will also enhance and improve Library Management to better serve our students as well as the general library users.



Tours and Excursions

Tours and excursions were a crucial part of this conference. Vital and essential information and knowledge have been acquired as a result of the tours and excursions including the visit to the State Library of NSW, Caroline Simpson Research Library and the Donald Robinson Library, Moore College.

In addition, the tours and excursions provided the opportunity for participants to see and discover some items of historical significance and their preservation over time.

Conclusion

The conference has been practical in many aspects. As a recipient of the Atla-ANZTLA scholarship 2019, I am extremely grateful to articulate that this year's conference was the best and a memorable one, with so much that participants could take away with them to their respective libraries.

The conference was beneficial both to my line of work and myself as an individual. Perhaps I was a proud Papua New Guinean recipient of this scholarship, representing Pacific Adventist University and Papua New Guinea to attend and benefit from this conference. The conference has been, by far, one of the best professional events I have attended during the course of my professional life as a career librarian. I have made many new friends during the conference including my wonderful Pacific island sister, Ana Tuigamala from Kanana Fou Theological Seminary, American Samoa.

Acknowledgement and Recommendation

I would like to acknowledge ANZTLA for offering me this scholarship to represent Pacific Adventist University (PAU), Papua New Guinea to attend the 34th ANZTLA Conference this year in Sydney, Australia.

I would also like to acknowledge the following individuals for helping me in one way or another in ensuring I was able to attend this conference;

- 1) Meredith Tsai, Kerr Library, Sydney Missionary and Bible College
- 2) Keziah Van Aardt, ANZTLA Secretary
- 3) Erin Mollenhauer, President – ANZTLA NSW & 2019 Conference co-convenor
- 4) Katrina Traeger, Kerr Library, Sydney Missionary and Bible College