




Two Research and Publication Projects Related to Theological Libraries

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This lightning talk is to inform ANZTLA members about two publication projects that I am currently researching. I would also like to gauge interest from ANZTLA librarians and obtain feedback from anyone interested in contributing to either project. Originally, both projects were conceived of as potential publications about libraries associated with the University of Divinity. Librarians associated with the University are custodians of many unique collections. Together, these combined collections, with their varying histories, strengths and specialisations, provide a valuable resource for the entire University community. The two publications would document individual library histories as well as showcase the special collections held by each library. The working titles of the two publications were:

- 1. Theological Libraries in the University of Divinity: A Collection of Histories*
- 2. Library Treasures: Special Collections in University of Divinity Libraries*



The aim of this lightning talk at the 2019 ANZTLA Conference is to raise the possibility of broadening the scope of both projects. For example, they could become:

1. *Theological Libraries in Australia and New Zealand: A Collection of Histories*
2. *Library Treasures: Special Collections in Theological Libraries in Australia and New Zealand*

My contribution to both projects would include writing a history of Mannix Library and its collections. I have created a bibliography that lists previously-published resources with historical information about theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand. Many of the items in this bibliography were compiled while researching and writing a chapter on theological librarianship in Australia and New Zealand for a forthcoming Atla publication. Some of the items in my bibliography could potentially be reviewed, updated and published in one of the proposed new volumes. The management of library special collections is a long-held research interest of mine. Additional catalysts for both projects have also included my recent association with an Australian Research Council project related to Archbishop James Goold, the first Archbishop of Melbourne, and attendance at several international conferences with a focus on the development of library special collections to maximise their research potential. My proposal is that coordinating these publication projects would also involve editing the volumes, writing an introductory chapter, and investigating potential publishers.

I believe that these two collaborative publications would make a valuable contribution to the study of the history and development of theological education in Australasia. Very little has been written in this area that specifically relates to theological libraries. Publication projects such as these will obviously take some time to come to fruition. At this stage I just want to gauge interest in the ideas proposed and see who might be willing to write contributions for their own library. Everyone's feedback will inform whether this project remains as a history of Mannix Library and its collections or broadens to include the University of Divinity libraries and/or the wider ANZTLA community.

I welcome your feedback about both projects. Please let me know if you are interested in contributing content about the history and development of your own library collections. All comments and feedback can be emailed to kerrie.burn@ctc.edu.au