

Jeanette Little Scholarship Scheme Recipient Report


by Nalini Premadish

This Scholarship Scheme has been set up in memory of Jeanette Little to honour her many years of dedicated work with theological librarians in the Pacific. Jeanette was Librarian at Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji (1990-2000) and Trinity Theological College in Brisbane (2001-2003). While working at the Pacific Theological College, she was responsible for organizing various basic training programmes for librarians working in small theological libraries, and had travelled widely in the Pacific region.



My name is Nalini Premadish, and I am the library assistant at the George Knight Library, Pacific Theological College (PTC), in Suva, Fiji. I was lucky to get a scholarship to attend the ANZTLA conference in Wellington, New Zealand from 10th – 13th July, 2008 under the Jeanette Little Scholarship Scheme. I thank the ANZTLA committee for choosing me to attend this conference. Despite the chilly weather which I experienced for the first time in my life and being away from work and out of touch with my family, I enjoyed and benefited a lot from this conference. It was a pleasure meeting other theological library staff from Australia and New Zealand.

At the conference, I learnt that AACR2 would be replaced by RDA. I attended sessions on book binding, in which I learnt how important it is to stop the library clients from eating and drinking in the library to prevent pests and also taking care of the books so that heaps of money is not wasted. Although I am not photogenic, I have learnt to be always in the middle to get a good shot during photography for the website session. I also enjoyed tours to different libraries which allowed me compare PTC Library and implement some of the things which I saw in other libraries.



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I would also like to thank Judith Bright and her staff for allowing me to undertake work placement at the John Kinder Theological Library for 3 days in the same week as the conference. Helen Greenwood is a life saver to many of PTC students who are writing theses by providing them with inter-library loans for material not available in PTC Library or any theological libraries in Fiji.

The library is named after the first Principal, Reverend Dr George A. F. Knight who served in the college from 1966 – 1971. It is located next to the Parliament building in Vuya Road, in Suva which is the capital city of Fiji. Our students come from all over the Pacific to do undergraduate and postgraduate studies. This year there are 36 undergraduate students which includes students doing part time studies through PTC education by extension programme and we have one PhD student and 11 masters students. The students are all mature age, and many are members of the clergy in their various churches.

The library has over 30,000 books and periodicals. It accommodates 35 readers and also has a special study area which accommodates 18 study carrels for masters students. The library has a full time librarian and two library assistants. DDC and LC Subject Headings are used for cataloguing books. The stock includes separate collections for Pacific Research materials, Periodicals collections, Reference collection, Reserve collection and the General collection. The collection in the library is online and can be accessed via the PTC web page: <http://www.ptc.ac.fj> On the homepage at the bottom right just click *click here to access the library catalogue* to view the catalogue.