

Conference Summary

by Philip Harvey



The President's Summary of the Twenty-Sixth ANZTLA Conference, held at King's College, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th July, 2011.

A Brisbane is the Australian Representative and Deputy Chair of the Dewey Decimal Editorial Policy Committee. Anne Robertson was our special speaker at this year's traditional pre-conference cataloguing session. Anne brought with her a brand new edition of Dewey 23, direct from the United States and only published in January. Pettee people were thin on the ground. There have been considerable changes, such that we really will need to consult 23 in detail. We were introduced to the Dewey ecosystem. There has been a complete revision of Groups of People, so now there is not just a group called Women but a group called Men. There have been big changes to the Standard Subdivisions, with highlighting of



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sections, as well as the Schedules. The Dewey Committee adopts the view on IT that they will always be behind (aren't we all?) so that, for example, multifunctional devices are categorised under their main function. Global English has been addressed more forcefully in an attempt to regularise terms. Structural changes include elimination of dual headings and unbalanced spans of numbers. Web Dewey is the replacement for Connection, which in the future will be able to do things like back-translate the numbers for subject access online. Anne gave two examples of Committee issues in religion: the Byzantine complications in naming all Orthodox churches, and the exact Islamic scriptural status of Hadith. A separate Religion section (200) will be available by the end of the year. It was a telling sign of our age that print Dewey 23 is already a snapshot in time of Dewey as it keeps being added to online. I found attractive this rule of thumb of Anne's: Never let an option be a substitute for a decision. I did not hear the term RDA used once by anyone in the entire conference.

Our keynote speaker, Dr Bruce Winter (Queensland Theological College), seemed uncomfortable with the oral tradition of biblical transmission. What about books? The Old Testament bears witness to books: Solomon collected proverbs. Once, after hearing a telescopic lecture at Cambridge on oral tradition, he was left asking: How could it be that no-one read in the first century? Jesus read from Isaiah in the synagogue. Books were available everywhere in the cities of the Roman Empire. We heard about the Alexandrian Library, burnt by Julius Caesar, then acquired by Mark Antony. Pergamon was built to rival Alexandria. No keynote address is complete without mention of Ephesus and Bruce didn't let us down. The Romans called librarians 'guards of books'. Seneca reports that people bought books in the thousands. Letters were copied out as a task, which is where the Christians come in. Having made his point, Bruce then put the question they've been asking for years: are libraries obsolete? Another Latin word for librarian was what we would translate as 'servant', there to serve the collection and the readers. From Bruce's perspective, librarians are there to serve for ministry training.

Queensland, beautiful one day, perfect the next. Christine Bruce (Faculty of Science and Technology, Queensland University of Technology) spoke on Friday morning about informed learning. It is good to remember that we are the ones who are receiving information from all over, and sending it out again. Information is experienced objectively, subjectively, but most important of all, transformationally. Informed learning is using information creatively, reflectively, then the slide show went to the next slide. The lecture will appear in *The ANZTLA EJournal*. A librarian's experiences of information literacy lead to practical, social and purposeful acquisition of technical skills. Information literacy is experienced organically through being part of a learning community.



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One delegate remarked during question time that we come to conferences to network and learn, but then we have to go back to the chaos. So it was good to hear our next presenter, Lynn McAllister (Learning Services, Queensland University of Technology), on reflective practice. Remembering, keeping a journal, exploring feelings and beliefs, looking backwards and thinking about what we experienced with a view to understanding its application for future action: this is reflection. The purposes of reflective practice include personal growth, learning, competence, career progress, action planning, lifelong learning, development, and mentoring. Often it is good to speak to others as a means to reflection. Reflection can be started by asking questions, using an image as a metaphor, concept mapping, and time-lapse writing.

Mark Hangartner (University of Auckland) is moving beyond citation analysis. But what is citation analysis? An author's article will be cited by other authors and so increase the rating of the author. It is important to know the rates of citations for ranking the journals where their articles appear. Mark showed how to find citations on Google Scholar. Then Rachael Bahl (Canberra Campus, Australian Catholic University) talked about the Australian Research Council's Excellence in Research for Australia initiative (ERA), which is about funding systems. This is performance-based research funding. The outcomes will be issued this year and are meant to be a national stocktake of Australian research. It is significant that the whole journal ranking scheme A* A B and C has been stopped by the Minister (Kim Carr) after warnings and criticism from academics and publishers. But what next? Rachael says we must take a watching brief. Mark then encouraged us to encourage our organizations to establish repositories of the work of our academic colleagues.

After lunch we visited the State Library of Queensland, then went by coach through the narrow inner city streets of Milton to St Francis College. Adam Lowe (St Francis Theological College, Brisbane) explained some of the technology. We have Moodle to manage our resources and interact. We have Dropbox to synchronise files between computers and share files with others. We have Carbonite that uploads our documents and backs up everything. We have Evernote and One Note, which are note-taking devices that save text across our computers. We have Open Office, Word, Pages, and LaTeX for writing. We have It's Not Cheating, which is a cheap \$100 way of getting Office10 for next to nothing. We have Styles, which is a layout device. We have iPads, Kindle, and Android Tablets for researching a lot of articles. We have iAnnotate, which is found on iPad. We have Net News Wire, which is an RSS, which is a program that searches our feeds. We have Flipboard to draw in all our RSS feeds. We have Accordance, Bible Works, and Logos which are Bible versions and parallel texts. We have EndNote and RefWorks to arrange our citations. We have Coffee Breaks to assist with our Reflective Practice.



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Queensland, beautiful one day, perfect the next. On Saturday morning Pauline Allen (Centre for Early Christian Studies, Australian Catholic University) said research has several challenges. Much of the work is in other languages and in books out-of-print and not in ebook. Researchers spend a lot of time seeking grants, often through assistance from librarians. Chasing manuscripts is sometimes frustrating. The manuscript resources are highly expensive. When a manuscript is copied at six euro per microfiche from an Italian library, it is cheaper to fly to Italy and read it there.

Ian Stoodley (Queensland University of Technology & Malyon College), an old friend of ANZTLA, defined librarians as access providers. A key expectation is the supply of electronic material. Postgraduates expect depth of material and a unique contribution from the library. Often they want both eform and print of the same work: check contents in eform, read the work at leisure in print, then cut-and-paste relevant passages into your thesis from the eform. Librarians are educators. By the end of the postgraduate process the individual should have become an independent researcher; we are there to send them in that direction. Librarians are communicators. We should be not proactive nor reactive, but personalised. I liked Ian’s view that ‘remedial’ postgraduates who are challenged by libraries need initial guidance, but that after that they are on their own: we have to give them tough love.

We were reminded by Elena Volkova (President of the Oral History Association of Australia) that we all love stories and love telling stories. Oral history is a picture of the past in people’s own words. It is about personal journey. It is making tangible the intangible. We heard how Elena discovered the retelling of stories after being told stories as a girl in the Crimea by a survivor of the Gulag. Incredibly, she played for us the voice of Count Leo Tolstoy, preserved by chance on old recording cylinders. We saw and heard on film the last surviving witness, an Australian Digger, to the shooting down of Manfred von Richthofen, the ‘Red Baron’, over the Western Front. Oral history collects what would otherwise be lost. We can now have personal narratives on the new technologies, iPad, iPhone, iPod – I! I! Interviews need to be nurturing, comfortable, with no interruptions and not in noisy public spaces. They must be free of constraint or distraction.

Tigu Tina Tukumana (Bishop Patteson Theological College, Honiara, Solomon Islands) told us about her solution for getting books back that have walked: no more loans until the book has been replaced by the offender. Leslene Woodward (Tangintebu Theological College, Kiribati) took us through how to rebuild an entire library from the ground up while speaking English to a clientele who don’t have much of that language. Lynn Pryor (no fixed address) related highlights of her latest world trip to small yet incredible libraries in Egypt, Tanzania, and Myanmar Burma, theological libraries that have been changed for the better by her presence and actions.



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Queensland, beautiful one day, perfect the next. Dedicated delegates on Sunday morning could attend Chapel or the Board meeting. Then followed the most socially taxing and labour intensive session of the whole conference: the official photo opportunity. Conference committee members were stretched to the limit finding alternative sites to the college entrance, after another party started arriving. “We are catalysts for change,” Annette McGrath (Queensland Theological College) declared, “and the photo is now on the river side of the college.” Is ANZTLA an umbrella group? Can it tell what the weather is? Staircases, garden plots, carparks, and lawns were trialled before a decision was reached for the winding walkway. Kim Robinson (Moore Theological College Library, Sydney) was heard to say, “We are organizers of information but we cannot organize ourselves!” A graphic representation of this collective experience can be seen on the slideshow by Sarah Howard (Banyo Library, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane) sent to the ANZTLA-Forum on the 16th of July.

Dr Carolyn Russell talked about communication skills. In line with the theme of the conference, she asked us for examples of anti-catalysts: glass-half-empty people, treasurers who don't give us money, traditionalists who want it the right way. Change happens. Even if not directly, it will be happening somewhere in our own world. Observe the changes and make sense of them, Carolyn advised. Others can be inhibitors, but sometimes you and I can be the inhibitors and we need to ask if we are open to change, or are stopping it from happening. Hungry, Angry, Late and Lonely Syndrome was referred to as a doctor's condition. Maybe some of us have that one from time to time. We need to be ready for change.

Carolyn used a saying from Christine Mallouhi to good effect: You cannot carry two watermelons in one hand. The members of the Queensland Conference Committee have never carried two watermelons in one hand. That is why their conference was so successful. Dubbed The Q-Team by Alethea Hubley, they were organized, efficient, friendly, imaginative, helpful, responsive, cool. They were exemplars of collaborative endeavour and an inspiration for future conference planners: Patty Overend, Fiona Harland, Alethea Hubley, Annette McGrath, Steve Morton, Eve James, Jill Walker, Susan Thomas, Andree Pursey, and Sarah Howard. The sessions were all informative and thought-provoking, the diversions were enjoyable, and the dinner was glorious. ANZTLA pays tribute to the Q-Team and thanks it for making everyone's time so rewarding.