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ANZTLA 2025 Conference



Echoes of the past ... creating stories for the future

26-29 November

Echoes of the Past ... Creating stories for the future

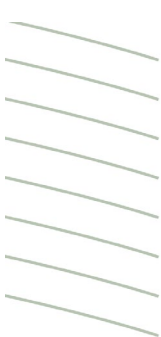
Echoes of the Past ... Creating Stories for the Future, the theme of the 2025 ANZTLA Annual Conference, invited us to consider our library roles in assisting patrons to locate and work with the resources in our collections, enabling them to write the stories, essays, theses, and sermons that will shape both their futures and those of the communities they serve.

Several of the papers reflect on the ways AI is entering our lives and what that means for us as librarians, particularly the need to approach it thoughtfully and ethically rather than accepting it uncritically. Alongside this is a strong focus on visibility, advocacy and

leadership. As libraries, we must not only provide value to our users but also articulate and demonstrate that value clearly and strategically within our institutions. The annual statistics included in this issue offer a clear echo of where we have been, while providing essential evidence to help us tell our stories, plan wisely, and advocate for our libraries into the future.

One way we hear echoes of the past is through the stories of those for whom our libraries have been named. This issue shares the stories behind two remarkable men whose legacies continue to shape the identities, practices and purposes of our libraries today. We also acknowledge a significant anniversary this year, with Judith Bright celebrating fifty years as librarian at the John Kinder Theological Library, a remarkable contribution to one library and to theological librarianship more widely. Congratulations Judith!

The diversity of contributions in this issue reflects the breadth of the ANZTLA community itself. Together, they illustrate that theological librarianship is sustained not only by technical expertise, but by



collegial generosity, curiosity, creativity, and a deep commitment to service. We are also reminded that this work does not occur in isolation. Conference reports, international engagement, collaborative projects, and shared tool development all highlight the importance of professional networks and association life. ANZTLA continues to function as a space where experience is shared, new ideas are tested, and support is offered—often quietly, but always generously.

The echoes of past practice and wisdom are present, even as new stories are being created for the future.

Kerrie Stevens

EJournal Manager

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Conference Photo 2025

The 39th ANZTLA Annual Conference, “*Echoes of the Past ... Creating Stories for the Future*”, was held at the Women’s College, University of Queensland from 26-29 November 2025. The Queensland Chapter is to be commended for organising such an informative, inspiring and welcoming conference.



Figure 1: Conference attendees on the steps of the Women’s College, University of Queensland