RIDLEY COLLEGE LIBRARY

NOT TO BE REMOVED
FROM THE LIBRARY

RECEIVED
12 MAY 1987

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NO.1

MARCH 1987

EDITOR - Kim Robinson
C/- Moore Theological College
1 King Street
NEWTOWN. N.S.W. 2042

EDITORIAL

Isolation is one of the largest problems facing theological libraries in Australia today. Generally there is the isolation from the major areas of thriving theological librarianship of Europe and the United States. More immediately there is the isolation of our countless libraries scattered throughout the continent. Most of these have only minimum staffing and many with little professional expertise.

In an effort to counter this situation associations of theological librarians were formed in Sydney and Adelaide. These have been in existence for over ten years. Now there is our national Association. Our Constitution recognises the problem of isolation and addresses it in the first of the "Aims" -

"To provide a forum for interaction between librarians of and others interested in theological and religious libraries".

This newsletter's primary function is to act as such a "forum for interaction". This can only be achieved with the full co-operation of all members. News and information should be shared together with the many difficulties resulting from our isolation. In doing this we will provide the needed "forum for interaction".

Our 1987 conference will be held in Melbourne at Ridley College from August 23rd to 25th. Booking forms are included with this issue. Members are encouraged to attend.

REPORT ON ANZTLA - Inaugural Conference

Held at St. Mark's Library, Canberra

25th-27th August 1986

The Conference was significant in a number of ways. We established the Association which is important after at least one failure in the 1970's, but maybe that was just preliminary to the present one. The papers were on the whole helpful so that where there was time discussion was freely engaged. Maybe future conferences should limit the length of papers so that the discussion flows more freely. Those who attended found conversation in the breaks and at night important both for getting to know each other and for learning from one another. Even though we had met regularly over the years most of us from Sydney found staying together in a motel gave further opportunity to learn. At future conferences we should all be living in one place.

Keynote Address

The Keynote Address was delivered by Mrs. Averil Edwards, Chief Librarian (Planning) of the National Library of Australia. The editor will probably arrange for this address to appear in the Bulletin however I will briefly outline what were, for me, the main points.

(a) Librarians should learn to sell the services of the library to users and their funding bodies.

(b) Wainwright, Eric - "The University, its library, and the information age." *Australian Academic and Research Libraries,* June 1985, p.65-80 - Quote from abstract - " if the library is to remain meaningful, it must lead its institution in redefining its role as an information supplier."

(c) Theological Colleges should take libraries and librarians more seriously because they had been undervalued in the past.

(d) Staff needs: If there are *full time students* then there needs to be *full time Library staff* in the proportions to be found in published *library standards*. *Library Staff* need time off for additional training and conferences; this will be a gain in greater skills for the Librarian and better services to users.

(e) New Courses: Whenever a College mounts a new course then extra funding for new books and journals must be provided.

(f) Librarians of Theological Colleges should not be afraid to use published standards for comparison with their own collection, staffing, building and furnishings.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT/RESOURCE SHARING

This workshop was led by Dr. Garry Gorman. Lawrence McIntosh repeated a remark made at Adelaide consultation that only one library in each state should become a research library in a topic (e.g. N.T.). (I later expanded this remark in personal conversation with Lawrence.

(a) Collections for Masters and Ph.D. are not much different.

(b) A research collection has a full range of material in English and major works in foreign languages (German and French).

(c) Full range of Journals in all languages.

Points made by Garry Gorman:

(a) A written policy statement is essential if a theological college library is to develop in a rational way.

(b) Philosophy of the Institution must interact with the collection itself and the written document.

(c) The written statement is not static but changes with the process of interaction.

(d) North American Theological Library Inventory is producing useful documents and methodologies.

(e) The following data help to write a Collection Development Policy:

1. Profile of Collection;
2. Profile of Borrowing;
3. Profile of Courses;
4. Profile of National resources.

WORKSHOP ON USER EDUCATION

This was presented by Ms. Marika Simpson, Reference Librarian, Reader Services, Canberra CAE. To summarise:

(a Introductory tours for interested students - orientation - not much attempted.

(b) Third week of semester - (3 times a day - over two weeks) Orientation to catalogue only.

(c) Finding Aids/Workbooks - to introduce students to reference books and literature in defined subject areas.

(d) 6th week of semester - 1 hour library tutorial in class time as part of selected courses.

(e) It has been found that teaching staff sometimes do not know how to use the library but are afraid to ask. Librarians in any type of Library should be alert to this problem.

* Librarians are now beginning to think about teaching critical evaluation.

* In preparing material or tutorials clear objectives need to be written - overall objectives - enabling objectives - Terminal objectives should lead to assessment of the programme.

This presentation was too long it did not allow time for free discussion. It was mainly a description of the way it was done at Canberra CAE where there is four staff in the readers services area so that some of these methods could not be applied in theological colleges.

Some remarks from others:

(a) In courses students are asked to find 3 reviews of a book.

(b) At United Theological College, Enfield students are asked to read a book and write a review - this involves finding published reviews.

(c) Union Theological Institute, Hunters Hill has a course in Theological Thinking (replaces logic). The course involves learning to use the library resources and involves critical assessment of them.

Useful references

ROGERS, A. ROBERT - *The Humanities* : a select guide to the resources - Littleton, Ca. : Libraries Unlimited, 1979.

ROBERTS, ANNE - *Library instruction for librarians* - Littleton, Ca. : Libraries Unlimited, 1982.

WORKSHOP ON SUBJECT HEADINGS

Mrs. Cheryle Pye, Acting Chief Librarian, Biliographic Control, ABN.

1. Subject Principles

Cutter established the principles of the Dictionary Catalogue. - Before the publication of his rules the dominant form of cataloguing had been in classified forms. He established his principles of specific entry under author, title and under specific, direct, subject references and claimed that users would find this form of catalogue easy and quick to use.

2. Subject Classification

- Dewey and his DDC (now in 19th ed.)

- Dewey demonstrated advantages of subject classification

- mnemonics - standard subdivisions

- hierarchical structure

+ These each have a place in on-line retrieval.

Hulme (early 20th century) established the principle of the "*Literary Warrant*" - that subject cataloguing and classification should only indicate subjects which are dealt with in literature and not with theoretical classes.

Ranganathan (1930's and 1940's) was an engineer who became interested in classification - developed two important principles.

1. Facet analysis - analysis of the subject of an item into its component parts

2. Synthesis - combining the facets into a logic sequence.

Julia Pettee was Librarian at Union Theological Seminary, New York and later at the Library of Congress - Principles..

- subject headings are concealed in classification tables.
- also principles for constructing thesauri.

Hakin (1951) at Library of Congress stated the principles for construction of Library of Congress Subject Headings - an implicit reliance on Cutter.

- Convenience of public should have precedence over logic.

Pettee's work was taken up in Britain by D. Austin and his colleagues and was to lead to the development of PRECIS.

MOORES - explored the point that language and terminology can be ambiguous.

- In subject tables terms should be defined, which led to:

- Descriptors

- Scope Notes

- APAIS attempts to follow the principle of closely defined descriptors.

ABN (Australian Bibliographic Network) attempts

(a) to be an on-line shared catalogue for as many libraries as possible.

(b) to become the National Union Catalogue.

* To achieve these aims it requires a standard thesaurus which is shareable, defineable and consistent.

ABN chose LCSH because:

(a) Many large libraries already use them (including NLA).

(b) Nearly 2/3rds of the catalogue records which came from other National libraries and used in ABN would already include LCSH.

(c) To maintain thesaurus just for ABN would be expensive in time.

The choice of LCSH was made even though criticisms have been and continue to be made.

DISCUSSION

LCHS - criticisms

- sexist - racist - protestant - obsolete terms.

- very slow to change terms/headings even when the above are pointed out.

- breaks rules of specific entry and convenience of the public. e.g. Jesus Christ - Person and Offices (LCSH) v. CHRISTOLOGY.

RELIGION INDEX; THESAURUS - criticisms

- only special subject.

- only for Journal articles and essays.

- tends to follow LCSH.

- terms too General (from a Reference Librarian at NLA) - no scope notes - (you can look at the articles indexed in Religion Index: One, Periodicals).

Pye made the remark that searching on-line expanded the use of LCSH.

To influence developments in ABN theological librarians must work through an ABN member and the ABN Network Committee, Standards Committee, Subject Headings Review Sub-Committee.

Subject Headings Review Sub-Committee - authorises subject heading enhancement - not cosmetic changes - but additions when there is insufficient terms or references. Their decisions are reported in ABC News an NLA publication.

Members of ABN may incorporate their own enhanced subject headings to a special area in the records but only that member may use those headings.

FUTURE TRENDS

In about 5 years ABN may approve special subject thesauri to be added to the Data Base for common use.

Pauline Cochrane has enunciated the principle that a network should use a common controlled subject vocabulary but that then allows enhancement of subject at the local level.

(Reflection: A network which is part of the National network may use its own enhancement).

Cheryl Pye quoted an example of local enhancement which is still only an experiment.

Australian Defence Forces Academy Library where free string terminology was added to the notes area using a formula devised by Cochrane. The usefulness of this approach was that the terms could be chosen and added by clerical staff.

References:

PETTEE, Julia - *"A Classification for a Theological Library"*..Library Journal 26 (December 1911).

- *"The Philosophy of the Maker of a Special Classification."* Special Libraries 28 (September 1937).

ABN Visit *26/6/86 - 3-5 p.m.

On the afternoon before the Subject Headings workshop we visited the NLA. In two groups of about 11 each we visited either a display of rare books in the Board Room or the ABN Office.

In ABN we were given the opportunity of watching searches being made on the Data base, in small groups of 2 or 3. This would be similar to a dial-up customer.

(a) On screens of headings there are only some verified.

(b) Editions from different publishers appear as separate records. For one item we looked at there were 3 records (Australian, UK, USA publishers) plus a record for the second edition.

(c) Dearth of holdings in Religion on ABN.

AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANSHIP: A VIEW FROM 'DOWN UNDER'

Rev. Trevor Zweck, Luther Seminary

During the months of May, June and July 1986, the writer was privileged to undertake a two months study tour of United States libraries. The main focus was on theological libraries, but opportunity was taken to visit a number of university and public libraries as well. The impressions which are here reported, however, apply mainly to the theological libraries. Included are some observations of the American Theological Library Association, drawn mainly from attendance at the 40th Annual Conference of the Association in Kansas City, MO.

The following is a list of the thirty libraries and related institutions visited in thirteen locations, with visits lasting from a minimum of one hour to a maximum of four days:

Fuller Theological Library, Pasadena, CA
Luther-Northwestern Theological Seminary Library, St. Paul, MN
Concordia College Library, River Forest, IL
Billy Graham Center Library, Evanston, IL
Jesuit-Krauss-McCormick Library, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, IL
Concordia Theological Seminary Library, Fort Wayne, IN
Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN
Trinity Lutheran Seminary Library, Columbus, OH
Ohio State University Library, Columbus, OH
Online Computer Library Center, Dublin, OH
Concordia Seminary Library, St. Louis, MO
Center for Reformation Research, St. Louis, MO
Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, MO
International Center, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, St.Louis, MO
American Theological Library Association Annual Conference, Rockhurst College,Kansas City, MO
Union Theological Seminary in Virginia Library, Richmond, VA
Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA
University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, NC
Duke University & Divinity School Library, Durham, NC
Princeton Theological Seminary Library, Princeton, NJ
Lutheran Theological Seminary Library, Philadelphia, PA
Library of Congress, Washington, DC
Yale Divinity School Library, New Haven, CT
Sterling Library & Beinicke Rare Book Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT
Andover-Harvard Divinity School Library, Cambridge, MA
Widener Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

THE LIBRARIES

While the main focus of attention was on theological libraries, opportunity was taken to visit more briefly a number of university and public libraries as well. The comments which follow, however, relate more specifically to the theological libraries, whether they be of university-related divinity schools or denominational seminaries.

All the libraries visited are impressive in their size and quality. Holdings range from about 100,000 to 400,000 volumes, and current subscriptions to periodicals range from about 400 to 1500. The buildings are impressive, both in regard to general architecture (whether modern or more traditional) and to interior design and layout. All seem to have some unique and special features, usually a special collection (e.g., rare books, media centre, archival collection, etc.) All appear to be well staffed, well organised, and well equipped. Computers have become an indispensable item of library equipment, pervading virtually all library routines and services, and microfiche is used extensively (e.g., for union catalogues, individual catalogues, and for preservation of out-of-print materials).

AUTOMATION

While some of the university and public libraries are fully automated, this is not true of any of the theological libraries visited as yet.

Nevertheless, all have automated at least some major aspect of their operations and all seem to see full automation as their ultimate goal - as finances permit. Concordia, St. Louis, expects to be fully online by the end of 1986.

To date, most of the benefits of automation have been to staff. The major advantages to users will come with the advent of the online catalogue, which the patrons of many university and public libraries already enjoy. The most obvious advantages to date have been in the area of technical processing, (especially copy cataloguing) and in the building of computer databases, but there have also been tremendous benefits in the location and processing of inter-library loans.

Networking

The whole American library scene is dominated by the major resource-sharing networks, OCLC and RLIN. The comparable Australian facility is the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN), which is now providing most of the services offered by the American utilities. Figures quoted show that ABN is considerably more economical to use than its American counter-parts. Some members of OCLC reported costs of between US$10,000 and US$15,000, and some are considering other alternatives for some of the services offered.

The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) involves nearly 5,000 libraries, including nearly all of those visited. The Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) comprises a small group of very large academic libraries.

The key operation of the networks is shared *cataloguing*, original records being input as required by participants and then borrowed by other participants or customers. Holdings statements added by local libraries indicate the locations of items for *interlibrary loans*, for which requests can be generated online. While shared cataloguing and interlibrary loans are essential to the networks' operations, other services are also provided, such as modules for *acquisitions* and financial management and *serials control*. OCLC has in the past offered both of these services online, but will in future market separate in-house packages for these procedures.

Cataloguing Systems

OCLC is the most commonly used cataloguing utility. It is based on MARC records, is simple and efficient, and allows searching by author, title, series, ISN, and LCCN. It currently lacks subject and keyword searching, but this will be provided by the Oxford Project, which is producing new and enhanced software. Output is in the form of either cards, microfiche, magnetic tape, or direct downloading to a local system. OCLC is not readily available in Australia, but the ABN offers comparable services.

RLIN is similar in many respects to OCLC, but more sophisticated and more expensive. It includes a keyword searching capability.

BIB-BASE/CAT has been developed by Robert Kepple (a theological librarian). This is not a network system, but records are provided on tape from the UTLAS database, or, alternatively, from BIBLIOFILE. Several libraries are either already using it or considering its use, as a cheaper alternative to OCLC. It offers many attractions to local librarians, not the least being the ready availability of the programmer.

BIBLIOFILE is based on MARC records produced by the Library of Congress and made available on CD-Rom laser discs. It can be used in conjunction with the Bib-Base software or software supplied by the marketing firm, the Library Corporation. This is seen as another cheaper alternative to the major networks and was observed at St. Paul (with software developed in-house) and Gettysburg (with the BIB-BASE software). It is now being marketed also in Australia.

LOCAL SYSTEMS which have been developed largely, if not completely, in-house, or locally, were observed at a number of major libraries (University of Chicago, Harvard University, Virginia State Library, Ohio State University) and one theological library (Concordia, St. Louis). The latter is currently updating its software and planning the purchase of new hardware for a fully automated system (including OPAC).

Evaluation of Cataloguing Systems

It became very obvious that copy cataloguing by means of automated databases has very considerable advantages over original cataloguing by manual methods:

1. major financial savings;
2. major time savings;
3. improved standards of cataloguing;
4. versatility of manipulation of (MARC) records;
5. portability of records; and
6. building up a database for the OPAC.

Assessment of Systems Investigated

Network systems based on computer databases are practically indispensible on the American theological library scene. Since most of the essential services provided by the networks are available in Australia through the ABN, participation in this network should be seriously considered for all Australian theological libraries.

Participation in ABN would have several advantages over the use of BIBLIOFILE, the most realistic alternative:

1. it provides access and input to the National Bibliographic Database, including ABN support services and access to ALL locations;
2. it makes the local collection available to a wider circle of potential users;
3. it provides the basis (i.e., MARC records) for the OPAC;
4. it is now (following a revision of the pricing policy of ABN) cheaper to do copy cataloguing through ABN;
5. it is inexpensive by comparison with the American utilities.

Acquisitions Systems

Most of the libraries visited have an acquisitions sub-system of some kind. These provide not only automated processing of orders, but financial management as well. Depending on system interfaces and the existence of an OPAC, it is possible to enter an item into the catalogue (as also a union catalogue) from the moment it is ordered.

OCLC has a good but expensive system. It has been possible to despatch orders online via OCLC or to get hard copy from OCLC for direct mailing to suppliers. However, this option is being discontinued and replaced with an in-house system which will not involve the network, except for obtaining bibliographic information. Some of the libraries visited are considering cheaper alternatives to the former OCLC system. RLIN has a similar system, which is similarly expensive.

BIB/BASE/ACQ is being used by some libraries, either in conjunction with the BIBLIOFILE database or its own database. It includes the financial management module. **BIBLIOFILE** has a system based on the Any Book database of the Library Corporation. It lacks a financial management package.

Evaluation of Acquisitions Systems

Automated acquisitions systems offer a number of advantages over manual systems:

1. saving of time;
2. better financial management;
3. provision of a basic bibliographic record for future cataloguing;
4. elimination of duplication of orders;
5. facilitating possible co-ordination of ordering with other libraries.

Assessment of Systems Investigated

ABN does not yet have an acquisitions sub-system, but it should be worth considering when it does become available. BIB-BASE/ACQ might be worth considering, but would have to interface with other systems in use in the library. The new OCLC in-house system may also be worthy of further investigation. However, an acquisitions system is not as necessary to a small or medium library as a cataloguing system; the latter should be given top priority.

Serials Control

Several of the larger libraries visited have serials sub-systems. They record bibliographic information about the serial, record the receipt of each issue, generate claims for items not received, and provide financial management.

OCLC has had a network system (whereby OCLC would send the claims to the errant suppliers), but is discontinuing this system in favour of an in-house system (as with acquisitions). Some libraries reported some dissatisfaction with the system, due to:

1. conflicts in the bibliographic information supplied,

and

2. the labour-intensive operation (which involves as much work as a manual system).

However, it does provide better financial control.

FAXON is a supplier of periodicals which operates its own serials control system. It is limited to journals supplied by Faxon, but is otherwise similar to OCLC.

Evaluation of Serials Systems

Automated serials systems are useful for providing reminders of when issues are due and generating claims when they become overdue. They also help with financial management. However, they do not appear to be significantly quicker than manual systems.

Circulation Systems

Only the very large libraries seem to have automated their circulation systems. The theological libraries consider that they can cope adequately with manual systems. Automation may become a feasible alternative when the online catalogue (OPAC) is established. Charging and discharging items with the aid of wands would be quicker than manual methods and would provide better control (e.g., through blocks on items or users) and statistical information.

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

The OPAC is the ultimate stage of library automation. Some of the larger university and public libraries have achieved this level, but as yet none of the theological libraries visited. However, Concordia, St. Louis is confident of being online by the end of 1986 with newly-revised software and new hardware.

It is at the OPAC stage that the major advantages of automation for the user becomes evident. The OPAC permits a revolutionary new approach to subject searching (information retrieval). Users are not bound to cumbersome, fixed-form, subdivided subject headings, but can search by keywords, not only in the subject headings area of the bibliographic record, but also the title and any additional notes which may be added by the cataloguer. Boolean logic can also be used to refine searches (i.e., the use of the terms "and", "or", and "not"). The process is also infinitely quicker than any manual method could possibly be.

All libraries visited appear to be heading in the direction of the OPAC, but are being inhibited by factors such as the cost of the hardware and the cost and time involved in retrospective conversion of existing records. The terms under which ABN allows retrocon appear very much more favourable than anything noted on the American scene.

Retrospective Conversion

With access to a suitable database (e.g., OCLC, RLIN, UTLAS, BIBLIOFILE), retrocon is comparatively simple, but where thousands of records are involved it is inevitably time-consuming and may be expensive, especially where updating of existing records is required. With ABN, the majority of the task *may* be as simple as adding a holdings statement to an existing record. Use of the BIBLIOFILE database would be a realistic alternative, but would probably not be any cheaper than ABN and would not place our holdings on the National Bibliographic Database. Self-evidently, the smaller the catalogue when retrocon is undertaken, the cheaper the process will be! This is one area where small libraries have one advantage over large ones!

Summary Statement on Automation

Computers are here to stay and will increasingly become an essential aspect of an adequate library service. Already, participation in wider networks is effectively limited to automated systems. We already have the situation in Australia that it is impossible to be involved in a national union catalogue without a computer. The sooner automation is implemented, the better it will be for our library users!

CO-OPERATION

Practically all of the libraries visited are involved in some degree of regional co-operation, the degree being limited chiefly by the independence and individuality of the various libraries involved. In the American situation, it is frequently possible to achieve a high degree of self-sufficiency within a narrowly defined area (e.g., the Chicago area, where the libraries of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools between them hold almost as many monographs and serial titles as all the Australian and New Zealand theological libraries put together).

Most co-operative arrangements seem to have begun with a union list of periodicals. Examples are the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Libraries, The Southeast Pennsylvania Theological Library Association, the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, and the Boston Theological Institute. Not many examples of union catalogues were encountered (the MCTL being a notable exception), since links with OCLC give adequate access to the holdings of other libraries. This suggests that the way to go for Australian theological libraries is via ABN.

Nearly all co-operative arrangements encountered involved reciprocal borrowing rights. There appear to be no examples of the centralisation of cataloguing or acquisitions. However, there has generally been some defining of areas of collection specialisation, checking of major purchases, and one or two examples of union lists of standing orders (e.g., for major series).

BUILDINGS

Apart from external architecture, the library buildings visited generally show evidence of careful planning in interior design and layout. However, it is also frequently evident that libraries have outgrown the most optimistic projections of their designers. In a number of cases, space-consuming architectural niceties have had to be adapted to more practical and realistic uses, not always to very good effect. Nevertheless, there has generally been considerable effort put into making the entrance to the library visually appealing, creating an impression of spaciousness and warmth, and considering the comfort of the user.

Most theological libraries have created some kind of pastoral resource and/or curriculum development centre, sometimes as part of a larger audio-visual centre. It is evident that the nature of the materials collected has created problems of cataloguing and housing, and there appears to be no commonly-accepted method of dealing with either of these problems.

A prominent feature of all the libraries visited is the separate reference room. Special attention is given to the convenience of library users in making use of the reference collection.

Likewise, special care and attention has been given to rare book collections. There is always a separate room, with attention being given to security, atmospheric control, dust control, minimal lighting, and facilities for study within the room. Some of the rare book rooms are very attractive.

Current periodicals are usually attractively displayed and some of the libraries with larger subscription lists have separated out a smaller group of the most popular items and have provided a more comfortable environment for reading them.

THE AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The dominant emphases on the ATLA scene at the present moment appear to be collection development and evaluation, applications of computer technology, and the preservation of deteriorating monographs. Meanwhile, the program of indexing of periodicals is being continued and expanded.

The emphasis on collection evaluation is based on the ARL Conspectus. The Association of Research Libraries has expanded the system previously adopted by the American Library Association, with its coding on a numerical scale from 0 to 5:

0 = Out of scope
1 = Minimal level
2 = Basic information level
3 = Instructional support level
4 = Research level
5 = Comprehensive collecting level

ARL has provided guidelines for interpreting the different levels, and has provided a further breakdown of levels two and three: introductory and advanced. The hope is that libraries across North America will use the system to create a national online inventory of library subject strengths.

The ATLA has committed itself to supporting the project by producing the North American Theological Inventory. It is developing guidelines and worksheets for the Philosophy and Religion section, based on Library of Congress subject groupings which are paralleled by the

relevant Dewey and Pettee classification numbers. Provision is made for noting the Existing Collection Strength (ECS), the Current Collecting Intensity (CCI), and for further comments (where a library producing a collection development policy can insert desired collection levels).

At the conference, the theme of collection development was further explored in a seminar on purchasing retrospective materials. The United States is fortunate in having a number of specialist secondhand dealers in theological books. Several representatives of these dealers shared thoughts on the topic with a group of librarians. Some of the ideas which came out of the session were: the need to develop a good understanding with book dealers, to develop want (desiderata) lists, and also negative want lists (e.g., "We want everything written by Paul Tillich available in English, but we already have ...").

There is a worldwide concern about the deterioration of books printed between 1850 and 1910, because of the acidic paper on which they were printed. The ATLA has developed a program for the preservation of such materials and is leading the world in this area of library activity. Building on its experience in microfilming the less popular religious and theological periodicals (including many church papers), its Preservation Board is aiming to microfilm 4000 titles a year from the target group and is marketing them on high quality microfiche (with full cataloguing data) for US$12 to non-subscribers and US$5.25 to subscribers (with a minimum subscription of 200 items). The project provides a good method of collection building for libraries interested in collecting material from that era. The Board is also interested in preserving Australian materials and has suggested "Australian aborigines" (ethnology, missions, etc.) as a possible initial subject area. For further information, contact Robert P. Markham, ATLA Preservation Board, 1118 E 55th Pl, Chicago, IL 60615.

Major issues involving the application of computer technology have been addressed in previous years and computers are by now well entrenched in American theological libraries. Current interests in automation are therefore mainly in the area of programmes and services involving microcomputers, e.g., for word processing, statistics, financial management, bibliographies, concordances, indexing and languages (including Greek and Hebrew). The majority of those involved in the Microcomputer User's Group (MUG) are using IBM PC's, apparently because of the variety of programs developed for these machines.

Some important developments are taking place with regard to ATLA Religion Indexes. Their offices are located in cramped quarters on the fourth floor of an old building in Chicago, but their surroundings are no hindrance to progress. The elimination of abstracts from *Religion Index One* means they will now be able to increase their coverage by 35-40 new titles to around 400 periodicals. The *Index to Book Reviews in Religion* has also been separated out from RIO from the beginning of 1986 and is published in loose-leaf format on a quarterly basis, with a cumulation at the end of the year. An additional feature is the inclusion of a subject index with the annual cumulation, which will be an aid to book selection. The Index Board is also seeking to enhance the RELI online database by including the *Catholic Periodical and Literature Index* and is also negotiating with the Southern Baptists and the United Methodists regarding their periodical indexes.

The annual conference provides the opportunity for denominational groups to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest. Some are highly organized and some are very casual. The writer attended the meeting of the Lutheran Librarians' Group. Besides meeting kindred spirits from the American scene, he heard them take up the problem of indexing Lutheran periodicals, with a view to including them also on the RELI database. A start has been made by producing a catalogue of Lutheran periodicals emanating from North America.

Another special interest group which met at the conference was the Pettee User's Group. It took up the revision and updating of the classification, which will get underway again following the return to good health of Dr. John Trotti of Union Theological Seminary in

Virginia, the co-ordinator and copyright holder. To improve the opportunity for feedback from Australian libraries, a single airmail copy of *Pettee Matters* will be sent to Australia for local duplication and distribution to Australian users. All known users of the Pettee Classification will be contacted. (The writer will be the Australian co-ordinator).

Some two hundred people usually attend the annual conference, and they are provided with a wide variety of workshops and papers to attend. There are also a number of plenary sessions. This conference included a special 40th anniversary celebration. It also featured an address by Michael Gorman (a compiler of *AACR2*) on "Bibliographic control in the Smaller, Specialized Library". He urged the librarians to conform to acceptable standards in the interest of sharing with one another. Every library has something distinctive to offer the total community and must be prepared to sacrifice its own individuality to make it available to others. This address should be essential reading for all theological librarians when it appears in the *ATLA Proceedings*. Another feature speaker was Bob Lynn, of the Lilly Foundation. He spoke of the need for faculty not to neglect research and for libraries to be equipped to support them in their scholarly endeavours.

The writer's own presentation on "Australian and New Zealand Theological Libraries and Librarianship" was well received and revealed a widespread interest in Australia - both the church scene in general and the theological education and library scene in particular.

To be present at a conference of the ATLA is to feel that one is at the very forefront of developments in theological librarianship. It is an experience which more Australians and New Zealanders ought to share. The 1987 conference will be held in San Francisco, which is about as close to our part of the world as it can be! For the less than A$2000 it would cost, it would be a very profitable investment!

PROPOSAL FOR AN ANZTLA GUIDE TO REFERENCE LITERATURE

Abstract

A project is proposed for a research guide service for the literature of theology which would provide both detailed annotations for key reference tools and introductory essays on the various forms/genres of theological reference works. Such a service would be updated regularly and would serve as a fundamental resource for programmes of bibliographic instruction.

Background

The ability to conduct research is basic to the study of theology and to the practice of ministry. Effective preaching, teaching, counselling, administration and community involvement all presuppose the ability to undertake independent research. Librarians and their academic colleagues in theological colleges recognise this, but at present little is done to inculcate basic research skills as part of pastoral training, and in Australia there is an undeniable paucity of indigenous resources for instruction in theological research and bibliography.

Bibliographies and research guides are basic to instructional programmes, whether as central texts or supplementary resources. The preparation of such tools on an individual basis is difficult work which places heavy demands on both time and bibliographic and evaluative skills. Furthermore, the number of indifferent guides currently in print indicates that few academics, librarians or bibliographers are genuinely competent in preparing such works; and they continue to appear, duplicating work already done and never taking into account specifically Australian needs in terms of content. The results continue to be mediocre and ephemeral, rarely attaining a quality acceptable in a range of theological colleges.

The Project

The focus of the proposed guide is reference works which are essential to the professional training and ongoing development of clergy and church workers. Unlike traditionally printed research guides this project will be in constant revision and expansion. It will be a service rather than a one-off publication which quickly becomes dated. The provision for regular updating will commend the service as a current awareness tool. A series of preliminary essays will be developed, covering (1) the basic structure of theological literature, (2) the main genres of theological reference works, (3) research strategies for theological work. These essays may well be based on John Trotti's "Introduction to the Study and Use of Theological Literature" in Gorman and Gorman, *Theological and Religious Reference Materials: General Resources and Biblical Studies* (Greenwood Press, 1984). Alternative models might be Aldrich and Camp's *Using Theological Books and Libraries* (Prentice-Hall, 1963) or Kennedy's *Library Research Guide to Religion and Theology* (Pierian Press, 1974). However, the proposed essays must not merely replicate such overseas work but must take into account the study and teaching of theology as practised in Australia.

Following these relatively static essays, which may be issued as a separate fascicle, will be the bibliographic reference guide. Few annotations in available guides convey an adequate sense of experience in theological literature and research. Therefore, the annotations in this project will:

1. survey the salient features and unique features of each work,
2. evaluate its specific strengths and weaknesses,
3. compare and contrast it with similar publications,
4. suggest how it can be used in combination with other works to provide more complete coverage of significant literature on a topic,
5. clearly indicate any denominational bias or theological viewpoint.

Citations will be standardised to ensure adequate bibliographic detail needed for locating the work in a library, for online data base searching or ordering. Unit numbers will be assigned to facilitate cross-referencing. Indexes will provide access to the works by author, title and subject. Key words in context (from titles) will also be considered. The subject index will be developed in a way that will provide access to such features as reviews, abstracts, bibliographies, biblical text indices, etc. even where these are not predominant features of a given work.

Subscription to the project will include authorisation for the subscriber to revise the profiles according to local needs. Thus a librarian presenting an introduction to tools for research in Victorian church history could create with relative ease a tailored, annotated bibliography simply by "mining" the project profiles and adapting the annotations as required.

After an initial core of approximately 40-50 items has been developed (annotated and indexed) this could be released as the first instalment. Thereafter supplementary pages would be released on a regular basis (perhaps quarterly) in a looseleaf format. An editor will direct ongoing input into the project, and an editorial board will be established to represent the various disciplines and traditions within ANZTLA. This board will develop with the editor both detailed criteria for the project and required procedures. Each member will have responsibility for a specific subject area and will co-ordinate a group of annotators in that area. The board as a whole will review each annotation in order to ensure the fullest, most objective analysis of each title. Editors and annotators with demonstrated subject expertise and research skills will be recruited from librarians and scholars from across Australia and New Zealand. The editorial process must allow drafts of annotations to be submitted, reviewed, edited, printed and circulated with considerable despatch. A format adequate for frequent updating will be sought. A notebook or looseleaf format is one such possibility, as this would allow individual pages to be added or replaced as required.

The success of such a project depends on both capable leadership and a secure operational base. There are at least two basic approaches.

1. Association sponsorship. Such a project is a natural undertaking for ANZTLA.
2. Independent product. The project could become a publication venture of simply a group of people and/or libraries who act as a broker for the service or contract with a publisher. Local presses would need to be contacted in order to determine their interest in such an undertaking. In either case third party funding would need to be sought for the initial stages of the project. Ongoing operational costs would be recovered through subscription or through a contractual arrangement with a publisher.

Comments and criticisms of this proposal from ANZTLA members will be most welcome prior to the Canberra consultation in August. This will enable us to gauge the amount of support for the project and to determine whether there are enough individuals willing to provide input to the proposal to make it viable.

G.E. Gorman
School of Information Studies
Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education
P.O. Box 588
WAGGA WAGGA. N.S.W. 2650

CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC DOCUMENTATION

In September 1986 the Catholic Institute of Sydney in its efforts to serve the pastoral and intellectual needs of the Australian Catholic Church resolved to set up the Centre for Australian Catholic Documentation as part of its library operation. The reasons for doing so were the following:

- to serve the pastoral needs of the Australian Church by gathering the printed records of debate and pastoral initiatives, by organizing these records and making them available for research, pastoral planning and dialogue.

- to provide a collecting point for printed historical records relating to Catholic thought and achievements in Australia over the last two hundred years and to make these records available for research.

By establishing this Centre the Catholic Institute of Sydney intends to provide a clearinghouse of information in the area of Australian Catholic studies.

The functions of the Centre will be the following:

- to gather up printed records illustrating contemporary Australian pastoral initiatives and make these records available for consultation.

- to collect, preserve and make available for consultation printed historical documentation with regard to Catholic thought and activity in Australia over the last 200 years.

- to centralise information concerning other locations where material documenting Australian Catholicism may be found.

- to create awareness for the need of preservation of records among Australian Catholics.

- to support the National Catholic Research Council in its task of co-ordinating and initiating pastoral research to assist the Catholic Church in Australia with its planning for the future.

The Centre already contains a considerable collection of historical and contemporary materials and will continue to solicit and acquire all types of material printed in Australia (and abroad) relating to any aspects of the Catholic Church in Australia including -

- books and theses
- pamphlets and promotional material
- Catholic periodicals, popular magazines, newspapers
- annual reports
- pictorial works and posters
- audiocassettes, tapes, film and video cassettes

but generally excluding archival collections, unidentified photographs and realia. The Centre will however advise on appropriate archives where such material can be preserved.

The Centre for Australian Catholic Documentation is at present conducted at the Catholic Institute of Sydney by the staff of the Veech Library and by voluntary workers. The Centre and its directors are assisted in its operation by a policy Advisory Committee of experts in various disciplines and a Committee of Friends active in raising the necessary funds for operating the Centre.

REVIEW

Holocaust and Genocide Studies: An International Journal. Vol.1 - Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1986. US$55.00 per annum/US$104.00 two years.

Perhaps only Robert Maxwell could publish a journal with such a bizarre and curiosity-generating title - and succeed. Produced in association with the US Holocaust Memorial Council and Yad Vashem, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum not only for study of the Holocaust but also for scholarly analysis of genocide more generally. As the editors suggest, one cannot be examined without reference to the other, particularly if one looks at the Holocaust as an example of genocide in our own century. And there are other examples - North American Indians, Australian Aborigines, Armenians, etc. All of these, one presumes, will fall within the scope of this journal, which purposely concentrates on the twentieth century. The Editor-in-Chief, Yehuda Bauer of the Hebrew University, reminds us that "we are dealing not with just any problem to which academic standards need to be applied. We are dealing here with one of the central issues that affect contemporary humanity, if not the most central one: ... can it avoid the ideological, religious, social, economic and political pitfalls that may cause part of it to annihilate other parts in the name of false gods?"

Obviously, then, this journal has been founded out of more than academic interest, yet its scholarly credentials are impeccable: Elie Wiesel, Martin Gilbert and Franklin Littell, among others, are on the Editorial Board; the Editorial Advisory Board includes such eminent theologians as Robert McAfee Brown and Rosemary Ruether. Given the broad spectrum of disciplines and interests represented on these boards, one is not surprised by the range of topics treated in the nine substantive articles in the first issue: Himmler's SS, Holocaust and ghetto photography, literature of the camps, the Mississippi Choctaw, etc. And there are even two articles to interest theologians in particular: Roy Eckardt's "Is There a Way Out of the Christian Crime? The Philosophic Question of the Holocaust" and John Conway's "Protestant Missions to the Jews 1810-1980: Ecclesiastical Imperialism or Theological Aberration?" The five book reviews (a rather small number) contain nothing that immediately attracts one's eye, yet there have been several important theological studies in recent months: *Theologians under Hitler: Gerhard Kittel, Paul Althaus and Emanuel Hirsh* by Robert Ericksen, *Christian Faith and Public Choices: The Social Ethics of Barth, Brunner and Bonheffer* by Robin Lovin. Both appear in the two page listing of recent books, and one hopes that such titles will be reviewed regularly.

From the standpoint of theological libraries this journal is likely to be worth serious consideration. Clearly the editorial policy seeks to include a theological perspective on genocide, and the initial articles within this rubric suggest that a qualitatively high standard has been set for contributions. If the explicitly theological content were to increase to thirty per cent on average and if the reviews were to include theologically relevant titles, then those libraries which seek to expand the multidisciplinary content of their collections should be interested in subscribing to this journal. Compared with other scholarly serials, the price is reasonable. Please note, however, that *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* is not yet indexed in *Religion Index One*. Recommended with caution.

G.E. Gorman
Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education.