

## 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, Bibliographic 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.