

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

This item is the abstract from 'The collection for the saints: collection development at the Joint Theological Library', the recently completed thesis of Coralie Jenkin. At our recent Conference, Coralie outlined for us her research methodology, and the conclusions drawn from the studies. Copies of the thesis will soon be available at: Luther Seminary, the Joint Theological Library, Monash University Main Library, National Catholic Research Council, and Victoria College, Toorak Campus Library.

ABSTRACT

This thesis, which takes the form of a case study, considers the hypothesis that the Joint Theological Library needs, and would benefit from, a collection development policy.

The benefits of a collection development policy given in the literature can be summarized under five main headings: information for management, information for selectors, information for users, information for cooperation, and improvement of the collection.

Formed from collections owned by the Jesuit, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, the Joint Theological Library's collections are now owned by the Jesuit Theological College and the Uniting Church Theological Hall. The collections have been integrated (although separate ownership is maintained), and are situated in the MacFarland Library Building, Ormond College. The main users of the Library are the students and Faculty of the United Faculty of Theology.

Various studies were used to evaluate the collection. The twenty-seven collection studies cover: student reading lists; subject materials; reference works; continuing education materials; research level materials; periodicals; comparisons with American Theological Library Association, College of Advanced Education and Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association libraries; expenditure; quantitative collection standards; and related collections. The results of these studies and comments from interviews were considered in the light of the Library's objectives.

Conclusions drawn from the studies are encapsulated in the comment 'what the Library does, it does extremely well'.

The reasons for having a collection development policy are considered in the light of these conclusions. As a result of this thesis five recommendations are made to the Library Management Committee.

As it was shown that the Library would benefit from a collection development policy the outline of a policy has been drawn up. Using the Research Library Group Conspectus materials, a policy for biblical studies (Petee Classification C to F), has been written for submission to the Library Management Committee.

Coralie Jenkin.

Note from the editor:

Coralie's address at the Conference I found most stimulating. I learnt much about collection development and was motivated to investigate the subject further in the weeks that followed. I discovered numerous works written on the subject and have subsequently employed Inter-library loan facilities in order to do some reading. A few items I found very useful are :-

- * *Guidelines for collection development*, edited by David L. Perkins. American Library Association, 1979.
- * *Collection assessment manual for college and university libraries*, by Blaine H. Hall. Oryx Press, 1985.
- * *Acquisitions management and collection development in libraries*, Rose Mary Magrill and Doralyn J. Hickey. American Library Association, 1984.