

UNION LISTING OF SERIALS

Recent changes in the manner of reporting of serial holdings to the National Library for inclusion in NUCOS will have serious repercussions for the majority of Australian theological libraries for whom joining the ABN network is not an economically feasible option. From January 1988 onward, additions and deletions in serial holdings can no longer be reported on cards as has been customary since the inception of SALSSAH.

On the other hand the Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections (AULOTS) in its present edition is already five years old and in urgent need of updating.

In the interest of credible theological research and informed religious debate in the South Pacific the question must be raised how to continue the work done for theological libraries by NUCOS (and its predecessor SALSSAH) and by AULOTS.

Whereas the National Library seems at present open to the idea of addition notable collections of holdings¹ previous approaches concerning the possibility of adding AULOTS holdings to the national database have been far from encouraging.

There are a number of reasons for maintaining a separate Union listing of serials in a readily usable format (paper or microfiche). Contribution to NUCOS certainly has the effect of drawing us closer into a national library network. Yet, if we analyse our Interlibrary loan requests we note that apart from those emanating from libraries represented in AULOTS the remainder is largely from academics or postgraduates with close links to the theological library world who are well aware of the existence of AULOTS. On the other hand, AULOTS is a considerable ecumenical effort promoting close cooperation among theological librarians, its format allows quick and transportable reference use, it is a source for rationalisation and consolidation of periodical runs. Moreover, it allows the inclusion of other than Australian libraries in the South Pacific and assists in a more equitable interlibrary loans policy between participating libraries. Finally its price is that of a single purchase unlike NUCOS which, in spite of minor changes (for our purposes) in its rapidly succeeding cumulations needs to be subscribed to at a cost of \$30.00 per annum.

It is true that a considerable number of journals of theological or religious relevance is also or only held by libraries contributing to NUCOS but an enlarged supplement to a new AULOTS edition could bring important material from NUCOS within its confines. After all, the supplement in the first edition was added as an after thought in a matter of days!

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¹Acquisition, bibliography, cataloguing news (National Library of Australia), no. 27, Dec. 1987, p. 4.

After consultation with the National Catholic Research Council which was responsible for the publication of the first edition (at a considerable financial loss), some progress has now been made in planning its continuation. The original "8" diskettes have now been converted to 5.25 inch format. An investigation is also under way to convert the diskettes produced with a word processing programme into a database to allow print-outs by individual libraries, States, etc. I hope to have the results of this investigation and concrete plans for updating AULOTS ready for discussion at our joint ANZATS/ANZTLA conference in Canberra later this year.

Hans Arns.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is a privilege to be able to communicate with you through the medium of the ANZTLA Newsletter. I would encourage you also to use it to communicate with one another, by sending in news items, stories about your library, book reviews, or more scholarly articles. Our thanks also to Lynn Pryor and Philip Harvey for their contribution in making it all possible.

Newsletter Subscriptions. Now is the time to promote the Newsletter and to get it established on a sound financial basis. I understand that only 42 subscriptions have been paid up to date. Will you help to at least double this number by the time of the conference in September? Please check within your chapter or group of theological libraries that all ANZATS libraries are paying up. As from 1988, membership in ANZTLA is no longer being paid by ANZATS. Each ANZATS library must pay its own ANZTLA fee, and this should be for full membership (\$20), which includes the right to vote at meetings of the association. Libraries need to make clear that it is an institutional subscription and who the representative of the library is (i.e. the librarian-in-charge). I suggest the format: [Name of Library]
c/- [Name of Librarian-in-charge]

Other libraries in your chapter or group should also be encouraged to join as full members. Membership of the chapter implies membership of ANZTLA, but it must be formalized by payment of the prescribed fee. Other libraries and individuals may either join ANZTLA as members or subscribe to the Newsletter only (\$15). Please check out the Bible colleges, church diocesan and administrative libraries, and church CAE libraries, as well as academic libraries and librarians which have an interest in religion and theology. Where a library has more than one member of staff, any who are not covered by the institutional membership may join individually, thus demonstrating their solidarity with the association and earning the right to vote at meetings. Fees for membership and for newsletter subscription cover the calendar year.

AULOTS. Following the decision of the Melbourne conference to investigate the possibility of updating the Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections, Hans Arns and Marianne Dacy have been busy, loading the existing data onto the computer at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. They aim to run off a list of each library's holdings and send it to that library for updating.