

EDITORIAL

Sometimes, as I read professional publications such as ALIA's *Incite*, the *Australian Library Journal* and *Australasian College Libraries*, I feel that, for some reason, I do not relate to the problems which other of our professional colleagues experience. Then I am led to wonder whether other ANZTLA librarians have this same feeling of isolation from the real world of professional librarianship. As an example, in a recent *Incite* (10(19), 27 Nov 1989), is a report entitled *ALIA and the Australian Libraries Summit*. How are we in our very specialised sphere of service, affected by these resolutions?

A significant amount of media attention has been given recently to award restructuring, and some State branches of ALIA have been holding workshops to determine the impact that award restructuring may have on those employed in the information industry. Somehow I am left with the feeling that such problems are of no concern to me. Is this your reaction also?

Yet as I reflect on such matters, my thoughts turn to fellow librarians who experience a far greater sense of isolation in their daily work. In July this year, following the ANZTLA conference in Auckland, I had the privilege of visiting Fiji and the Solomon Islands, specifically to assess the library service offered at the Bishop Patteron Theological Centre, near Honiara, and to advise on the upgrading of the service for support of a degree level teaching program. In Suva I also visited the library of the Pacific Theological College, observing their collection and discussing with the librarian (an Australian professional) the difficulties faced in working in such a situation. Invited by the South Pacific Anglican Council to make the visit in order to advise professionally, I found the whole exercise a very valuable self-learning experience.

For both libraries the tyranny of distance and of time (coupled with extreme budgetary restraints) is probably the major factor which restricts the development of their library services and the ability to keep abreast of current publications relevant to theological studies today. In Australia and New Zealand we have networks of contact with fellow professionals with whom we can discuss problems encountered; when we are asked to acquire materials post haste, we have the means at our disposal to fulfil

such requests. Other theological libraries are available to which we can refer our patrons, and from whom we can obtain materials on interlibrary loan.

We might work alone and we might on occasion feel frustrated because it is difficult to convince our governing bodies to spend extra on improvement of the services, yet we can never match the isolation and (no doubt) frustration of serving in situations where it takes (eg) three months to get a new packet of spine labels (if your budget can still afford them)! I commend for your consideration the short item in this Newsletter concerning the establishment of an organisation which might serve to alleviate some of the problems faced by our colleagues in theological college libraries in the Asia-Pacific region. I invite expressions of interest in participation in such a scheme.

Many expressed interest in access to Lawrence McIntosh's contribution to the Auckland conference, so we managed to persuade him to prepare this for publication.

NEWS

The inaugural meeting of the World Conference of Associations of Theological Institutions (WOCATI) was held in June this year. ANZATS was represented by Dr Ian Williams of the United Faculty of Theology, Melbourne. Dr Williams reported on the wide diversity of approaches to theological education. Two strong emphases throughout the meeting were those stressing contextualisation and globalisation within theological education.

NEW INTERLIBRARY LENDING CHARGES

'After lengthy and detailed investigation into interlibrary lending (ILL) patterns and costs in Australia, the ACLIS National Council has decided on a new scale of charges, to apply from 1 July 1990. ... the recommended scale of charges [will] be \$6 for a photocopy of up to 30 pages; \$9 for a photocopy in excess of 30 pages; and \$9 for an original. This is the first movement in interlibrary loan charges since 1987.' (*Incite* 10(19) 27 Nov 1989).