

ANZTLA AFFAIRS

The December 1989 issues (No. 9) of the *ANZTLA Newsletter* included an appeal to theological librarians in our area to consider the possibility of assisting colleagues in the theological libraries of the Asia-Pacific region. It is a concept which I would also like to encourage. My impression is that (with some dramatic exceptions) many libraries in the Pacific area are worse off than those in the Asian area. Some research - not yet published - which I have done suggests that many Asian libraries are as well served by personnel as our libraries in Australia and New Zealand, but that they are noticeably lacking in bibliographic resources - especially periodicals. I suspect the situation is much worse generally among the Pacific libraries - especially also in regard to staffing. With the generous assistance of ACPAD and (in one instance) the Royal Australian Air Force, we at the Löhe Memorial Library have sent several large consignments of duplicate periodicals to Asian theological libraries - with considerable benefit to us, as well as to the recipients! Though our libraries in Australia and New Zealand are very limited in our own resources, I am convinced there is much we can do for the development of the theological libraries of our nearest neighbours.

A specific request for voluntary assistance of a more direct kind has come from the Talua Ministry Training Center of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Their need is for a competent cataloguer to spend two months with them, assisting with the establishment of their library. If you are interested in offering your services or would like further information, please contact: Ps. Kalsakau urtalo Zacharie, Talua Ministry Training Center, PO Box 180, Luganville, Santo, Republic of Vanuatu.

It is encouraging to note that the *Australasian Religion Index* has received favourable comment in David Jones's "The Source" column in *Incite: newsletter of the Australian Library and Information Association*. I personally am finding it an extremely useful resource and am convinced of its value for libraries of all kinds. Please assist this ANZTLA project, not only by renewing your subscription (which is now due) but also by promoting it among library colleagues both here and overseas.

Include brochures about *ARI* with your mail to other librarians, and don't forget to use it for answering reference enquiries.

The *ANZTLA Standards* have finally been endorsed by the Australian Library and Information Association. This gives them the approval of the wider library community and should give us added confidence to promote them within our own libraries. Hopefully, they will give added support to any application you may have to make to improved facilities, services, or resource budgets, as well as providing you with guidelines for the development of your library.

During a period of sabbatical leave in 1989, Fr Gary Gorman conducted a survey of theologians (i.e. theological college lecturers) in Adelaide to discover the ways in which they seek information and the ways they use libraries. So useful has the survey been that Gary is now proposing that the survey be replicated among all theologians of Australia and New Zealand, and is suggesting that ANZTLA adopt such a survey as a project for 1991. Gary has offered to coordinate it, and estimates that it would cost about \$300. The matter will be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming ANZTLA general meeting. If you would like to read the full 30-page report, *Patterns of information seeking and library use by theologians: results of a preliminary survey of seven Australian theological institutions*, please contact Fr Gary Gorman, Charles Sturt University, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650. An abbreviated version will appear in *AARL: Australasian Academic and Research Libraries*.

Speaking of the ANZTLA Conference, now is the time to register, using the form included in this issue of the newsletter. The program looks top-class, with one overseas speaker to add to the wealth of talent drawn from our own midst. There surely can't be a much better place than Banyo to be in the middle of winter - especially in the company of one's theological colleagues! I look forward to seeing you there!

(Revd) Trevor Zweck,
President.

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