

to promote the distribution of the revised *Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections* (almost completed); to retain membership fees at A\$20 and newsletter subscriptions at A\$15. In the elections, Mara Goodall, Churches of Christ (New South Wales) Theological College was chosen as the Sydney representative on the Executive, and the first Western Australian (Marcia Harrison, Perth Theological Hall, replacing Hal Cain) was elected to the *ARI* Editorial Board; all other officers being re-elected, including Trevor Zweck as President and Val Canty as Secretary/Treasurer. The next conference is to be held at Morling College (adjoining Macquarie University), Eastwood, NSW, 5-8 July, 1991.

(Rev) Trevor Zweck,
President,
Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1989-90

The year 1989-90 has been one of consolidation, rather than of expansion of the Association's activities. The three developments which would seem worthy of special comment are the approval of the *ANZTLA Standards* by the Australian Library and Information Association, the development of the *Australasian Religion Index*, and the formation of the New Zealand chapter of ANZTLA.

The formation of the New Zealand chapter followed the conclusion of the outstandingly successful conference held at St John's/Trinity, Auckland, in July, 1989. This was the first conference held in New Zealand and became the catalyst for bringing unprecedented numbers of New Zealand theological librarians together. We welcome the New Zealand contingent as an established chapter of the Association.

The development of a set of standards for theological libraries had its origins in the ANZATS Library Consultation held at St Francis College, Brisbane in 1983, the impetus being provided by a paper delivered by the undersigned. It is significant that the issue of standards has been seen as so important that its origins actually pre-date the formation of

the Association. It is a pleasure to be able to report that not only has the work of formulation been completed, but that it has been formally endorsed by a national library association.

The appearance of the first semi-annual issue of the *Australasian Religion Index* soon after the Auckland conference marked the beginning of what will surely be one of the most important and far-reaching projects the Association will ever undertake. It is obvious that the Editorial Committee, the team of indexers, and the production team have set a high professional standard from the outset and that this vital tool for religious and theological research is meeting a very real need in our community. As we commend those involved in its production, let us also commit ourselves to its continuance and further development.

It is now five years since the decision to form the Association was made at the ANZATS Library Consultation, Adelaide, in 1985, so this is a fitting time to review briefly what has been achieved in those five years. Apart from the *ANZTLA Standards* and the *Australasian Religion Index* mentioned above, we have established a newsletter as a means of communication and of professional development, we have managed to continue a regular program of annual conferences for the professional growth of participants and the improvement of library services, and we have almost completed the production of the third edition of the vitally important *Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections*. Through all this activity, the theological librarians of Australia and New Zealand have been brought together as never before (with several new chapters being formed) and have developed a greater unity of purpose and a greater confidence in carrying out their important responsibilities.

Considering the size of our group, the achievements listed above are considerable; but, as we look ahead, we see that there is much still to be done for the development of our library collections and the improvement of our services, as well as for the mutual support and encouragement of colleagues in kindred institutions in Asia, Melanesia, and the South Pacific, as well as in our own midst.

Respectfully submitted,
(Rev) Trevor Zweck, President (July, 1990)