

POSTSCRIPT

The following message was received too late to be presented at the Banyo conference:

On behalf of all my colleagues in the American Theological Library Association, I extend warm greetings to the ANZTLA gathered in conference. I am pleased that our Richard Mintel is participating in your conference and am indebted to him for offering the opportunity for this message from ATLA.

Richard's presence there results from a job exchange with Trevor Zweck; hopefully this means we shall again be privileged to welcome Trevor to our ATLA conference, though I am not sure his schedule will allow. His address to our conference in 1986, shortly before your founding conference, was an interesting, richly informative, and enduring contribution to our understanding of theological libraries and librarianship in Australia and New Zealand.

Perhaps this job exchange between our two colleagues offers a model for others in our ranks. Would it be feasible and worthwhile for ANZTLA and ATLA to develop a joint project to promote and help arrange such exchanges? We would welcome your thoughts on this.

Best wishes for a highly successful conference. Grace and peace to each of you.

Yours in the Great Fellowship,
H. Eugene McLeod,
President, ATLA

THE NEW AULOTS

Hans Arns

The need for a resource directory which provides locations and holdings of theological and related journals in Australia and New Zealand is now well established. It is fourteen years since Dr John O'Rourke, C.M. published his Union List of Periodicals in Theological Libraries in

Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. This work was followed in 1983 by the first edition of the Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections published under the auspices of the National Catholic Research Council.

The need to update this edition of AULOTS, by which acronym it has become known, led to a call in early 1989 requesting previously participating libraries to advise of additions and deletions. While a few of these libraries have ceased to exist others have taken their place. Delays in the supply of information and a major re-formatting of the data by Fr. Michael Mason, C.S.S.R. to give AULOTS the flexibility of a database have slowed production more than intended. However we have a much more flexible working tool now, capable of producing print-outs of holdings for a single library or group of libraries. Its increased usefulness in the rationalisation of periodical resources in consortia and other groupings of libraries should be obvious.

AULOTS is intended to supplement other national resource directories such as SALSSAH and NUCOS which list the periodical holdings of academic and other libraries containing extensive holdings of religious journals. The restriction of NUCOS to ABN participants and the reluctance of many smaller libraries to join this network have made it necessary to continue our union list in its present, easily managed format.

The Union list now contains the periodical holdings of some 85 libraries and resource centres in Australia and New Zealand. The listing does not intend to be an exhaustive one of all journals held in theological libraries by only of those which are needed for research in theology and religion and in related disciplines, including church history (especially in Australasia), philosophy, pastoral subjects and missiology.

My criteria to decide which journals fell within this scope will remain arbitrary. An informed decision was often difficult to make due to lack of information provided. On the other hand correspondence re suitability would have been time consuming and costly. An increase from 2616 titles in the 1983 edition to 3339 in the present should however indicate the liberality of the interpretation of my criteria.

Much work has also been done in this edition to provide more information on the genesis and history of journals where such information had not been provided. Obviously such information is only as accurate as the bibliographical sources that informed me. The deficiencies in this edition will remain many. It is unavoidable in a work of this size, produced with existing time restraints. However many glaring mistakes have now been corrected.

The time has now come to establish an editorial committee to plan the next edition. Questions have to be addressed about the future of AULOTS. They include decisions on what libraries should be represented, which deleted; on better criteria for inclusion and exclusion of journals; the need for a separate publication for Australian periodicals and the desirability of making the database available in other than paper format.

The compilation of AULOTS has been a labour of love but its pressures are such that its responsibility cannot be left on the shoulders of one person. A working arrangement between an Institution and ANZTLA may be the way to forge ahead with AULOTS as it was done with the Australian Religion Index.

In the meantime I send the new edition on its way in the hope that it may extend the possibility of good theological library service in Australia and New Zealand.

*Hans Arns,
Catholic Institute of Sydney.*

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