

ANZTLA AFFAIRS

From the President

I am happy to be able to report that the *ANZTLA Standards for Theological Libraries* has finally been approved by the New Zealand Library and Information Association. This follows its approval by the Australian Library and Information Association in 1989. The printed standards are included with this issue of the *ANZTLA Newsletter* and may now be used by members and others.

*You can use the standards to evaluate a library, noting that they are qualitative rather than quantitative. Thus, they do not specify measurements (e.g. of collections, staff size, space, or facilities), but they offer principles on which informed decisions and judgements can be made.

*You can use the standards for guidance and direction in establishing a new library or developing an old one. While they do not spell out all the details, they do provide helpful guidelines.

*You can use the standards to support a request to your governing body for improved conditions (e.g. staffing, funding, or facilities). It may be helpful to make comparisons based on the annual statistics to support your case.

It is to be hoped that the standards will lead, in some measure, to the improvement of libraries and librarianship and the provision of more adequate services to library users. Study them, use them, and make sure the governing body of your library becomes fully acquainted with them.

You may have noticed that some publishers of overseas journals have announced astronomical increases in subscriptions for 1992. It is inevitable that, in the present difficult economic climate, many will be forced to seriously consider cancelling some of these. Before you take such action, please check with other libraries or through *AULOTS* to see how important your subscription is to the national collection. If yours is the only subscription in your region or in the nation, this may suggest continuance in spite of the price increase. If you do nevertheless decide to cancel a title, please (for the sake of others) make sure the publishers know why you are doing so.

With this issue of the newsletter, you will receive registration forms for the 1992 ANZTLA Conference, to be held in Adelaide, 26-29 June. The program includes a strong component of professional development, with outstanding speakers, both from within ANZTLA and from the wider library community. On the lighter side, it includes a bus trip to the beautiful Clare Valley and a smorgasbord dinner at a local restaurant. Other regular features of recent conferences, allowing for input by delegates, will also be included. We look forward to having you with us to learn more about 'Working Together'.

During May, a workshop of theological librarians was held in conjunction with the conferences of the Programme for Theology and Cultures in Asia. Two of the proposals emanating from that meeting envisage the formation of an Association of Theological Libraries in Asia (ATLIA) and the development of courses in theological librarianship. The particular concern of the PTCA will be the collection, preservation, and bibliographic control of theological resources specially relevant to the Asian scene. We will watch these developments with interest.

On behalf of the executive of ANZTLA, I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and much joy in your work in the year that lies ahead.

(Rev) Trevor Zweck,
President.
