

ANZTLA AFFAIRS

Planning is well in hand for the Angles on Acquisitions conference of ANZTLA, to be held at Mount St Mary's Seminary, Greenmeadows (near Napier) New Zealand, 8-11 July, 1993, hosted by local librarian Glenys Dalziel. It promises to be a practical and helpful conference at an exciting location. Late enrolments must be directed to the New Zealand treasurer of the conference.

Australian delegates are reminded that, unless 'common border' conditions are arranged by July, it will be necessary to have a current passport to obtain entry back into Australia. A recent report in the local press indicates that Air New Zealand will soon have in place a common border for entry to New Zealand (allowing Australians to bypass customs and immigration), but similar arrangements for entry to Australia look like taking longer to set in place.

Statistical forms for the 1992 statistical year have been sent out by the Statistician, Helen Greenwood (St John's/Trinity, Auckland, NZ). Please make her job a little easier by returning your questionnaire promptly.

Our team of voluntary indexers has by now completed data sheets for volume 5, number 1 of the *Australasian Religion Index*. You can look forward to having this issue in your hands within a month or two; however, you are reminded that number two for this year will be a full five-year cumulation. This is an issue which should be widely promoted among those libraries which are not yet committed to a continuing subscription.

The American Theological Library Association has expressed interest in producing a CD-ROM version of *ARI*. This is an issue which the Board of *ARI* will have to tackle at its meeting in Greenmeadows in July. Members will be concerned to maintain control and copyright of the data and will have to look closely at the financial viability of any such project. If it is decided to produce a CD version, we will need to consider also whether there are better alternatives for having it produced locally.

Two recent periodicals from North America, aimed at theological librarians are worth noting in this column. The older is *Theology Cataloguing Bulletin*, a quarterly newsletter, now into its third issue. It is produced xerographically by the American Theological Library Association and most of the news and articles it contains are very much of the ATLA interest only; however, the section which is of general interest for Australasian librarians is its listing of new subject headings and subject heading changes devised by the Library of Congress. Anyone who wants to keep up to date with subject headings and who cannot afford the *LC Weekly Lists* will want to receive *TCB* for this valuable cataloguing information. The serial must be ordered direct (not through a subscription agent) from Ferne Weimer, Billy Graham Center Library, Wheaton College,

Wheaton, IL 60187-3593, USA. The annual subscription is US\$20.00. (Cheques payable to American Theological Library Association).

A much more ambitious journal is the *Journal of Religious and Theological Information*, edited by Dr William Miller and an 18-member Editorial Board of mainly United States theological librarians and published by Haworth Press (10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 130904-9981). The cost to non-North American libraries is US\$48 plus 40%. If you can afford that kind of money, you will find it a rich source of varied and interesting articles, ranging from very practical to very theoretical, all very well written. Look for reviews in *ANZTLA Newsletter*, *Australian Library Review*, and *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*.

Most readers will be aware that The American Theological Library Association is currently producing its own CD-ROM versions of the Religion Indexes database. Recent correspondence received by Ken Elder (Tahlee Bible College) indicates that ATLA is not averse to the sharing of such CDs by networks, the additional terminals costing only US\$25 to licence. The host library, of course, would have to pay about A\$3000 for the CD if not entitled to discounts. To become involved in such a network you would need a suitable computer and modem. For more information, call Ken.

A new acronym to add to your list is WOCATI (World Conference of Associations of Theological Institutions) which had its constituting meeting in Pittsburgh, Penn. last year, with two Australians (Dr Ian Williams and Dr MaryAnne Confoy) in attendance. The importance of WOCATI to theological librarians is that it is establishing a committee on library services. While specific terms of reference are yet to be drawn up for this committee, the obvious intention is to promote theological libraries and librarianship on an international scale. We will watch developments with interest.

As I write this column, news has come to hand of a proposal of the Network Committee of the Australian Bibliographic Network which could have dire consequences for theological libraries currently participating (i.e. as full service users) in ABN or considering such participation. The proposal is to limit the payment of bibliographic credits to 125% of inquiry debts. In the case of Luther Campus Library, this proposal would have the effect of reducing credits by \$500 a month - a cost which we would simply be unable to bear. I have been assured that it was not the intention of ABN to disadvantage any current participant. It appears a survey was undertaken last year, before Luther had reached its present levels of productivity and that no libraries were found whose bibliographic credits exceeded inquiry debts by more than about 25% - hence the figure of 125% of inquiry debts. If your library would be adversely affected by this proposal, you should convey your concerns to Ted Vellacott of the ABN as soon as possible, as the proposal is intended to come into effect on 1 July 1993.

(Rev) Trevor Zweck, President.