

## LIBRARY STATISTICS

Almost every year at the ANZTLA Conference, there are mumblings about why we need to collect statistics.

Recently I used the ANZTLA statistics for St Barnabas' College Library to perform a very interesting exercise. The 'gut feeling' I had about the cost of books and the performance of the budget were substantiated.

I presented these statistics to my library committee and then to the St Barnabas' College Council. The statistics made a big impact on all to whom they were presented, unfortunately, this has not yet had practical ramifications on the library budget, however ... (one can but hope).

How the Budget has been Spent:

	Mono \$	Serial \$	Total \$	Budget \$
1988	6,678	1,675	8,353	7,000
1989	6,169	1,682	7,851	8,000
1990	6,760	2,108	8,868	9,000
1991	6,917	2,410	9,427	9,000
1992				10,000

  

	Mono %	Serial %	Books Purchased	Average Book Cost
1988	79.9	20	395	16.90
1989	78.5	21.4	246	25.07
1990	76.2	23.7	294	22.99
1991	71.4	28.6	240	25.07

### Explanation of Statistics

Since 1988 Serials/Periodicals have increased as a percentage of actual expenditure by nearly 9% causing a similar decrease in the amount spent on books.

At the same time the cost of books has increased by 45%. This has meant a decrease in the number of books purchased from 395 to 240. It is too early to know anything for sure about 1992 statistics but it is my feeling that this trend is continuing. I estimate that the average price of books is now about \$30 and periodical prices have increased considerably.

## Conclusions

Based on 1991 statistics in order to return to the balance of 1988 (20% periodicals, 80% books) the 1993 budget should be increased to \$15,100.

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## REVIEW

*Journal of Religious and Theological Information*. Vol. 1, no. 1 (1993).  
Binghamton, NY : Haworth Press, 1993-. ISSN 1047-7845. Semi-annual.

Recognizing an obvious lacuna in the literature, the redoubtable Bill Cohen has joined forces with an army of mostly North American theological librarians to produce a journal focussed on theological bibliography in general and theological librarianship in particular. Since the pre-publication publicity touted this as an international journal - and one earnestly hopes it will be! - the aim of this review is to assess (as much as one can on the basis of just one issue) whether it is a truly international journal and whether it is relevant to librarians in this part of the world.

The journal is published in the familiar Haworth Press format of a sturdy issue of about 120 pages, with clear, comfortably spaced type on acid-free paper. The text is accompanied by a plethora of Haworth Press advertising, inviting all and sundry to call a 1-800 number or to mail the tear-off sheets to Binghamton, NY. There is a notable absence of non-American addresses for agents of the journal or the press.

The content of the journal has been masterminded by a massive editorial board, which reads with a *Who's Who* of North American theological librarianship. The nineteen members include sixteen from the United States, and one each from Canada, Central America and Australia. Considering that this is meant to be an international journal, it is amazing that not one person fit to grace the editorial board could be found in either Britain or the Continent, let alone Asia or Africa. One wonders how international the journal can become when it is so overwhelmingly dominated by Americans.

The articles in this inaugural issue are generally of a very high standard and well worthy of inclusion in an international journal. The pity is that the contributors are all, without exception, Americans. Considering that the journal was more than three years in gestation, it is also amazing that not one non-American contribution could be found fit to grace its pages. To be completely fair, it must be added that the list of articles for the second