

## 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.

*Wendy Davis,  
Librarian, St Barnabas' College, Adelaide.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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

issue reveals some broadening of the base of contributors, but one might have expected at least a token gesture to the wider world of theological librarianship or bibliography in the inaugural issue.

If one detects a little bias in the editorial policy and the composition of the editorial board, this is nothing compared with the prejudicial pricing policy! To the hefty US\$48 for United States subscribers must be added a massive 40% penalty for those unfortunate enough to live outside the United States thus bringing the Australian price to a handsome A\$96.00. Many a theological library in this part of the world will have to consider whether it is worth cancelling two or three other journals to subscribe to this one, or whether it is more important than two or three journals which faculty are putting forward for consideration.

The seven articles are contributed by five theological librarians and two seminary professors. They cover theological publishing, pre-Reformation biography and bibliography, John Day's Reformation imprints, special collections, computer tools for biblical exegesis, information technology in general, and use and user studies. There is also a book review section, covering five items of theological bibliography.

Barbara Wheeler's article on the state of American theological publishing is informative and interesting. Paul Stuehrenberg's article on pre-Reformation publishing provides a useful list of sources. Norma Sutton's lengthy article on John Day is a very perceptive and entertaining account. Michael Krieger's article on the Marian Library of the University of Dayton is full of valuable insight and advice for librarians with special collections. Robert Bergen's article on the uses of computers in biblical exegesis extends the usual discussion of this topic into the speculative world of expert systems and hypertext. Mark Stover's article on information technology is a useful summary, but it adds little that local librarians will be unaware of. Charles van Heck's article on use and user studies provides a summary of the theory and techniques of such studies (including a useful bibliography) and would be valuable for anyone contemplating the implementation of any such study. There would seem to be something for everyone in this selection.

Notwithstanding a little looseness in editing (e.g. 'tenants' for 'tenets' on p.50 and 'criteria' for 'criterion' on p.51), this is a superb example of what a scholarly journal ought to be. Whether it ultimately fits the bill of an international journal remains to be seen; but if it is to become anything more than an elite journal for a small band of high-flying North American theological librarians, it will require a more broadly-based editorial board, a more realistic marketing policy (and a clearer understanding of the realities of theological librarianship outside the United States) and a more aggressive attempt to involve non-Americans as contributors. One ventures to hope that the editors will be willing to take such necessary initiatives.

The Australian agents for the journal are Scott Book Agencies, 248 The Parade, Norwood, SA, 5067. Telephone: 08 364 1411.

*(Rev) Trevor Zweck*  
*Lohe Memorial Library, North Adelaide, SA.*

[This review will also appear in the next issue of The Australian Library Review].

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CHAPTER PERSONNEL 1993

- |     |              |   |
|-----|--------------|---|
| NSW | Chairperson: | Hans Arns<br>Catholic Institute of Sydney<br>151 Darley Road<br>MANLY NSW 2095        |
|     | Secretary:   | Glenys Biddle<br>Centre for Ministry<br>16 Mason's Drive<br>NORTH PARRAMATTA NSW 2151 |
| SA  | Chairperson: | Trevor Zweck<br>Luther Campus<br>104 Jeffcott Street<br>NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006        |
|     | Secretary:   | Val Canty<br>Parkin-Wesley College<br>20 King William Street<br>WAYVILLE SA 5034      |
| WA  | Chairperson: | Alan Meers<br>Perth Bible College<br>Private Bag 3,<br>KARRINYUP WA 6018              |
|     | Secretary:   | Denise Hallion<br>Catholic Library of WA<br>PO Box 198<br>LEEDERVILLE WA 6007         |