

AULOTS

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The AULOTS committee has met twice since the NZ annual conference to try and thrash out some of the details for the next edition of AULOTS and the mechanism to achieve the task in front of us. It must be pointed out that this task has been made much easier thanks to the hard work of Hans Arns of St. Patrick's Manly and his helpers. The data is now in dBase format so editing is much easier. However it must be remembered that the more time consuming task is not the data entry but the checking of data before its entry. Hans has agreed to continue this vital work.

We have agreed in principle that we would like to implement in part the decision of the 1992

annual conference, that is to use ABN as the common link in theological libraries data sharing. Thus we have approached ABN to upload our AULOTS data. They have stated that they are quite happy [even keen??] to upload our data as it does form a valuable addition to the national availability of information. There will be no cost to the Association to have our data uploaded provided that it is in MARC format. Hence we will have to use a commercially available program (costing \$375) to convert our dBase format to MARC format unless we can use a member's library program that can import data and produce MARC format records. The major problem in all this is that while we presently have sufficient data for most of our serials it will need a fair amount of manipulation to get it into the separate fields needed for conversion to MARC. The good news is that once this is done it will be available to member libraries and will not need doing again. If we do upload our data onto ABN we still have complete rights to it, hence we can still sell it in book or electronic form etc. One by-product of the decision to upload our data into ABN is that from now on permission for data to be incorporated into AULOTS will be seen as default permission for one's data to be in ABN.

We had a request from the South Pacific Association of Bible Colleges [SPABC] to allow their libraries to be part of AULOTS, as are some

already. We decided to invite the SPABC libraries to contribute their data as well as contact some of the larger theological libraries in the Pacific region so we could encourage them and also have access to their serials for our patrons. We are also trying to make contact with some libraries that have good collections in Jewish and Islam studies. While discussing this request we decided to set some guidelines for participating libraries:

to be included in future editions of AULOTS, libraries must be willing to allow access to their collection either in person or via the supply of photocopies, and there must be a commitment to maintaining their records of serials held and notifying AULOTS when required.

Much soul searching has gone on regarding what titles to include in the next edition of AULOTS. Do we include everything that each library holds (down to the multitudes of parish newsheets?) thus making the final copy more expensive, bigger in size and possibly more useful for a few patrons, or do we use a pragmatic/c approach and select titles that the committee feels are useful? We eventually decided on a combination of both in the sense that each librarian will be asked to supply the details of those serials that they keep records of (still allowing each contributing librarian the right to selectively cull titles that are not in their opinion relevant; eg. The Bulletin) but the committee will also reserve the right to edit titles that in their judgment are not directly relevant to the study of religion.

All ANZTLA librarians will soon be getting a questionnaire about your involvement in the next edition of AULOTS. **PLEASE return it as soon as possible!**

After we ascertain exactly which libraries are willing to be involved in the update, each library will be sent a printout of their current AULOTS listing and two worksheets, one for alterations to their holdings of serials presently recorded in AULOTS and another one for holdings of serial titles new to AULOTS.

We are hoping that each State Chapter of ANZTLA will be able to be responsible for their own area. This will entail finding someone within each Chapter who is able to use dBase files AND who is accurate in data entry! At the moment our plans are that data for alterations to individual

library's holdings as well new holdings of serials already listed in AULOTS will be done at the Chapter level but data relating to titles new to AULOTS will be done by the AULOTS committee to ensure(?) uniformity etc. Thus the worksheets will be returned to the Chapters, who will enter the data for existing AULOTS titles, but data for holdings of new titles will be forwarded onto the committee.

Please let us know if you have any ideas that might help us or can think of libraries that should be considered for inclusion. If you have any comments about any of the above, please contact me as soon as possible. Remember **YOU** will probably have to vote on something relating to AULOTS at the next annual conference, even if it is just reimbursement of costs!

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Book Notice:

Stuart Ferguson *Computers for Australian libraries : an introduction to systems and applications*. Wagga Wagga, Centre for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, 1993.
276p. \$45.00 ISBN 0 949060 23 2

Intended for students and practitioners, this important work addresses the application of computer technology to all aspects of library work. The ten chapters cover computer principles and applications, data communications, database design, library system development.