

EDITORIAL

Continuing economic restraint has made interlibrary co-operation important to the survival of theological libraries. Co-operation (and survival) is the focus of this issue of our newsletter. The concept of a Distributed National Collection is one that relies on co-operation on a very large scale, and a national collection in religion is one that the Association is being urged to look at very carefully. Robert Barnes, from ANU, believes that the size and nature of theological libraries in Australia will make this a matter in which we should be actively considering, and that it is we who should be making decisions in this area.

From national levels of co-operation to more local levels - Chicago and Toronto are two areas with different methods of co-operation, and it is interesting to relate these to what is happening at the regional level in Australia and New Zealand. (What Judith Bright omits in her article is advice on how theological librarians should go about getting sabbatical leave!)

Co-operation is one method of using the resources available to us; technology is another. Hans Arns asks us to rethink how journal articles are distributed and received in his timely article. Electronic publishing is mentioned by Robert Barnes, and is also the subject of a recent survey by the National Library. How prepared are we for a much wider use of this form of dissemination of theological writing? Is this looking to the future, or is it with us now?