

## **INTER-LIBRARY CO-OPERATION - W.A. EXPERIENCES**

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### **The Establishment of the WA Chapter**

On Monday, 3rd September, 1990, nine librarians from eight theological libraries met at Ada Purnell Library to discuss inter-library co-operation. A month later a larger group met at St. Columba's college and formally formed the W.A. Chapter of the Association. While our membership is small (with an average of ten members attending each meeting), in the past four years our inter-library co-operation has moved from the occasional and informal to the ongoing and formal. This article outlines some aspects of this co-operation.

### **A Guide to the Libraries**

Each year we prepare a list of all theological libraries in W.A. briefly describing the library, the size and strengths of holdings, borrowing and copying arrangements and so on. Each library prints copies for the use of their students.

### **Serials**

Each library prints an annual listing of their serials holdings which they circulate to all other members. By the end of 1994 we should have, thanks to the help of Notre Dame Australia Library, a joint database of serials holdings. As well as knowing which library has which serials, we have also been working together to see if between us we can subscribe to most

of the serials indexed in ARI. Duplicate serials are also shared within the group. This cooperation means that students in Perth have access to a much wider range of serials than any one of our libraries could afford to provide.

### **Expensive Monographs**

Another joint venture has been the creation of a database of expensive monographs. Each quarter, each library supplies a list of acquisitions costing over \$100. These are collated and each library is supplied with a cumulative list (sorted by both title and author) showing where each book is held. The list already lists over 500 titles.

### **Visits to other libraries**

Each quarter we meet at a different library. This gives our members the opportunity to inspect other libraries and gain some useful ideas and practical tips from what other members are doing.

### **Sharing of information**

We have a topic for discussion at for each meeting. One library shares their experiences and leads a discussion on the topic. Topics vary greatly and have included: Conspectus; Computer Stock-taking; Purchasing of books and resources; Reports on ANZTLA Conferences; ARI Indexing; Disaster control; CD Roms and Collection Development Policy.

### **Catholic Libraries Co-Operation**

In 1993 the three Catholic Libraries in our Chapter (University of Notre Dame Australia Library, the Catholic Library of WA

and the New Norcia Library) established a Joint Working Party to establish areas of cooperation between them. The major areas being considered are a joint database, a joint acquisitions policy, reciprocal borrowing, interlibrary loan arrangements and the establishment of a Joint Library Committee to oversee future co-operation. As each library uses different computer software (InMagic, Oasis and Oracle) the first problem they are working on is the establishment of modem access to each library as the initial step to combining the databases of each library.

A Co-operative Acquisition Policy Sub-Committee has been established to help avoid duplication of serials titles and expensive monographs. Reciprocal borrowing and inter-library loans are being negotiated and it is hoped that this Inter-library co-operation will provide better services to the libraries uses and enable each individual library to make the best use of their limited resources.

### **Conclusion**

Since W.A. is very remote from the large libraries in the Eastern States and has a fairly small population, in the past it was difficult for each library to provide their students with adequate library resources. These co-operative efforts are now helping us to provide our students with much better library resources than would be the case if we continued to work independently.

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