



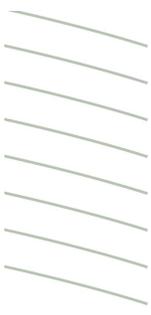
ATLA-ANZTLA Scholarship Recipient Report

*Nalini Premadish
George Knight Library*



Siong Ng, ANZTLA President; Nalini Premadish, ATLA-ANZTLA Scholarship Recipient; and Maria Stanton, ATLA's Director of Production

The Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association (ANZTLA) members are dedicated, loving and caring people. Through the support of its members, the ANZTLA organises its Annual conference once a year. Invitation is also extended to ANZTLA member Libraries in the Pacific region offering scholarships under the name of Jeanette Little, former Librarian of the Pacific Theological College. This year, there was a new scholarship, "The American Theological Library Association" combined with ANZTLA. Attending conferences enables the participants to know and connect with both acquaintances and new people; they learn from each other and share ideas parallel to the theme of the 2018 ANZTLA conference "**Connecting People, Ideas, Learning**". With much appreciation, I would like to thank the board members of

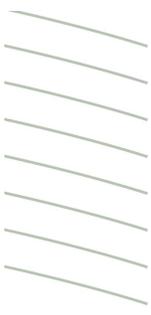


"Cataloguing a book is not easy"

ANZTLA for selecting me to attend the 33rd Annual ANZTLA Conference held in Brisbane at The Women's College, University of Queensland from 11-14 July 2018. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the American Theological Library Association for supporting this scholarship known as the ATLA-ANZTLA Scholarship Scheme. It was a pleasure and blessing for me to be the first recipient of the ATLA-ANZTLA Scholarship Scheme. It is a way of connecting with another Theological Library Association which is not in the Pacific waters. My heartfelt gratitude is also extended to Stephen Morton who assisted with my travel arrangements and other conference arrangements. Last but not the least, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Principal of The Pacific Theological College, for allowing me to attend the conference and to undertake work experience in another theological college.

Prior to the conference, I was given the opportunity to undertake a one day work experience hosted by Maylon College, on the 9th of July. It was an exciting and enjoyable experience having to observe and grasp new ideas from Jill Walker, the College librarian. The Liberty Library System is being used at the George Knight Library and Maylon College is using an advanced and upgraded Liberty version which is an added advantage to me. We shared knowledge and experiences of which we both gain from. It's inexplicable how blessed I was, when invited to attend a one day group training at Softlink in Brisbane. This was another opportunity to connect with other Librarians who are using Liberty as their library system. With anticipation, the advanced cataloguing features and more additional features such as system setup and homepage layout shall be put in place to upgrade The George Knight Library by the end of August this year.

Cataloguing a book is not as easy as users think. Dewey numbers are sometimes tricky and at times the librarians/cataloguers need to emphasise the need to continue adding more numbers after the decimal point as was discussed in the cataloguing session. A decision has to be



made as to when not to build numbers depending on the library's speciality. This may or may not be of interest to anyone who is not involved in the cataloguing process.

We must be reminded that librarians play an important role in today's modern technological era. As librarians, we need to provide information literacy skills to the users to better utilise the services provided in order for them to be able to access the information; writing and research methods. Copyright, has become an issue and librarians must assist students to avoid the breach of copyright rules. All libraries have their own institutional repositories and to make the research of the institution accessible to the world, librarians are to make these materials available to researchers and users of the library.

In addition to what has been mentioned previously, librarians should also practise the skill of connected learning, for example, using YouTube. A problem can be solved either way; taking or giving advice if you have done it. Learning occurs through connection between people, sources and the network. Learning also takes place through hands on experience which is seeing between fields and getting ideas through connectivism. Other types of learning were also discussed such as "Open Learning" (Student – World and World – Student), "Closed Learning" (Student – Student and Student – Teacher), "Professional Learning" (workshops, conferences, seminars), and "Network Professional Learning" (Ejournals).

A library should have a place for special types of collections that are fragile and hold significant provenance, research cultural values which are rare and has unique materials pertaining to the institution. A very interesting topic on digitisation, something to take back home and think about as libraries are now digitising its historical collections for preservation purposes. Digitisation helps preserve resources in terms of its originality. However, digitisation is not digital preservation as Erin mentioned in her presentation. It should not be taken for granted that transferring materials in CD/DVD and USB are safe for permanent storage. These storage devices can be used for short term storage, but for long-term storage this is not recommended. More important news to hear from Erin was that 2025 is the year when it will no longer be possible to digitise tapes and cassettes.

In this digital world, people are more on social media. It is the fastest way to send and receive news and the easiest way to connect to the world. The roles of librarians has evolved over the years in layers in this digital world; basic service providers to service providers and now to specialists. Librarians, as specialist providers, are to understand the needs of the people and to focus more on their needs.

Much was also learnt through talks on evidence-based practice for a better library. Librarians need to evaluate their collections and services and to gather data statistics to better serve their users by way of getting feedback from the clients and through statistical data reports. This can



then be put into practice after the information is interpreted, applied, measured and communicated. Librarians need to be ‘mystery shoppers’; observe each other (staff), involve students in decision making. Over all, a library is for the users and their views should be considered.

It was a joy to hear in the ANZTLA AGM that all members agreed to supply free document deliveries to ANZTLA member libraries in the Pacific region. Our appreciation goes to Helen Greenwood who has taken the initiative to be the contact person for this service. On behalf of all the libraries in the Pacific region, I would like to express my sincere thanks to members of the ANZTLA for giving us this opportunity to utilise your service.

The conference was indeed informative to me. Making visits and tours to other developed libraries, meeting new people, making and renewing new friends are blessings both to the George Knight Library and me. I will definitely utilize what I have gained from this conference. I look forward to receiving more scholarships to attend library conferences especially the ANZTLA conference in future.

May God continue to bless the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association and the American Theological Library Association together with the Pacific Theological College.