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EDITORIAL

Lately, in my position as editor of the Newsletter, I have been fortunate to have many publications from different countries come across my desk, including newsletters from other associations of theological librarians. It is interesting to note the different focus each of the associations has. As Hans mentions in his review, the Europeans' focus is on intellectual issues; the Americans are very involved in practical issues, technology and bibliography; the British Association, which includes philosophical libraries as well, has a broader outlook towards library issues and frequently deals with more general topics. Often the articles in the British Newsletter are historical, which is to be expected with such a historical base to their libraries. It is interesting that there is quite a different impression coming from each group through their newsletters.

What, then, are the strengths of the Australasian Association? I have found it is truly an alliance of members. Probably the size of our organisation is an advantage in fostering a nurturing and co-operative environment. For me, working alone and rather isolated by distance, being part of ANZTLA has been of great benefit. There is always someone I can call to discuss something who will listen. The sharing of experience and ideas is a motivating force for moving forward in the workplace and the profession. I hope that the Newsletter can link members who do not often meet together with others in the Association to give them the support I have found from it.

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