Australian and New Zealand Theological Libraries Association
Newsleter 26

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ANZTLA AFFAIRS

At this year's annual conference, it will be a great pleasure to welcome back (as a guest speaker) Averill Edwards, who delivered the keynote address at our first conference, in 1986: a hard-hitting address on the subject, 'Theological librarians: an under-valued asset' (*ANZTLA Newsletter* 6: 12-23). It contained some penetrating observations on the parlous condition of theological libraries at the time. For example: 'There is evidence that in the areas of staffing, collections and services, theological libraries are woefully inadequate (p. 14)'. Statistics presented a 'depressing picture'. The libraries were 'under-staffed, under-used, and under-automated', all of which added up to a 'poor deal' for staff and students (p. 23). There was an urgent need for radical action, lest theological libraries be 'starved to death'.

What has changed in the past ten years? What impact has ANZTLA had? The same address suggested that the formation of ANZTLA represented a 'degree of maturity which has been reached by theological libraries (p. 18).' As we meet in Canberra to celebrate the first decade of ANZTLA, let us also pause to reflect on what has been achieved and on the challenges which still lie ahead. While Averill's topic at this conference will be significantly different, it will still provide the opportunity to re-iterate the theme of seeing ourselves as part of the nation's resources -- one of the biggest challenges still confronting us. Ways and means of meeting this challenge will be the specific brief of Cliff Law, a colleague of Averill's at the National Library of Australia.

Another featured speaker will be Albert Hurd, Executive Director of the American Theological Library Association. In addition to his two presentations on the international theological library scene and the use on information technology in theological research, he will meet with the Editorial Board of the *Australasian religion index* to discuss matters of mutual concern, especially the possible production of a CD-Rom version of *ARI*. Members of the board are asked to make note of this meeting, which is to take place at Burgmann College at 2.00 on Thursday, 21 September (before conference registration). Since Dr Lawrence McIntosh is retiring from his position as founding Managing Editor of the index, an important item on the agenda will be the appointment of his replacement. We are pleased to be able to report that a very generous offer to fill this challenging post has been received and will, no doubt, be gratefully accepted.

You are also reminded that several changes to the constitution have been proposed. Please take due note of these matters and come to the conference prepared to expedite their passage through the AGM.

And, in addition to all the work and professional development, come to Canberra prepared to see Australia's capital at its very best!

While many voices are promoting the Internet as the information super-highway of the future (as it undoubtedly is), many voices are also warning that it embraces many a dusty side-track that the unwary may be led astray on. However, with regard to the technical aspects of this remarkable network and its practical uses for libraries, it is interesting to note that Trevis Lawton's article (*ANZTLA Newsletter* 23: 32-41) has been picked up by a leading university and included as 'essential reading' in a post-graduate course in information studies. Well done, Trevis! I am aware of a couple of Australian theological libraries which have been able to gain access to the Internet via AARNet through a nearby university, at a fraction of the cost of direct membership of AARNet. This may be a way ahead for those in a position to take advantage of it. In my experience, universities are generally very supportive of the work of theological libraries.

The publication of an updated version of AULOTS has not progressed as quickly as some would have wished; however, a considerable amount of preliminary work has been done and it is now hoped that the next stage, involving the updating of data by individuals libraries, will be implemented in the not-too-distant future.

(Revd) Trevor Zweck
President

ANZTLA NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES
Anne Hocking left St Andrews Greek Orthodox College on 27th July after 6 years working there. We will miss Anne's contribution to NSW chapter meetings (she has taken a turn as secretary). Anne will look for a new career in communications, and we wish her well.
Jocelyn Morris (UTC) will be on leave during the ANZTLA conference, for the arrival of her second child. Diann Bertelsmeyer will be taking Jocelyn's place.
Kathryn Graham is the new librarian at Emmaeus Bible College.

The next chapter meeting will have a session on indexing for ARI.

VICTORIA
New executive: President: Tony McCumstie, Corpus Christi College
Secretary/Treasurer: Margaret Zarifeh, Presbyterian Theological College.
Mr Stephen Connelly has been appointed as the new Librarian at he Joint Theological Library. He is currently Law Librarian at the University of Melbourne and will take up his new position at the end of September. JTL has developed an inhouse database for serials, series and standing orders, and is developing its collection development policy.

The next chapter meeting will discuss reserve collections.

QUEENSLAND
AT the last meeting members discussed an artlicle from the *Journal of Religious and Theological Information* 2:1 (1994), "Religion indexes on CD-Rom" by B.Pease and P.Anderson. They recommend this artlicle as a good source of information on this topic.
They have developeda local update for AULOTS which includes journals from the University of Queensland and the Bioethics Library. Information was extracted from these databases by chapter members! Spurred on by this activity, the group has begun compiling a union list of CD-Roms and computer programs shared by members. They are also wondering how to make use of their internet access. Any suggestions?