

theological study and research.

The fourth aim of the Association is to foster interlibrary co-operation. Within the ANZTLA, interlibrary co-operation is a major function of the regional chapters. However, on a wider level, it is reflected particularly in the *Australasian Union Lists of Serials in Theological Collections (AULOTS)*, the second edition of which was edited by Hans Arns and Marianne Dacy in 1990 and the third edition in preparation, under the guidance of Ken Elder. It continues to meet a very real need, because many of the libraries which use it and have their holdings listed in it are not involved in either the Australian Bibliographic Network or the New Zealand Bibliographic Network. Therein, of course, lies one of the major problems for the vast majority of theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand; being isolated from the national bibliographies, they are cut off from the main avenue of access to library resources in our two countries and from the most powerful tool for interlibrary co-operation available to us today. A further consequence is the lack of involvement in the Distributed National Collection, which offers the best hope for co-operative collection development among theological libraries - one of the biggest needs and biggest challenges facing the ANZTLA at the end of its first decade.

The fifth aim of the Association is to publish and distribute literature on theological librarianship. Many of its achievements in this area have been mentioned already: the newsletter, the standards, the directory, the union list, and the index. Apart from these, there are two further publications which are worthy of special mention, one produced by Lawrence McIntosh and one produced for him. His *A Style Manual for the Presentation of Paper and Theses in Religion and Theology* sold 1000 copies in its first year and is now into its second printing. Just off the press is the Festschrift honouring him on his retirement, *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses*, edited by Philip Harvey and Lynn Pryor. This is both a major contribution to the literature of theological librarianship and a valuable collection of articles on theology.

The sixth aim of the Association is to foster contacts with other library associations and groups. While there have been some sporadic contacts with kindred groups in the United States and Europe, our main focus has rightly been on Asia and the Pacific Islands. While the ANZTLA has made significant financial contributions in both of these areas and has enjoyed some personal contacts, it is obvious there is tremendous scope for further co-operation and mutual assistance.

It is obvious from this casual survey of the successes and failures of the ANZTLA in its first decade that the successes relate to those activities which involve little or no financial cost, and that the failures relate mainly to those activities in which cost is a major factor. One hates to keep repeating the same tired theme, but the fact of the matter is that, while there may have been some progress in terms of staff numbers and dollars to spend, the vast majority of our libraries are grossly under-staffed, under-funded, and under-resourced; and, in this respect, the situation has not changed much from what it was ten years ago. As far as the ANZTLA is concerned, it is significant that the failures lie mainly in those areas which are largely outside of the control of the librarians, as individuals and as a group; and that, by contrast, the librarians are having an impact on those aspects of librarianship which are not overly dependent of finance. In particular, there has been considerable progress in the quality of services provided in most libraries, and for this the ANZTLA must deserve much of the credit. It has given theological librarians a sense of identity and a unity of purpose which was certainly not in evidence a decade ago.

(Rev.) Trevor Zweck
President

MAXIMISING RESOURCES AT ANZTLA'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

The tenth annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association was held at Burgmann College, 21-24 September, 1995, Canberra, on the campus of the Australian National University and in the same city as the inaugural conference, with a record attendance of 55, and with the city's Floriade festival providing an attractive backdrop and occasional diversion.

The emphasis was on maximising resources and it quickly became evident that this meant exploiting information technology to the advantage of libraries, both individually and collectively. In his welcome, the Librarian of the Australian National University, Colin Steele, outlined some of the projects his library had implemented to provide user access to the information super-highway and to provide remote access (via computer) to the campus library services. The theme was accentuated at a half-day session at the National Library of Australia, where Averill Edwards (who had been the keynote speaker at the inaugural conference) addressed the problems of burgeoning information technology combined with diminishing financial resources. The session included a visit to various parts of the library where new technologies had been introduced and emphasised the need for all libraries to get involved in the Internet and in the library networks, especially World 1, which will supersede both the Australian Bibliographic Network and the New Zealand Bibliographic Network.

Information technology was also at the forefront of two sessions presented by a special visitor to the conference, Albert Hurd, Executive Director of the American Theological Library Association. He suggested the use of the Internet as a vital means of fostering global co-operation among theological libraries and, in a joint session with the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools, outlined plans which the ATLA was implementing to provide world-wide services to theological libraries and researchers through the information super-highway and presenting a vision of what may be possible, in terms of a global information village. (The ATLA home page address is <http://atla.library.vanderbilt.edu/atla/home.html>).

The accent on co-operation was picked up by Rachel Jakimow, of the NLA's DNC Office, urging theological libraries to become involved in the use of the Conspectus to evaluate and describe their collections and to include the data on the Distributed National Collection database. Another aspect of co-operation was pursued by Margaret MacPherson, Librarian of Charles Sturt University, Riverina, in a session on 'dying theological libraries'; it emphasised the need to integrate such collections in existing theological libraries to give them enduring usefulness.

Other sessions were both theoretical and practical. Dr Graeme Garrett spoke about the theology of a theological library. A panel of Brisbane librarians presented a lively perspective on the joys and tribulations of the one-person-librarian. While some listened to a presentation by the Librarian of the Australian Catholic University, Signadou Campus, on surviving in a university environment, others enjoyed hand-on experience of the library's Internet facilities.

With the many library-related facilities being located in Canberra, there were many places to visit and delegates made their choice of visits to the Australian War Memorial and/or its paper preservation section in another suburb, St Mark's Library, ANU Libraries, and the Dominican Priory Library (with its unique Islamic collection).

With the resignation (due to retirement) of Dr Lawrence McIntosh from the Editorial Board and Editorial Management Committee of the *Australasian religion index*, the Association and the Board were faced with major decisions regarding the production of the index. Kim Robinson (Moore Theological College, Newtown, NSW) was elected Co-ordinator of the Editorial Management Committee, with Rhonda Barry (also from Moore) and one yet to be appointed to complete the committee. The following were elected to the Editorial Board: Judith Bright, Steve Hall, Lynn Pryor, Kim Robinson, Gai Smith, Carolyn Willadsen and Trevor Zweck (Chair), together with John Mills and Stuart Ferguson from the Centre for Information Studies, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

In the other major decisions, the board decided:

- * to encourage the Centre for Information Studies to investigate with a commercial publisher the production of a cumulation of the first seven volumes of *ARI*, minus the book reviews;
- * to encourage the Centre for Information Studies to investigate with the American Theological Library Association the production of a CD-ROM of *ARI*;

- * to investigate software options for the production of *ARI* from the beginning of volume 8 (1996);
- * to include multi-author works (eg Festschriften, proceedings) in the index from the beginning of volume 8 (1996).

In a series of constitutional changes, the Association reduced the categories of financial membership to one (with institutional membership restricted to one representative) and introduced the category of Honorary Life Membership. It subsequently elected Dr Lawrence McIntosh as the first Honorary Life Member. During the conference dinner, McIntosh also became the recipient of the first *Trevor Zweck Award* for his publication of *A style manual for the presentation of papers and theses in religion and theology*. (Available for A\$20 from the Centre for Information Studies, Locked Bag 660, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678. Phone: (069) 332 325. Fax: (069) 332 733.). The Association also ratified the financial commitment involved in the publication of a Festschrift in honour of McIntosh, entitled *So great a cloud of witnesses: libraries and theologies*, edited by Philip Harvey and Lynn Pryor. (Available for A\$20 from Philip Harvey, Joint Theological Library, Ormond College, Parkville, Vic, 3052. Phone: (03) 9347 8480. Fax: (03) 9349 1857).

The Association also adopted the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services schedule for Interlibrary Loans, with its base rate of A\$9 for a book or an article of up to 10 pages. It also fixed the membership fee for 1996 at A\$40 and the newsletter subscription at A\$20.

Office-bearers who were re-elected are: Trevor Zweck (President), Val Canty (Secretary/Treasurer), Irene Mills (Editor of Newsletter), Judith James (Assistant Editor) and Helen Greenwood (Statistician).

The next conference is to be held at Perth College, Mr Lawley, Perth WA, 10-13 October, 1996, under the theme: 'Tradition and technology: theological libraries in the electronic age'. The co-ordinator of the conference is Lynn White, who is also the Extra Member on the Executive for the ensuing year. She can be contacted at the Baptist Theological College of Western Australia, 20 Hayman Rd, Bently WA 6102. Phone: (09) 361 9962. Fax: (09) 362 1603.



DIGITAL LIBRARIES AND GOD IN CYBERSPACE: Opening Address of the 10th ANZTLA Conference

Colin Steele

I'm very pleased as University Librarian to be able to welcome you to the Australian National University. I hope you have a chance to look at some of the information technology advances we are making at ANU as well as, of course, seeing our very strong print stock, which owes much to Robert Barnes of the Classics Department. We have pioneered the Electronic Reserve in the Chifley Building which provides 24 hour access to material for students, not least in Halls of Residence and from home with appropriate copyright and password cognisance. ELISA, the Electronic Library and Information Service at ANU provides Internet gateways to the world.

With reference to digital libraries, the Net is the key to universal access and dare I say, in advance of Cliff Law's talk, that the GDC - Global Distributed Collection is the key rather than the DNC - Distributed National Collection. I believe in strong regional cooperation but after that, at least for the larger research libraries, the Internet makes the world an oyster. As we all know, however, some of the oysters or URL's are empty or have grit rather than pearls!

Leading scholars throughout the world will interact with students outside their own university in a real time environment. Professor Richard Lanham (1993) of UCLA has argued on a number of occasions that the whole process of learning will be radically changed as knowledge moves away from linear access. Irrespective of the disappearance of the non sequential learning process, the merging of educational and information technology will see teaching and learning patterns changing dramatically.