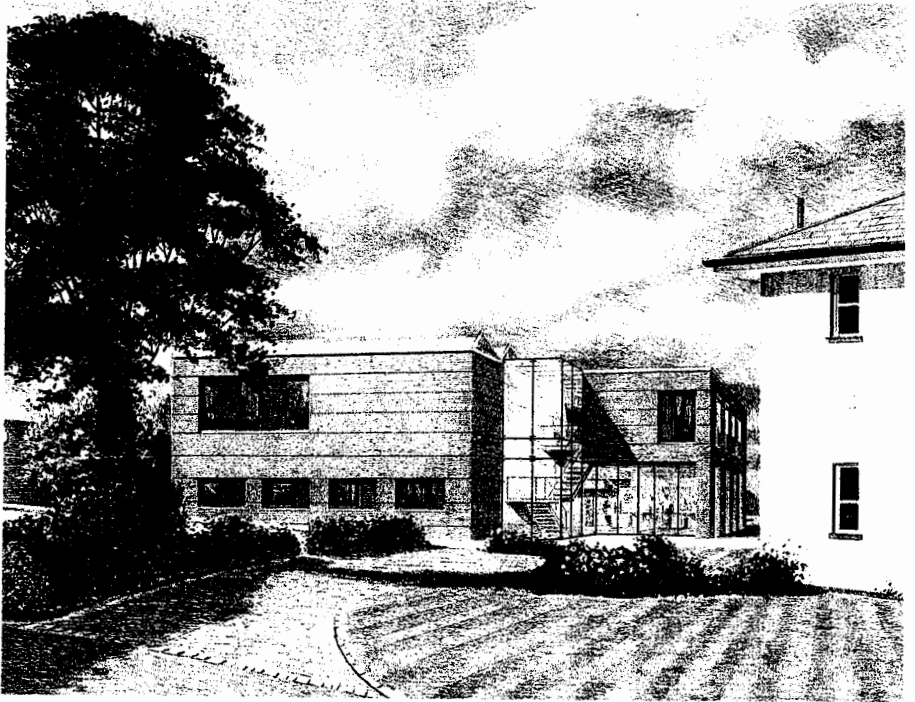


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March 2002

BULLETIN 2002

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*Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and
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The front cover shows an artist's impression of the new academic centre,
including the library, at Oak Hill College, London.

PUBLICATIONS

GUIDE TO THEOLOGICAL & RELIGIOUS STUDIES COLLECTIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Compiled and edited by David A. Kerry & Evelyn Cornell
ABTAPL Publishing, April 1999, ISBN 094894501X

Copies available from
Dr. A. Lacey, Hon. Sec. ABTAPL, Trinity Hall, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1TJ

£15/\$25 for ABTAPL members; £17.50/\$30 for non-members (inc. p+p)

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ABTAPL UNION LIST OF PERIODICALS

The Union List is now available on the internet at <http://www.le.ac.uk/abtapl/>
It includes the philosophy, theology and religious studies journal holdings of 44 different institutions in the UK and should prove a useful tool in tracing the locations of titles. Publisher details are given for some titles and links to free electronic journals are also included.

Copies of the 2000 printed edition with holdings of 41 institutions are available
from

Mrs Judith Powles, Librarian, Spurgeon's College, 189 South Norwood Hill,
London SE25 6DJ

£14.50 for non-contributors and £12 for contributors.

Amendments and new contributions for the list can be sent to Evelyn Cornell,
University of Leicester from September 2002 onwards.

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Cheques for both publications should be made payable to **ABTAPL**

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

**2002 Spring Residential Conference
and Annual General Meeting**

will be held at

Chester College, Chester

from

Thursday 11th April to Saturday 13th April

Please send items for inclusion in the agenda to the Honorary Secretary

* * * * *

2002 Autumn Meeting

will be held at

The Friends' Meeting House, London

on

Thursday 17th October

The meeting will be held in the afternoon and a tour of the library
will be available in the morning

Details will be sent to UK members. Members not resident in the UK who would
like further information should contact the Honorary Secretary.

* * * * *

Revd. Graham Cornish

One of our long-serving Committee members is moving on after thirty three years at the British Library. Graham Cornish first became involved in ABTAPL as a library student at Liverpool where he chose bibliography of religion as his special library subject. Discovering ABTAPL in a directory he found that it was somewhat moribund but, when the resurrection came with the enthusiasm of John Howard and others, Graham joined the Committee and has been around ABTAPL ever since, providing a link between it and the BL over many years.

Graham was President of the Library Association in 2000 and attended our conference in York, which was organised by his colleagues at the BL. He has often contributed to the *Bulletin*, and his *Religious Periodicals Directory* was a standard reference tool for many years. Graham has written several books on copyright and will continue to work in that area as a consultant, trainer and advisor. "Copyright is my hobby," he says, "sad, isn't it?" He can be contacted by e-mail on gp-jm.cornish@virgin.net

PUBLISHERS AND LIBRARIANS: WAITING FOR THE 'BIG BANG'

By Ralph Adam

"A library is not worth anything without a catalogue" (Thomas Carlyle)

Bibliographical data is the cement of librarianship. Most librarians find themselves classifying or cataloguing (or both) at some stage in their careers; in small libraries there is no one else to do the work and they become regular 'housekeeping' activities. Yet, how often does anyone question the origins and reliability of the raw bibliographical data from which these records are compiled?

Cataloguing and classification have for long been seen as arcane, but essential, functions. As library school subjects, they were often compulsory. Many readers will have been trained in large libraries where the acquisitions and cataloguing departments were run by straight-laced people who had mysterious formulae for deciding on which books to order or who became ecstatic when they managed to extend a Dewey number to a yet more incomprehensible length!

In retrospect, it seems strange that few people ever asked why so many resources were employed in such labour-intensive, artisanal activities in modern libraries.

No-one questioned whether sources that were designed with booksellers in mind were really suited to the needs of librarians.

In the popular imagination 'bibliographical records' still have an image of the 5"x3" cards that the British National Bibliography (BNB) once sent to subscribing librarians who then made local changes before filing them in their catalogues. In those not-far-off days 'high-tech' meant having matching 5"x3" ncr (no carbon required) order slips, with enough copies to be filed by acquisitions librarians, library suppliers (i.e. book-sellers) and reservations clerks. There was room for suppliers' codes to be inscribed and boxes for order status: 'O/O', 'NYP' or 'O/P'. Little had changed, in principle, since the nineteenth century.

Who Uses the Records?

In Britain, as in other countries, access to bibliographical sources has tended to be split on a functional level. In a typical library, the acquisitions department (the 'buyers') would either select directly from BNB, aided by publishers' catalogues, jackets and other bibliographies, or else circulate these to relevant staff and, in the case of industrial or academic libraries, certain users (the 'selectors') to mark items they felt ought to be purchased. Meanwhile, the cataloguers and classifiers used BNB cards, supplemented by examination of individual books, to create local records, while staff dealing with readers' enquiries verified details with the *Reference Catalogue of British Books in Print* (and its electronic successors, Bookbank/Libweb) as well as in BNB and other bibliographies.

Suddenly, all that has changed. Bibliographical records now power sophisticated library management systems; in the dot-com world, inhabited by such as Amazon and B.O.L., bibliographical records have become shop windows. A whole range of commercially-aware organisations are competing – and joining together – to grab a share of the potentially lucrative bibliographical-data market; one will come out as brand leader. That is why publishers are developing enhanced services, suppliers are adding new features, such as book jackets, contents pages and reviews, to their products, while cross-industry groups are creating standard data formats - but for whose benefit?

Until recently, the major bibliographical data suppliers, such as Book Data and Whitakers, geared their efforts primarily to the book trade and librarians had to make the best of what was available. Apart from the major national catalogues and bibliographies, very few of the librarians' 'standard' sources were designed with libraries in mind; it was a case of making do with what was available. Librarians

have, thus, been the unknown quantity; little is known of what they need bibliographically-speaking.

Perhaps, they might form a separate, but viable, market (or 'markets', as different types of library appear to need different forms of service). It is known, however, that pressure of time has increased librarians' frustration at not being able to use the widest range of sources for book selection and that they are increasingly forced to try 'short cuts'. Much, however, is changing. Recently the industry has begun to wake up to librarians' needs and new library-orientated services have appeared. In addition, several of the major data suppliers have invested in something quite new: marketing executives who understand libraries - but the market seems more confused than ever. There is an obvious need for a detailed analysis. One influential research team has taken the initiative.

Library Wallpaper

Professor David Nicholas's Internet Studies Research Group (ISRG) at London's City University has identified the elements of the bibliographical data market; the views of librarians and industry experts (both in Britain and abroad) have been studied in order to better understand how librarians' wants and needs are seen. The project looked at the content of a basic record, where it comes from and how it is used. It also investigated finance: identified were major conflicts for libraries, such as the need for more money to develop new ordering mechanisms, governmental-pressure for 'efficiency' (through out-sourcing, for example) and the reality of decreasing funds. The research involved a literature review, a survey covering all types of libraries, interviews with librarians, booksellers, publishers and data suppliers and an examination of the alliances being formed between the different sections of the industry. Interviews were also carried out with overseas librarians and suppliers in order to see how they view the British market - and how easy it is for foreign librarians to find out about, and obtain, UK imprints. This was the first time that such research had been undertaken.

A key finding of the ISRG project was that publishers should see the library and book-selling markets as very different - and that means re-focusing their data-supply mechanisms if they plan to stay in both. The library market is still segmented along functional lines and acquisitions, cataloguing and enquiry-desk staff, for example, may have quite different requirements; in one library the systems, technical services and reference staff were needed in order to get a full interview. Different types of library (e.g. academic, public or industrial) may have quite different needs; a service that works well in one sector may not be appropriate for others, while an approach that suits bookshops may have little

relevance to libraries. One person described bibliographical data as something that is always in the background: 'library wallpaper' – but how many of us can answer questions on our own wallpaper accurately? It is no surprise that, when asked to rate the key characteristics of a good bibliographical supplier, most librarians cited 'accuracy of data' and 'timeliness/currency' as the number one factors, followed by 'authority' and 'ease of use' (though 'accuracy' and 'authority' may sometimes have been confused). 'Cost', as one might expect from people who think in terms of 'free' information, came low on their list of priorities. Not surprisingly, it was also very hard to get any idea of the budgets available for bibliographical information.

Market Leaders

Who is the market leader for bibliographical data provision? The survey shows that, as yet, no one has a major share. The British Library was quoted most often as main supplier (but by fewer than 15% of respondents), with nearly twenty companies mentioned. The situation becomes even more complicated when one considers that many bibliographical data suppliers take feeds from more than one source, mixing and matching the information to create their own compound products. They need high-quality, well-trained staff to disaggregate and re-assemble the data and maintain its accuracy. A large academic library illustrates how complicated this can get; it uses Epixtech's Dynix library system which comes with pre-configured bibliographical data bases (supplied by the British Library and the Library of Congress). They also use Dawson's web-based service and obtain 'shelf-ready' books from the same source. But the British Library and Dawson's both receive data from Bibliographic Data Services (BDS), with Whitakers, Book Data and, no doubt, others also in the mix (an interesting feature of this market is the fact that retailers of bibliographical data often compete with one or other of their suppliers to sell-on elements of the same information!).

The Artisan Cataloguer

The project looked at how librarians handle bibliographical data. There is still something of the approach of the artisan to cataloguing and classification and the labour-intensive nature of these activities inevitably makes them expensive. Creation of records locally was justified in several ways: the need to amend standardised entries to cater for users' subject interests, the creation of new records where these are not already supplied and the addition of data on the location of particular titles.

Although the major bibliographical services may, on cost grounds, omit highly-specialised or ephemeral books as well as the output of small publishers, some services, such as those provided by BDS (who currently operate the British Library's cataloguing-in-publication service), are now attempting to fill the gap.

Market Features

According to Simon Edwards, Whitaker's Head of Marketing, while libraries are not the largest sector of the book market, the library community is important; it provides a high-percentage of business for companies such as his (book sellers buy more books, but are much less data- and information-orientated). Librarians are demanding and require both a high-degree of accuracy in the data provided and conformity with specialist protocols such as MARC and AACR2.

Small libraries' problems are different; they may have specialist collections as well as pamphlets or other 'ephemera' which do not appear on the large data bases. They also operate to tight budgets – and buying-in data (either individually or co-operatively) may be an option only if substantial savings can be demonstrated. They might, however, benefit from a US-style service: a standard, minimal record format available at little or no cost, with any extra details charged for.

Although recent estimates have valued the library market for book data at around £250m, it appears to be highly-segmented. New bibliographical products, such as the various 'shelf-ready' services (through which books arrive in the library ready-catalogued and classified), have either recently come on-stream or are about to enter the market and new services are continually being developed. Respondents did, however, question the adequacy of the market research underlying some launches.

Book Data's Head of IT, Jon Windus, sees these as exciting times, with librarians' needs for accurate, timely and full information, both before and after publication, increasing. He predicts that there are considerable opportunities for the development of high-quality data to improve access to materials for users, streamline processes and help librarians develop their roles within their communities.

An unusual feature of the library market is that the 'consumers' (i.e. librarians) do not consider themselves as being part of a market! How can that be? Perhaps, it is because they find it very hard to see bibliographical data as an identifiably separate part of their work, rather than as something permeating many aspects of it. Indeed,

there is an element of mystery as librarians are often unclear as to where bibliographical data comes from, who supplies it and how much it costs.

Cost turned out to be a key factor in the ISRG project; librarians often think that bibliographical information is, and should be, free. It has never, of course, really come free – in the past it was concealed amongst other charges. Now, however, cataloguing departments are being cut and the only viable alternative appears to be out-sourcing. But, who is going to convince librarians that book descriptions are commodities that are bought, re-sold and require ‘hard cash’ to pay for them - commodities that can only be cheap in a high-volume market?

Costs are also concealed, and confused, by the wide range of sources through which librarians find out about new books. The information comes not only from publishers, but also through wholesalers, information suppliers, booksellers and conventional library suppliers. Details come from internet book shops, such as Amazon, or through other web sites while reviews, press advertisements and readers’ recommendations all play their part. There are, however, signs that librarians are beginning to develop an awareness of the need for cost control in this area; Liverpool City Libraries, for example, claims to have made significant cost-savings as a result of out-sourcing the selection of new titles to their suppliers, Askews and Cypher. In another experiment, a large county library sent the ISBNs of titles on order to BDS in Dumfries, and received catalogue records by return. Pressure on local authorities to adopt the Government’s Best Practice approach is sure to lead to other tests like these.

Selecting Titles

When asked what makes them decide to order a title, most survey respondents claimed to be strongly influenced by ‘pre-publication reference materials’, such as flyers or jackets, with suppliers’ ‘feeds’ and print bibliographies also important. Librarians find electronic reviews very helpful; ‘shelf-ready’ books are also seen as a major plus. The most popular methods for receiving bibliographical data were through a library supplier (contracts for book supply do not necessarily include the relevant data), followed by cd-roms, hard copy and Internet/Web, which all scored equally.

Librarians were also asked about the additional work they do in order to add to or enrich the data received by these methods. Two-thirds claimed to add classification numbers, while a significant proportion said they enhanced records with annotations or other information, edited the records or altered their format. Increasingly, the library staff responsible for selecting books and using

bibliographical data sources are far removed from the managers who deal directly with book-sellers and data suppliers.

In academic libraries there is a tendency to base selection on the content of lecturers' reading lists – hardly a source for comprehensive and unbiased book information (at one time, libraries bought multiple copies of most student texts; now, despite increased student hardship, libraries are unable to afford them).

Where do lecturers find out about new titles? Much of it comes from the Web – a major source of information for both academics and librarians. The Web has an image of being the 'clean', easy, quick and modern way of getting information – notice, though, that 'accurate' does not appear anywhere in the list! Fast delivery is another feature of the image – but here there may well be a difference between image and reality.

The Web's Role

We know very little as to how paper and electronic sources compare for up-to-dateness and ease of access. Nevertheless, some Web sources can be amazingly up-to-date; a couple of years ago you could already go to Amazon's site and look for the fifth Harry Potter book. It was there, complete with publication details, including ISBN, and listed as 175th in their UK Sales Ranking. Not bad, when the book has still not appeared! Perhaps it will be called *Harry Potter and the imaginary title!*

The Web has had a big influence on library activities – and the leading brand name is unquestionably Amazon's (because it is free?). The City University project found that librarians of all types depend on them to a surprising degree - especially for bibliographical checking. Indeed, some US libraries reported that it is the main source available to reference staff. Yet, nobody gave 'accuracy of content' as a reason for using Amazon's site, even though their data is compounded from sources that are, in themselves, reliable (such as Book Data and Whitakers, for the 'co.uk' site).

Here's a test: pick up a book, any book and see how it is listed. I am writing this in a large library. Nearby, a student has left a text on algorithms on the table. A check of the library's on-line catalogue shows all the details correctly recorded - and the Web? Amazon makes the book seem poor value by knocking a third off the pagination. So do Blackwells with an identical record. Surprisingly, perhaps, the publisher's own Web site has the title quite wrong (and unretrievable through a title, subject or keyword search; I could find it only by looking under the author's

name), even though the entry includes a jacket image with, of course, the correct title.

Most major publishers now have a Web presence, but few make any attempt to speak to librarians. One has only to look at Penguin's site, where, in 2000, the new brand strategy was announced. What was their aim? "The new brand message should appeal to all audiences: from investors and staff to authors, booksellers and, most vitally, the consumer." The re-branding of Penguin was expected to appeal to everyone, but no one thought to tell their new advertising agency that librarians might form a (lucrative) market segment.

The library market is substantial, although there are far too many suppliers for anyone to have a significant share. While the days when the British Library and Whitakers were by-words for bibliographic provision are long gone, a 'shake-out' will soon be necessary if the market is to remain viable. The expression 'big bang' was used by commentators – who felt that someone in the industry will need to make a break-through soon and that that 'someone' will quickly dominate the market. Libraries are investing significant parts of their hard-pressed budgets to buy-in bibliographical data (even if they are unaware that the money is being spent) and, yet, they continue to see a need to amend this data. This suggests a mismatch of resources. One supplier of bibliographical data commented that new services are created in a 'haze' – and arrive on the market as if by osmosis! It might be wise for more substantial research to be undertaken, so that we know more about librarians' needs, before the industry explodes with too big a bang!

Ralph Adam
Harrow

A full description of the project summarised here was published as:
NICHOLAS, D., HUNTINGTON, P., ADAM, R. & WATKINSON, A. Bibliographical information on books: a survey of provision and use in academic and public libraries. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, vol. 33, no. 2, June 2001, pp. 75-84.

An earlier version of this article appeared in *The Bookseller* 6th October 2000.

OAK HILL COLLEGE: DESIGNING THE NEW LIBRARY

By Wendy Bell

Oak Hill College is a Church of England ministerial training college in the leafy suburbs of North London. When I joined the staff in 1988 as the first full-time librarian the library was housed in what had been the billiard room of the old house, converted into a dining hall when the house became a college, then into a library. There was a small dark damp basement accessed by an iron spiral staircase, and a small desk in the corner where traditionally the part-time library assistant worked. The first stage of development was to build an office - the college offered me a small room further along the corridor, but I insisted on a newly constructed office within the library itself. Admittedly there wasn't room to swing the proverbial cat, but in general I didn't want to and I really valued being at the coal face. Later that year a first floor was built onto the flat roof of the library, so one of my first jobs was to design the layout. I had done a course at library school on planning a new library and had visited a lot of newly constructed buildings, but little did I think then that I would have the opportunity to implement the training so soon, and especially not twice in the same organisation.

In 1998 plans began to evolve for a new academic centre to be built in the grounds of the old college. It would have a lecture theatre, a lecture hall and a coffee bar on the ground floor, facilities in the basement and a library and three seminar rooms with a postgraduate room on the first floor. I was not involved in the architectural planning of the building, but was later presented with drawings of the shell and asked to fill in the details. The architect had some ideas, but not being from a background of work in libraries they were very sterile and impractical, with long lines of shelving down one side and rows of desks down the other. They had also placed my office out of sight of the library, round the corner next to the postgraduate room. So the first discussion I had with the architect was to move the office to the other side of the library, directly opposite the front door and with glass walls. What had been designated as my office was to become the photocopying and audio-visual room.

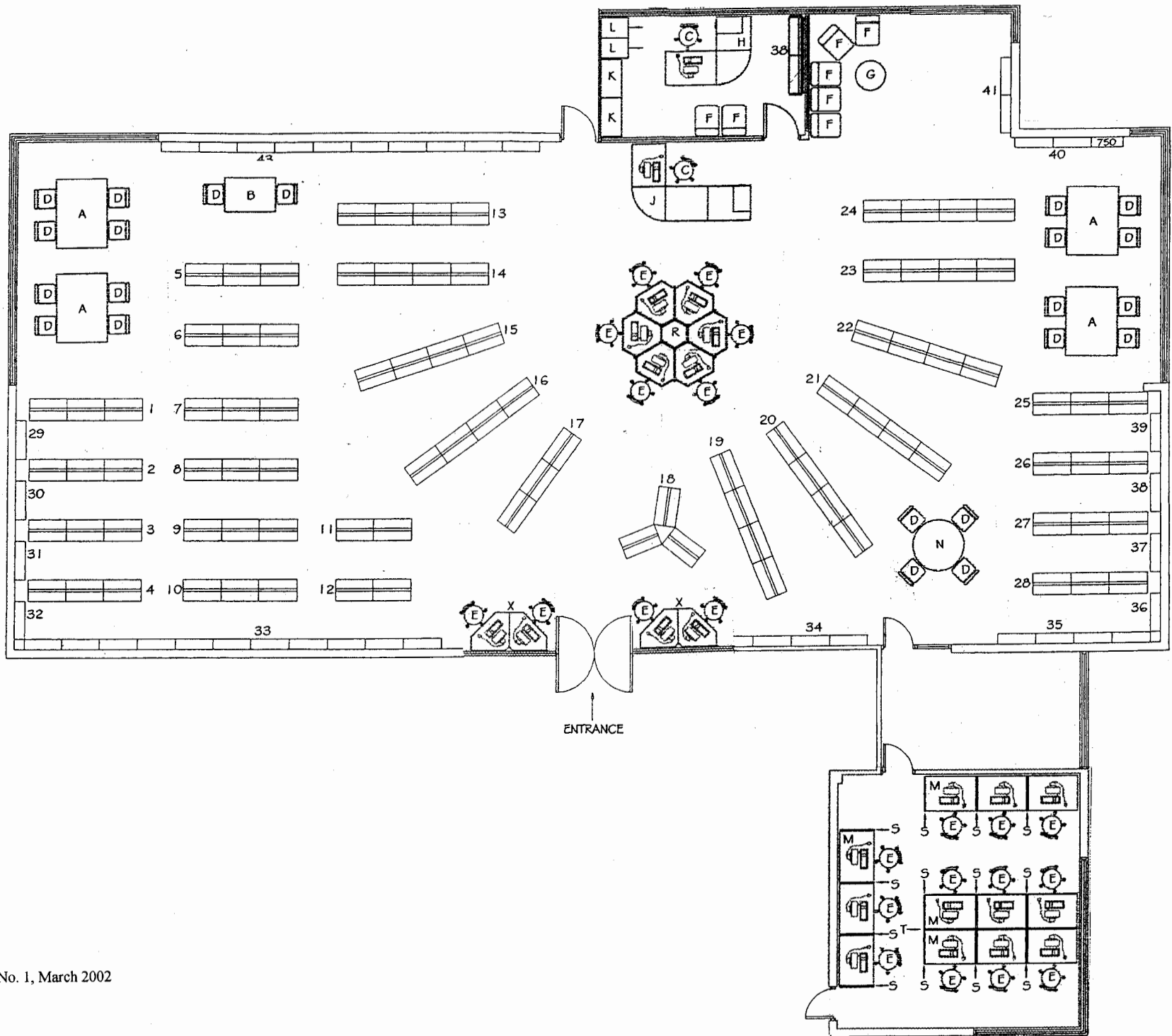
I knew from the survey I had done when designing the library in 1988 that people liked a variety of different types of seating, and I knew from my own years of academic life as a theological student that I liked working by windows. Fortunately the new library had a lot of windows so it seemed sensible to place the desks near them, but beyond that I had scanty ideas and decided to turn to the professionals for help. In 1988 I had designed the library myself, but because it consisted of a series of smaller rooms with a scattering of windows it was fairly straightforward to put the desks under the windows and fill in the gaps with shelving. An empty

room measuring 28 x 12 m was more of a challenge. So I invited consultants from three library design firms to visit the library and share their ideas with myself and with the library committee (consisting of a member of the faculty and a student). We had written a brief for them and explained how the library was used and what we wanted from the new design. This was based partly on my own experience of working in libraries and partly as a result of conversations with both faculty and students. We also visited a large number of libraries to see how they were arranged, what type of shelving they used and to see whether the staff of the these libraries felt that the results were effective.

There are three different criteria in choosing a library supplier. One is price - each supplier has a range of different types of shelving from budget to designer and the tag reflects the quality and style. Another is the materials - what the shelving is made from and what the overall effect and durability will be. The third is the actual layout. In theory you could use one design with materials from another supplier, but I felt that this was unethical. So everything had to be right and the decision had to be made very carefully.

The brief to the architect consisted of two parts. The first was the ideal capacity of both books and work places, of audiovisual materials and computers. The second was based on our own ideas from looking at the architect's plans; at this stage the building was just a hole in the ground so there was no opportunity to get inspiration from it. There was a big bay window drawn in a corner just outside the office and this seemed the ideal place for the casual seating and current periodical display. There was a blank internal wall directly to the right of the entrance which we felt would be well suited to a reference collection. We specified that there should be a variety of different types of desks, and that the issue/discharge and catalogue computers should be sited near the door, with a clear view of the door from my office. At this stage we also specified a run of mobile shelving - when the architect designed the library she had made one corner with a strengthened floor with the aim of including some mobiles as we could see no alternative if we were to achieve our ideal capacity. Personally I did not feel that mobile shelving was the answer as it does not suit the type of use we make of our collection, but nevertheless it went in the brief.

We were then presented with three layouts. The first complied exactly with the brief - casual seating in the bay window, computers by doors, desks under windows, mobile shelving in the corner and rows of shelving in straight lines down the middle. But it looked very cold and uninviting. It came with the cheapest quote, but visits to local libraries showed that the shelving was inferior. We immediately discounted these suppliers.



a portfolio of photographs of furniture he had made and a list of references, so once again we set off to visit other libraries. We were very pleased with what we saw and, although the items were handmade, the price was within our budget so the furniture was commissioned - work tables, computer tables, desks for the office and carrels for the postgraduate room.

All we needed now was chairs. The architect arranged another display of both desk and easy chairs and from these we selected one in each category. But she knew of no suppliers of gas lift chairs (which are a legal requirement for computer workstations). So a number of phonecalls were made and catalogues consulted, but in the end it was the gentleman who was making the furniture who came up with the contact and agreed to be an agent for us, offering a very reasonable price. The colour scheme was a joint decision - the architect chose the carpet (blue with brown flecks), the library committee chose the colour of desk and gas lift chairs (two different shades of blue) and the table tops (blue again) and the easy chairs (red) were chosen by the principal as a contrast.

Now that the layout had been decided, decisions could be made about lighting and the position of floor boxes for electric and network points. Provision was made for every desk, with the potential for adding more in the future. By this time it was February 2000 and the building was well under way. It was due to be handed over to us in the Summer. On a couple of occasions I was invited to don a hard hat and clamber up a wooden stepladder (the staircase was the last thing to be constructed) to view the new room. It was exciting to see it all taking shape, but hard to visualise it as a library and even harder to see it being ready on time. The "topping out" ceremony took place on 5th May 2000, attended by all those involved in the design, funding and building of the new academic centre (all attired in hard hats) and involving the laying of a brass plaque in the floor of my office (now under the carpet), cemented by the Chairman of the Trust.

The shelving was installed on three days in the middle of June. As the building had not officially been handed over to us by the main contractors the library firm were treated as sub-contractors and we all had to wear the ubiquitous hard hats, even the day that three of us spent putting book ends in position - a job which I had expected would be done for us and which was completed in rather a hurry before the books were moved in on June 21st. We used a specialist library removal firm for the move, this time discovered from an advert in the *Library Association Record*, which took place on two of the hottest days of June and which saw the consumption of several crates of coke. I had done detailed plans of where each shelf of books was to go, measuring them in sections in the old library and measuring the shelving in the plans for the new library. I then positioned the book -



ends accordingly and told the movers to work on a continuous sequence according to my specification. They were very efficient and had a strict routine - one man took the books off a shelf and transferred them to a crate. Four men stacked the crates and took them to the lorry. When the lorry was full another man drove it round to the new centre. The four men then unloaded and brought the crates up in the lift, and a final man put the books back on the shelf. I was slightly concerned when the unpacker admitted to me that he never read, but it was a precision task and the books ended up in the right places, except when a pile of the crates overbalanced and the books were placed randomly on a few shelves. It was a very exciting experience to see months of planning coming together and a new library taking shape, but we all went home exhausted.

Money had been allocated in the budget for guiding and this was done by the library firm, again to my specification, but I delayed doing it until the books were in place and I could see exactly where each subject was. There was a certain amount of "tweaking" to do to fit subjects in neatly. The library opened to users on August 1st 2000 (bearing in mind that there were no toilets and access was via the fire escape) and was opened officially by the Archbishop of Canterbury (who has himself been on the staff of Oak Hill) on September 23rd the day after the handover of the building to the College, in the presence of many invited guests, including three former principals.

Naturally there were a few hiccups, not least being the rain coming in. The architects and builders had changed a few details but the electrician was working to an old plan, so the door to the library had been moved and some floor boxes for the issue computers were right in front of the main entrance. The door to the library office had been moved, so my light switch is now behind the desk obscured by shelving. They also altered the size of the postgraduate room without notifying the furniture manufacturer, so the carrels had to be taken away and altered. He also had to alter the height of the shelving on the carrels and the size of the computer issue desks because he had designed them with monitors alone in mind, whereas in fact they had to take the whole computer unit. There was also a problem with the layout in that the Internet/word processing computers on the central desk unit are directly beneath the raised glass roof light, and so visibility is limited on sunny days. But on the whole it ran smoothly and was fairly stress free.

The story, however, does not end there. As those of you who have read the College year book will know, in 2001 the library was inundated with books, on top of an already healthy library budget. First came fifteen boxes of books from Middlesex University's Tottenham campus, which was cutting down on religious courses. Then came seventeen crates containing the Religion section of the University of

Essex. These were followed by the unwanted review copies which the *Church Times* had collected over the previous few years, and a large collection (including regalia) on freemasonry from a private collector who is also a former student. By far the largest number of books came from the amalgamation of Oak Hill and Latimer House. In the past year over 2,000 books from Latimer have been accessioned, with another 3-4,000 in boxes in the basement and about 400 valuable antiquarian books. Latimer is funding an assistant librarian to integrate the collections, so that spare desk which the library designer thought to put outside my office has been invaluable.

The result of all these additions is that we are already having to think about expansion. The library which was expected to last ten years is already filling up fast. We have had some secure glass-fronted beech shelves made to house the antiquarian books, and at Easter this year we will close for a week whilst we move some of the shelves and try to fit a few more in. We designed the refit ourselves - I cut a variety of different sized shelves to scale from paper, and using a plan of the existing layout the library committee had a brainstorming session to see where we could extend and put more bays. Flatteringly enough, the library designer said he could not improve on the plan which resulted. We are also having three more desks made, but unfortunately the chairs we bought have already been discontinued so we are having to buy ones which are similar and put them in dark corners in the hope that no-one notices.

So as you can see the last couple of years have been exciting times of change and growth at Oak Hill. The library is much better accommodated and able to function far more efficiently, and as a result it is much better utilised. That the library exists at all is a tribute to the vision of our Principal and the generosity of the Kingham Hill Trust. Anyone who would like further information on any of our suppliers, or would be interested in coming for a visit, is welcome to contact me on wendyb@oakhill.ac.uk. There is a coffee machine downstairs!

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HERESY! A BOOK TRADE EXPERT ARGUES THAT FREE LEGAL DEPOSIT SHOULD BE ABOLISHED

By David Whitaker

Each year publishers pay a tax-in-kind worth at least £3.5m to the Treasury. The tax is unique, and nothing similar is borne by any other group of manufacturers. It is also peculiar in that its beginnings lie in efforts of the government of the day to suppress freedom of expression and of thought - but, over 300 years later, its results are generally regarded as a Good Thing.

On 11th July 1637, at the instigation of Archbishop Laud, the Star Chamber decreed that a copy of every book published be sent to the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, of which Laud was Chancellor. At Oxford the Chancellor's minions sniffed the books for the whiff of treason, or of heresy, and then added them to the stock of what was to become one of the greatest libraries of the world.

Throughout the 17th century legal deposit - as the impost came to be called - 'was seen as a means of state censorship rather than as a means of preserving forever the published literary output of the nation' (Richard Bell, *Law Librarian*, 1977). This changed in the 19th century. Publishers struggled to have legal deposit abolished and on two occasions thought they scented victory. In 1818 a Select Committee of the House of Commons recommended that the then requirement of 11 free copies be reduced to one - for the British Museum. A Royal Commission in 1878 also proposed that the impost - by that time down to five copies - be reduced to a single copy for the BM. The library lobby, however, particularly at the universities, had begun to cry the needs of education and culture, and nothing happened.

The 20th century opened with the debate still on. Publishers were confident that the 1911 Copyright Act would see them right, but the library lobby won again. The Act confirmed the privileges of the British Museum, the Bodleian, the libraries at Cambridge University, at Trinity College Dublin, and the National Library of Scotland. To add insult to what publishers saw as continuing injury, the National Library of Wales was added.

Few will argue that every country should store for future generations of scholars the works which reflect its culture - popular and otherwise - its history and its learning. But whether this needs to be done six times over, and with the books coming free, may be questioned. The sums of money involved are considerable. Last year publishers in Britain were required to give 116,415 books to each of the deposit libraries, free even of carriage. Using the 1999 average price of £25 (rounded down) this represents a published price value of £17,462,250. It does not,

of course, cost a publisher an average of £25 to send a book to the British Library (the current recipient of the British Museum copy), nor a further £125 to send out copies to the other five libraries. However, if we use the old publishing rule of thumb that published price is five times production costs, then the cost is around £30 a title. Thus, in the year 2000, the actual cost to the publishing trade was about £3.5m. The number of books published between 1912 (when the 1911 Act came into force) and 2000 was 2,820,899. Using the same 1999 average price of £25 to arrive at a figure reflecting today's values, the benefit to the six libraries has been £423,134,850. The direct cost to publishers over that time has been £84,626,970.

All are Kept

Contrary to received opinion in the publishing trade, the deposit libraries do not sell the books, or even throw out the ephemera among the avalanche they receive. Hay-on-Wye is not stocked with the rejects. All books are stored, although with increasing difficulty; all are catalogued, and the other deposit libraries now share the burden of this with the British Library - and all books are available to researchers.

None of the deposit libraries would like to see the law changed, except perhaps that section of the 1911 Act which allows publishers to send - other than to the British Library - the paperback edition of a title if it is a simultaneous publication. As Steven Lees of Cambridge puts it, "even when we bind the paperback, it is just not the same."

All accept that many of the books will never be asked for but, as a keeper at the British Library said long ago, "we could throw away half of the books and no one would notice between now and the end of time; the problem is to know which half." All believe, with Leslie Brian of Trinity College, that "we keep them for posterity. We have an obligation to publishers. When we are dust, these books will still be here. They are the cultural heritage of the islands." (British publishers who object to a copy going to Dublin are always surprised to learn that Irish publishers have to send five copies here, and a further eight to their own universities and national libraries.)

As to duplication, Jack Flavell of the Bodleian makes the point that each library serves a different community. "Not everyone wants to go to London; and overseas scholars will use several of the deposit libraries over the years." He adds that "one can't necessarily guarantee survival over centuries. The British Museum lost about a quarter of a million books in the war. We helped them fill the gaps with microfilm."

All make the point that they are preserving the national heritage, and remind me that “books produce more books”. Most of the researchers at work in the collections are writing yet another book to keep the publishing mill turning.

A Public Good

As the centuries have passed, legal deposit's shameful beginnings are known only to a few pedants. It has become a public good; a myriad reflections of each age are stored for study by those who will come later. But should the cost of this public good be paid for by one tiny part of that public?

In the August 2001 issue of the *Library Association Record* I argued that after over three centuries of buncce the Treasury should now find a way of recompensing publishers for the cost of complying with the 1911 Act. While this would have a straightforward logic to it, I now believe a greater good could be achieved by the Treasury handing over annually £3.5m for the book world (authors, publishers, booksellers and librarians) to do with as it chose. (In succeeding years the figure would alter according to the formula: 6 x number of titles published x average price divided by 5.)

In two years the Booker Prize could have an endowment that would make it, and keep it, independent. The British National Bibliography Research Fund could be reconstituted (it was recently axed by Lord Evans' Resource for “not fitting our new pattern”). BNBRF funded research into areas of mutual concern to librarians, publishers, and booksellers. Its work led to the founding of Book Industry Communications which seeks, by creating standards, to speed books from printer to reader, to everybody's benefit. BIC itself could be funded. Others will have their own lists.

Perhaps the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, son of the manse of a dissenting church, will think well of ending this centuries-long extortion begun by an Archbishop of the establishment.

David Whitaker
London

David Whitaker has been editor of *The Bookseller* and chairman of Whitaker, the PLR Advisory Committee, the ISBN Advisory Panel, and the BNB Research Fund. He is a founding partner of The Graveyard Press. This article is reprinted from *The Author* Winter 2001 with the kind permission of the author.

COLUMBANUS COMMUNITY OF RECONCILIATION: AN ACCOUNT OF VOLUNTEER LIBRARY WORK

By Dave Parry

Having enjoyed numerous (probably some two dozen) Working Parties with members of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship since my retirement from conventional library work, my attention was caught by an item in the June 2001 ABTAPL *Bulletin*. This asked for volunteers to help with the reorganisation of the library of the Columbanus Community of Reconciliation (CCR) in Belfast.

Having agreed a suitable period with Ann Carr, a member of the CCR after retiring as a lawyer in America, I arrived at the Seacat terminal at Belfast Donegall Quay on Saturday evening 13 October 2001, and made my way to 683 Antrim Road, some three miles North of the city centre. I soon felt at home with the Community, and was given a pleasant room near to the library.

On Sunday I went to St. Therese Church in the morning, and went to a Church of Ireland service in the evening with Presbyterian minister Rev. Glenn Barclay, current Leader of the CCR. I had my first look at the library, enjoyed exploring the one acre garden and met Katerina, a Community member who was helping in the library. She gave me my first lessons in using the library computer for accessing their ResourceMate software (www.resourcemate.com) and in accessing online records from the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/catalog). I was told that there were some 11,000 volumes, acquired by donations over the years, and discovered an excellent range of religious and reconciliation titles.

I started serious work on the Monday morning, giving Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) to a hundred or so books which had been otherwise processed. Fortunately, CCR had been given a four volume 1993 set of these Headings, and a set of the Dewey Decimal Classification, 20th edition. The librarian of CCR, Sheila Fitzpatrick, comes in on Tuesdays, so we agreed that the best use of my time would be to give Dewey numbers to as many books and pamphlets as I could, so that Katerina could put them into ResourceMate (this software is about 10% of the cost of the "Heritage" that I have often used) and complete entries, apart from the trickier LCSH ones which Ann Carr would then assign.

Since "Cataloguing and Classifying" had been my best subject at the University of Strathclyde diploma of librarianship examination back in 1975 (and "Management" my worst!), you can imagine that I thoroughly enjoyed the rest of my time at CCR until getting the Friday afternoon Seacat back to Troon for the train to Glasgow. I

would gladly have stayed longer, but had meetings with the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Scotland in Glasgow on the Saturday.

The Columbanus Community of Reconciliation was started in 1984 as a place where Catholics and Protestants could live, work and worship together. The patrons include the Most Rev. R. H. Eames, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, and Cardinal C. Daly, Archbishop Emeritus of Armagh. It offers hospitality to visitors and hosts a range of events. On the Monday evening that I was there, a pleasant Evangelical lady gave introductory talk, then divided us into three groups to investigate Truth, Justice and Mercy before we came together again to represent these facets. On the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings I was taken out for dinner in a home, seeing some of the sights of Belfast on the way.

CCR is set in a bourgeois part of North Belfast, near the Council offices at Belfast Castle, with a Post Office and basic shops within easy walking distance. Library volunteers are given a pleasant room and all meals in return for their work. There is indeed an atmosphere of Reconciliation, not to mention Internationality (German, American, Australian for starters). I hope to be there again in Spring. If you wish further information with a view to volunteering, then please e-mail Ann Carr at annoo@ireland.com .

*Dave Parry
Aberdeen*

REVIEWS

ENGLAND, Rita and John. *Ministering Asian faith and wisdom: a manual for theological librarians in Asia*. Quezon City, Philippines: New Day Publishers, 2001. 214p. ISBN 971-10-1057-7

This text covers the material used for a training course for Asian theological librarians which concentrated on Asian resources and the need to emphasize their significance to theological study. It is in three parts: 1) Theology and resources; 2) Into practice; 3) Listings and tools.

From the first chapter - 'Our place in God's mission' the writers set out their vision of the development of Libraries or Resources Centres set in Asia with "rice roots" rather than "grass roots". 'Not a western collection of learning but one rooted in the culture and life of Asian peoples: in the paddy fields, terraces and villages (both traditional and transplanted squatter communities), urban settlements and centers, and in our immensely rich, ancient and yet alive and resurgent cultural traditions.' p.10. Through a history of Asian Christian libraries (chapter 2), an outline for meditation (chapter 3) and a look at what Asian resources and help are already available (chapters 4-5), readers are prepared for the Practice (Acquisition, Archives, Cataloguing, Promotion, Strategies, Preservation, Role of the Librarian, Networking and Ministry) of the second part of the book.

At first sight this appears to be basic Library School training for the essentials of librarianship for the theological specialist, with suggestions for an acquisition policy, notes on different formats, cataloguing and classifying, etc. However the emphasis is always on the Asian material to be collected, so there are helpful suggestions as to how to track down hard-to-find publications and notes on the inadequacies of western classification schemes, such as the Library of Congress, for the classification of material such as the Indian Church, and on its failure to recognise Asian periods of history. Throughout the text we are urged to 'Remember where your feet are' and to adapt western librarianship rules to aid the promotion of the Asian collection and readers are urged to combat the '...present overwhelming dominance of western materials in our libraries...' by acquiring Asian material'...until the library is fully stocked with national and Asian books, national and Asian periodicals and other local and Asian resource material' p.54.

The need for this policy is further explained in chapter 12 - 'Bottlenecks and strategies' which sets out the effects of globalisation on theological librarians in Asia. 'The frightening figure for us in this study is that [this] 20 percent have control over 94 percent of all research and development!' p.116. [Theological

research is controlled by the 20% 'Northern' minority of humankind.] 'This influences our libraries and theological studies, the last place where colonialism and neocolonial domination will eventually be ended, it has been said.' p.116.

This book is obviously written for the Asian theological librarians of Asia, to encourage them to ensure the Asian voice is heard in their countries. However the Western librarian and academic would do well to read it, if only to question the resources held within their library and the bias they follow. For anyone interested in improving their collection of Asian theological material, part three - 'Listings and tools' provides 54 pages of key bibliographical sources; manuals; regional Asian resources; country references; key periodicals; agencies and booksellers; publishers of Asian Christian writings; associations of theological librarians; theological associations and regional resource centres and a checklist for an Asian theological library. Practical tips to enable the ministering of Asian faith and wisdom.

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HARMON, Joseph C. and FLANDER, P. Michelle (eds.) *Making Waves: new serials landscapes in a sea of change : proceedings of the North American Serials Interest Group 15th Annual Conference, June 22-25 2000, University of San Diego.* Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2001. UK paperback price £31.00. ISBN 0-7890-1400-9
Co-published simultaneously as *The Serials Librarian* 40 (1/2) and (3/4) 2001.

It is strange to find that a book aimed at library professionals might have benefited from a classifier's hand. The structure of this 470-page book follows that of the conference, with reports of three pre-conference programmes followed by those of plenary sessions and workshops but with no attempt at organisation by subject, even within the thirty workshop reports. Thus a report on ISSN assignment in the electronic environment is sandwiched between a 'how-to' session on preservation (give your staff a 'disguise' for their own food and drink to discourage users from eating while turning the pages of the journals) and another on organising your e-mail, which are themselves flanked by reports on cataloguing historical serials and on methods for making e-journals accessible from the OPAC. Is there not some technique for making conference proceedings accessible to the non-delegate reader when publishing in book form?

Nevertheless, with a little patient use of index and abstracts and a little extrapolation from the American context (when I drew up our Library's disaster management plan, the earthquake scenario used for the case study here did not feature very strongly) there is much to interest and inform even those of us for whom serials management is only one aspect of our work. Establishment of consortia or collaborative exercises in the face of the financial stranglehold of the publishers and the impact of publisher mergers; evaluating e-journals; bibliographic description of electronic material; worries about archiving of e-journals that make us cling to hard copy; the skills required simultaneously to deal with the traditional world of print resources and the emerging world of electronic ones....these are issues that touch most of us and on which some practical advice (and the workshop reports are practical in tone) and information is welcome.

Many ABTAPL members are probably one-person bands with diverse responsibilities; but before we envy the NASIG members with their specialist skills and their understanding of Z39.71, we might take comfort from the findings of one of the less 'technical' workshops on 'Exploring uncharted waters: alternative careers for the serialist.' A questionnaire survey of practising and former serials librarians included a question to former serials librarians: 'Would you consider working in a serials library in the future?' Only 10% answered Yes.

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KIRKWOOD, Neville A. *Pastoral Care to Muslims: Building Bridges*. Haworth Press, 2002. 0789014769 \$34.95 (hardback); 078901477 7 \$17.95 (paperback)

I was reading this book not as a pastoral care-worker or practitioner in any form, but as an everyday practising Christian interested in inter-faith issues. I found the book extremely interesting with carefully laid out material which has helped me enormously to understand more fully the Islamic faith.

Working in a Christian organisation alongside Anglicans, Methodists, United Reformed Church and Roman Catholics has given me a greater insight of these faiths, but the Islamic faith has remained unexplored. This book clearly explained the fundamentals of the Islamic faith to a relative lay-person in a simple and concise way. Whilst reading the background and history relating to the Muslim

faith I gathered that the Koran is of immense dominance to Muslims. The readings could have a profound effect on how Muslims view their faith, their destinies and their status at the Day of Judgement. The reality of the future life is constant to a devout Muslim. All Muslims are aware that God sees and knows our innermost secrets, motives and thoughts. Fear of God through failure to submit to God is basic to Islam. How the hospital chaplain responds to this belief whilst responding to a Muslim patient is one of the many instances portrayed in the book as a useful guide.

From reading this book I have gained an understanding to some extent of the Islamic belief and what drives Muslims towards the Day of Resurrection - a day to be feared, a day to be anticipated, a day to be filling the faithful and devout with hope. The Islamic spiritualists view death as a second birth - the faithful are led into Paradise. Perhaps this is what the hi-jackers of September 11th were looking towards as they recited the Koran in the final few minutes before impact into the World Trades Centre. The teaching and writing of the Koran is of a future life for the devout Muslim, whether it be 'Paradise or a shameful scourge'. The presence of care-worker/chaplain to a terminally ill Muslim patient may have a profound effect on the patient's state of mind. The patient may be fearful of what lies ahead, or hopeful that Paradise awaits. This book will assist in addressing the Muslim beliefs in death, heaven and hell.

A large portion of the book concentrates on giving anyone, Christians, lay-persons, care-givers, hospital chaplains an insight into the Muslim mind. Later chapters will assist pastoral care-workers in their approach to Muslims assigned to their hospital ward/department. As a member of a pastoral team there needs to be an interest, and desire in all persons regardless of their race, sex, and religious leanings. This book is an extremely useful handbook which will be invaluable time and time again to those working in pastoral practice, wishing to gain knowledge in Islam and other interfaiths in order to approach and converse wisely with Muslims in a caring role, and understand more of their beliefs. A very good reference book for both pastoral and lay-persons in the understanding of the Muslim faith.

*Linda Cooper
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NEWS AND NOTES

American Theological Library Association

The ATLA International Committee now has a website. It can be found at http://www.atla.com/international_collab/website.html

The 2002 ATLA Annual Conference, having the theme "Theology and the Arts", is to be held in Minnesota, from 19th to 22nd June.

Australian & New Zealand Theological Library Association

The 17th Annual Conference of ANZTLA will be held from 4th to 7th July 2002 in Watson, ACT, Australia.

"**John Wesley: Life, Legend and Legacy: A Tercentenary Celebration**" is an international conference to be held in June 2003 at the University of Manchester. An exhibition is to be mounted at the Portico Library and Gallery at the same time.

Librarians' Christian Fellowship

LCF's annual conference, with the theme "Change and Decay... and Opportunity", will take place on 27th April 2002, 10.30am-4.45pm, at College Hall, Malet Street, London WC1. Please note that this is a change of venue.

Methodist Archives

The *Index of Methodist Ministers* is now available on the website of the Methodist Archives and Research Centre (Marc) at <http://rylibweb.man.ac.uk/methodist>
The Centre has recently acquired an original manuscript letter written by John Wesley and one by Charles Wesley, while an original manuscript of John Wesley's will signed in 1770 has been bought by the Bridwell Library at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, USA.

Philosophical and Religious Studies

The Philosophical and Religious Studies section of the Learning and Teaching Support Network is planning a consultation between academics and subject librarians in June. Membership of the network is restricted to academic institutions. Information is available on the website at <http://www.prs-itsn.leeds.ac.uk>

Publishers

The partnership known as Thoemmes Antiquarian Books has been dissolved amicably and two companies formed: Herb Tandree Philosophy Books and Rachel Lee Rare Books. The business addresses remain the same. The new joint website is at <http://www.philosophy-books.co.uk>

Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham

Sheila Russell is to retire in the summer as librarian of the Queen's Foundation after 22 years.

Special Librarians in London Group

This informal group has developed from the Workplace and Solo Libraries groups of the Library Association. For further information contact Bert Washington, e-mail: bertw@sportsmarketingsurveys.com; tel: 01932 359 344

Training Course

The Archives Skills Agency (TASC) offers various courses "aimed at people working with archives and recordswho would benefit from some basic training in the principles of managing records and archives". More information can be found on their website at <http://www.archive-skills.com>.

Vatican Archives

The Vatican has announced that it will make available its secret archives from 1922 to 1939 with priority given to relations between the Holy See and Germany.

Dr Geoffrey Bill

The death has been announced of Geoffrey Bill, Librarian at Lambeth Palace (1958-91) and Lecturer and Archivist of Christ Church, Oxford (1950-91). He died in December 2001.

THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS & OTHER PERIODICALS RECEIVED

Copies of the following have been sent to Marion Smith, Editor of the *Bulletin*.

American Theological Library Association *Annual Report* September 2000 - August 2001 and *Newsletter* February 2002. The latter includes the final excerpt from the report of the General Board of Global Ministries trip to Cambodia, January 2001.

Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association *Newsletter* No. 45, January 2002. Includes an article entitled "Information literacy: promoting ourselves as the experts."

Librarians' Christian Fellowship *Newsletter* Spring 2002

Verband kirchlich-wissenschaftlicher Bibliotheken *Informationen für kirchliche Bibliotheken* No. 51, 2002.

WEBSITES

AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE http://www.atla.com/international_collab/website.html

THE ARCHIVES SKILLS AGENCY (TASC) <http://www.archive-skills.com>

INSTITUTE FOR THEOLOGY & PEACE: BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THEOLOGY & PEACE <http://www.ithpeace.de/bibl>

LEARNING AND TEACHING SUPPORT NETWORK : PHILOSOPHICAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES SECTION <http://www.prs-ltsn.leeds.ac.uk>

METHODIST ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTRE (MARC) <http://rylibweb.man.ac.uk/methodist>