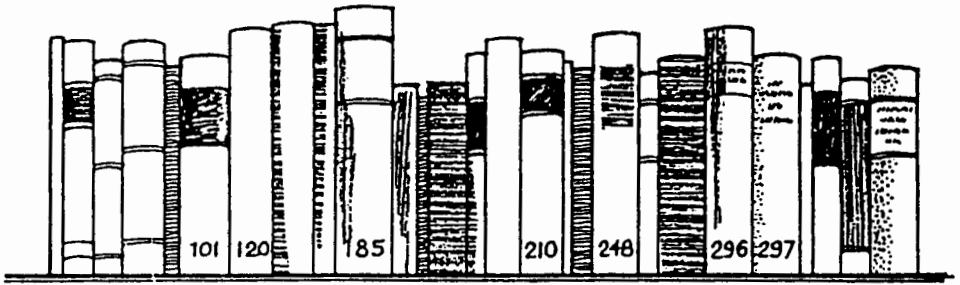


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NOVEMBER 1991 -EDITORIAL

1991 is certainly proving to be an eventful year for ABTAPL! Beginning with the departure of Patrick Lambe as editor of the *Bulletin* it ends with the unexpected blow of losing Margaret Ecclestone as Chairman. In between, members enjoyed one of the most stimulating Spring Weekends for years at Durham, thoroughly examining present and future directions for the Association and coming away committed to mutual co-operation and support. It is this commitment which will be tested to the limit in the next few months following the departure of such hard-working and dedicated Committee members.

As the new editor I am slowly getting to grips with the job and its multifarious demands, even taking a crash course in word processing (an unexpected by-product of yet another re-organization at Birmingham Central Library, of which more in the next issue). I feel it is important that we all try to build upon the ideas generated at Durham. The initial signs are encouraging. Robin Noad has begun to collect data from members for the production of a union catalogue of periodicals. Judith Powles is collecting annual reports of member libraries and also is the first contributor to the series in the *Bulletin* on library automation. As a rider to Judy's article, Meline Nielsen has contributed a powerful plea for us to 'stand up for the services our users deserve to get'. (Meline will also be among future contributors to the automation series).

I would end by endorsing Patrick Lambe's words in his final editorial. It is up to all ABTAPL members to contribute towards the Association's work in one way or another. I shall be happy to receive any contributions to the *Bulletin*, however small, and any offers of assistance with its production. May I finally thank everyone who sent me messages of support and encouragement during my first few weeks as editor.

Alan Smith

SPURGEON'S COLLEGE LIBRARY - THE ROAD TO AUTOMATION by Judith Powles.

In September 1990 Spurgeon's College introduced into the College Library an automated cataloguing and acquisitions system using Bookshelf software. This major development was the result of a long process of evaluation which had taken over 2 years to complete.

The following pages seek to show:-

- 1) the reasons for considering automation
- 2) the process of choosing the 'right' software/hardware
- 3) The implementation process, including some of the practical difficulties involved
- 4) future developments

1) REASONS FOR CONSIDERING AUTOMATION

a) The need to reduce the amount of time spent on clerical tasks. As Librarian I am employed officially for only 15 hours per week throughout the year (although in term time I work for approx. 23 hours each week). In the past much of this time was spent in carrying out non-professional tasks, particularly typing and filing, as I have had no regular clerical help. I was finding it increasingly frustrating to find myself typing the same basic bibliographic details over and over again for varying purposes, *e.g.*

- i) Book orders (typed on Don Gresswell multi-part order slips)
- ii) The basic catalogue card (the added entry cards being reproduced on an electronic typewriter)
- iii) New accessions lists (produced each month)
- iv) Subject lists (produced on demand for individual tutors)

All this seemed to be a waste of my 'professional' time. An automated system would mean that the basic bibliographic information could be keyed in at the ordering stage, amended when the book arrived and then used for a variety of purposes.

Similarly an automated issues/returns system, with computer-generated recalls, would lead to much improved book circulation.

b) The need to find an alternative to expensive card cabinets. The catalogue card cabinets in the Main Library entrance were almost full again (8 extra drawers had been purchased at vast expense only 2 years previously). The cost of purchasing further drawers to match the existing ones was likely to be even higher than before.

c) Strong Faculty support All the Faculty have had word processing facilities for some time, as have many of the students. It seemed a logical step to consider some form of automation for the Library. (It must be stressed at this point that all members of the College have been very supportive towards the idea of automation from the beginning. Without this unanimous support it would have been extremely hard to convince the College Treasurer of the need for such a large financial outlay.)

2) THE PROCESS OF SELECTING THE 'RIGHT' SOFTWARE/HARDWARE

The process of searching for a suitable system was extremely slow and time-consuming. It became apparent almost immediately that, as a small,

specialized college with c.30,000 volumes, we fell between 2 markets, i.e. the schools and the large public libraries/universities/polytechnics. We were also unusual (in the computer world) in that our Library was only staffed for part of the time and the chosen system would need to be almost completely 'self-service'. As time went on I began to find out just how expensive automation was likely to be. I was very conscious that if I made the wrong decision in recommending a particular system to the College, the responsibility would be mine alone and the College would have to live with my mistake. There was no 'Automation Librarian' to take on the responsibility.

I was therefore determined not to rush into a decision and I must confess that I was rather hoping that another theological college or similar institution would 'take the plunge' before we did. I was also hoping that somewhere there would be the equivalent to a *Which?* guide to microcomputer systems for theological college libraries, but if there was I never found it. I read with interest the article in the *ABTAPL Bulletin*, Vol.2, no.5, June 1989, by Ann Davies, Librarian of the World Association for Christian Communication. She had clearly gone through a similar selection process in trying to find the most suitable system for her institution. Unfortunately the requirements of the WACC were rather different from Spurgeon's and so I had to reject that particular system and continue with the search.

The following is the actual process that I went through in order to select the best system for Spurgeon's Library:-

1988

In 1988 the College was given a generous donation towards automating the Library and I was advised to consult a local computer programmer, a friend of a member of the College's Academic Board, with a view to him supplying a 'tailor-made' system to run on a microcomputer. I made a list of our requirements and we had lengthy discussions. He clearly realized quite soon that library operations were much more complicated than he had thought. In the meantime discussions with some of our more knowledgeable students, who had computer programming backgrounds convinced me that an untried system of this kind was likely to be the cause of many headaches, because of the inevitable bugs that were sure to occur. I was never going to have the time (or expertise) to spend on sorting them out. At this stage I became convinced that an 'off the peg' library management software package had to be the answer.

1989

As a member of the Learning Resources Development Group I attended a conference on *Microcomputers in Libraries* at the Library and Information Technology Centre, Polytechnic of Central London, in 1989. At the confer-

ence itself several systems were demonstrated with a certain amount of 'hands-on' experience. I took down details of various software companies and later arranged for literature to be sent to me (e.g. Library Pac, Pyramid Computers [CALM], Head Computers, Soutron, etc.). Although each company was very helpful, I felt that an independent opinion would be of great value and so I arranged to return to the LITC for a 2 hour individual demonstration (£25 per hour). Before the session I gave details of Spurgeon's proposed automation budget and the kind of system envisaged.

At the demonstration the package which impressed me most, bearing in mind the need for a 'do-it-yourself' system and maximum 'user-friendliness' was Bookshelf PC, marketed by Logical Choice based in Oxford. This had been set up as the result of a British Library research project and seemed to fit our requirements. In actual fact there are 2 versions of Bookshelf software on the market. The system being demonstrated was the single-user version which was relatively inexpensive. The more flexible (but much more expensive), networking version is marketed by a completely separate company, Specialist Computer Systems Ltd. based in Stoke-on-Trent. (SCSS)

After the session I arranged to visit University College, Oxford to see Bookshelf PC in a working situation and then went on to the Logical Choice offices for further discussion. Univ. is very similar to Spurgeon's in terms of library size and student numbers. Also a do-it-yourself issue system is in operation and the physical lay-out of the Library is much the same, with the Librarian's office being some distance from the main Library. I was most impressed by the whole set-up. The only problem seemed to be that the issues/returns programme at Univ. is not part of the original Bookshelf package as the single user system only allows issues and returns to be carried out from the main computer and not from a remote terminal. As Univ.'s main computer is in the Librarian's office (down a flight of stairs from the Main Library) a member of the College staff had overcome the problem by writing an 'in-house' programme to allow circulation routines to operate from what should be an enquiry-only terminal.

Further discussions with Logical Choice however reassured me that the problem of operating circulation from a terminal other than the main computer could be overcome by purchasing 2 sets of software and operating a sort of 'merge' process between 2 computers (both of which would be considered 'main' machines - 1 in the Library and 1 in the Office). A demonstration visit was arranged at Spurgeon's and the Learning Resources Committee were then able to recommend to the Academic Board in December 1989 that the College should purchase Bookshelf PC software for the Library. Logical Choice also recommended suitable hardware and I began making enquiries about this.

1990

However I was still a little concerned about the problem of issuing and returning books and about what might be a lack of flexibility in the future. With this in mind I decided to visit the *Computers in Libraries* exhibition held in London in February 1990, taking with me one of the more knowledgeable students. We saw several relatively inexpensive systems, (as well as many more extremely expensive ones) but the exercise only confirmed my previous decision that Bookshelf was the most suitable package for Spurgeon's requirements. Also many of the products on offer were still relatively new and I felt that they were still in the early stages of development. I was not prepared to be a guinea-pig.

It was at this stage in March 1990 that I was given a deadline for introducing an automated system into the Library. The College Principal informed me that a voluntary full-time assistant was being sent by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for 12 months specifically to help to computerize the Library. He would be arriving in September and the computer had to be in place by then. The news of 'free' manpower for 12 months was a very big factor in convincing the College Treasurer that the purchase of the computer system should go ahead.

Because of this deadline I knew that the final decision had to be made in the very near future. I contacted the College's independent computer adviser, who had been giving me general advice over the previous 2 years. It was just as well that I did, because he had a series of discussions with Logical Choice over the telephone asking searching technical questions. He discovered at the last moment that it was in fact impossible with the PC version of Bookshelf to operate the kind of merge process which would be required to update the files both on the Library and on the Office computer. Issues/returns and orders, etc. all had to be done from one computer, which would therefore have had to be sited in the Main Library, not in the Library office. In other words I would have to operate a 'time-table' system, with the computer being dedicated to Librarian's use for part of the day (i.e. for ordering books, accessioning them, etc.) and then being given to Library users for the rest of the time for borrowing and returning books. Although extra terminals could be added for enquiry purposes only, I felt that the whole situation would be most unsatisfactory for all concerned. As my hours at the College were so limited each day, I felt that it would have been very frustrating to have to work to a strict timetable.

This was a disaster from my point of view as time was running out. I had been made aware of the full networking version of Bookshelf at the Library and Information Technology Centre but had discounted it because of the expense. However I decided to contact SCSS Ltd and they immediately arranged for a sales rep. to visit the College. The ensuing discussions were

most helpful and although the cost was double our original budget the Learning Resources Committee felt that the product was the most suitable for the College in terms of its greater flexibility. The system could cope with any number of terminals, each being able to carry out any of the library routines at the same time as the others. This version of Bookshelf is in operation in a large number of libraries, including some smaller special libraries and has an active user-group. Using this software the main computer could be sited in the Library office, as originally envisaged, with enquiry and circulation terminals in the Main Library.

In order to spread the cost we decided to purchase only the Catalogue and Acquisitions modules initially. (Unlike Bookshelf PC which is a complete package, Bookshelf from SCSS has to be purchased in individual 'modules'). It seemed pointless purchasing the circulation system and paying maintenance on it until a large part of the Library's stock was on the database. Because the original allocation for automation had been set in the 1989/90 budget, the Treasurer agreed to the same amount being allocated in the 1990/91 budget and this covered the extra costs incurred.

Unlike Logical Choice, SCSS supply all the necessary hardware as well as the software as part of the package. (There are clearly advantages and disadvantages to this arrangement. One major advantage is that if any problems arise there is never any argument over whether the hardware or software is at fault and it is only necessary to telephone one company for help. A disadvantage could be that one is unable to 'shop around' for the cheapest hardware. However my time is so limited that in a way it was a relief not to have to worry over this side of things.)

In June 1990, therefore, the order was placed for Bookshelf software to be installed into Spurgeon's College Library at the beginning of September 1990. At the same time I placed an order for 30,000 bar code labels and arranged for British Telecom to install an independent telephone line ready for the Modem to be connected in September.

3) IMPLEMENTATION

At the beginning of September 1990 the various pieces of equipment were delivered and installed. We were then ready for the 2 days training. As it happened, because of SCSS holiday commitments, there was a 2 week gap between the 2 training days but, in fact, this worked to our advantage because it gave us chance to try the system out at leisure. By the time of the 2nd session we had amassed a long list of questions. All these were dealt with very quickly and by the end of the 2nd day we felt much more confident.

Practical details

When I began planning for automation I decided that, whatever the

chosen system, I should have to operate from a 'cut-off' date, as I had no desire to continue filing cards. Therefore I decided that all new books added to stock or ordered since September 1990 would only be on the computer system; the card catalogue would effectively be closed.

For the first month, while we became accustomed to the system, the Main Library terminal was not switched on. There was no point in organising training sessions for staff and students until 1) we were sufficiently familiar with the workings of the system, and 2) there were enough records on the database to make searches worthwhile. After a month I prepared an information sheet and began organising sessions for individual groups of Library users. From then on the Main Library terminal was made available for general use.

Retrospective conversion

At the beginning I had no idea of the best way to organise this. Librarians from other institutions all seemed to have set about the task in different ways. Some libraries had been able to make use of purchased conversion packages, such as Whitaker's Book Bank. However as a very large proportion of our stock was unlikely to be contained on a database of this kind, this was not a feasible solution. In the end we decided to input the most heavily used sections of the Library first, leaving out the less well used sections until later.

After a very short time we found that inputting data from cards was much easier to manage than direct from the books themselves, particularly as this meant that we could involve more volunteers in the data preparation stage. For every book in the Library, a stock card already existed (in shelf order) containing some or all of the required bibliographic information. Each book in the 'chosen' section was removed from the shelf to a desk nearby and any 'missing' information was added to the stock card (e.g. ISBN, subtitle, pagination, series, etc.). I prepared a check-list for our volunteers who very quickly became expert in seeing what was required. At the same time a bar code label was stuck in each book and the bar-code number added to the stock card. Cards for any books not on the shelves were checked against the loans records and the loan card was stamped "Return to Librarian" so that on return the details could be added to the database. Cards for books not on loan were placed in a 'missing' file.

Other librarians might feel that it is much better to input direct from the books themselves. However we tried this at first and found it very time-consuming and cumbersome carrying armloads of books to the 2 terminals used for inputting, one of which is down a flight of stairs and through the Reference Library. Also we would have been forced to do most of the bar-coding and inputting ourselves, as many of our volunteers could only give

half an hour here and there and it would have been impossible to train 'casual' volunteers into the intricacies of the computer system. As it was, as a result of an appeal for volunteers, some of the students gave up their time and a morning was set aside in the Spring Term time table for data preparation. This one morning resulted in 1000 cards being prepared. Reception desk staff were also involved in data preparation. This meant that we (i.e. myself and my American assistant) could then concentrate on keying in all the information contained on the prepared cards.

As a result of all this help in preparing cards we, with 1 extra helper working full-time during November, have managed in 9 months to input book information for 22,000 volumes (all the Main Library stock). Currently we are working on the stock of the Reference Library. Books in the Reserve Stock will be left until last.

4) FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

At the time of writing I am hoping to place an order for the Circulation software and 2 extra terminals with a view to installation in the Autumn (a new financial year).

CONCLUSION

I would not like to pretend that everything has been perfect since September 1990. Initially we had problems over the installation of the equipment, made worse because of communication problems between SCSS and their engineering section. However, these problems were resolved fairly quickly after complaints from us, and we have been assured that communication has been much improved. Since these initial teething difficulties, there have been very few problems and the computer has certainly made a vast difference to library routines. The reaction from library users has been very positive so far and I personally am extremely pleased with the system.

I hope that the above has given some idea of the very lengthy process involved in automating a library. If it helps anyone to spend less time in their search for a suitable system for their library, then it will have been a worthwhile exercise.

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July 1991

ADDRESSES

For demonstrations:-

Library and Information Technology Centre,
Polytechnic of Central London,
235, High Holborn,
London WC1V 7DN. Tel.071-430-1561.

For information about Bookshelf PC (i.e. Single-User version):-

Logical Choice,
3 Newtec Place,
66-72 Magdalen Road,
Oxford OX4 1RE. Tel.0865-727946.

For information about Bookshelf (Networking version):-

Specialist Computer Systems & Software Ltd,
Goodson Building,
Goodson Street,
Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffs, ST1 2AT. Tel.0782-279110.

FORGET ABOUT BEING NICE by Meline Nielsen

Over recent years our professional literature seems to be full of the concept of 'Management of Change' with ourselves as the managers of this change. Library automation is usually one of the changes considered. As librarians, some or all of us have investigated the possibilities of automating our library operations, and recoiled at the financial implications of pursuing such a goal, knowing how vulnerable the bottom line of our budgets is, or how slim the possibility of obtaining the resources for bringing about this change. We may encounter the attitude that library automation is a luxury and a gimmick. We know how computers have permeated almost all aspects of people's daily lives. However good our card catalogues, information retrieval using our manual systems does not provide the level of access to our resources that our users have come to expect. Library automation is not a luxury any longer. However neither is it an end in itself but an excellent tool and an opportunity to deliver improved services through maximising the vast resources found on our shelves, and liberating us from the daily grind of producing catalogue cards to more satisfying tasks of offering value-free services promoting our operations.

Obtaining a fair share of organizational resources is not a pipe dream so long as we no longer passively accept the insignificant resources we are offered. This is of course after the more generous sharing of resources to the other more visible parts of our organizations, such as teaching departments,

has taken place. Even our administration and finance departments have probably long ago acquired computerised systems, while we still operate with the manual typewriter. Are they more important than us? How long should we apologize to our readers about the inferior level of services we know we are offering them? Should we accept being considered a support service with all that that implies? How long could teaching continue to take place if the library, like the swimming pool, were to develop a leak and disappear? Who is to raise this awareness of the importance of libraries and the necessity of adequate funding to develop appropriate services? Besides being wizards trying '...to expend a dollar when we only have a dime...' (Sam Walter Foss, a librarian early this century, in *The Song of the Library*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1906), we now also have to be politicians. Derek Law quotes a Somerset Maugham character describing a politician as someone with 'Push, shove and a gift of the gab' (Derek Law in *Push, shove and the gift of the gab*. London: CLSI, 1989). Apparently this is how many a university automated system came about. It could work in colleges as well, even theological ones. We do not all have all three of these attributes, but one or two of them can work well too. Forget about being nice though, and prepare to be bruised. It is time to stand up for the services our users deserve to get, and of which we can be proud. We are all aware of the teaching role we play. One vital role we must not overlook is to question the assumption of our managers and teaching staff of our organisations that we do not generate income. Of course we do. We may not actively do so, but we contribute significantly to their income-generating activities. Using our resources, teaching staff write their books and articles, deliver their conference papers, stand in front of a class lecturing to students who have paid a fee for such services. We also contribute to the mission of the Church, as many clergy, using our resources, deliver their sermons every Sunday, providing the necessary spiritual nourishment to their congregations.

It is time to 'fight' for our corner, for our users, and for our professional integrity which demands the delivery of the best possible service tailored to the needs of our users. We may not all be dissatisfied with our present services, but if we are, and we cannot deliver acceptable levels of service in our existing libraries, we have to ask ourselves some very serious questions about our professional goals, and the use we are making of our particular skills.

*Meline Nielsen,
Librarian, Central Library
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Birmingham*

RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES CONFERENCE 1991

by Rosemary Seton

The 1991 conference of the Religious Archives Group opened with a lucid and engrossing account of the development of Muslim organisations in Britain. The Conference met this year at Central House, Selly Oak Colleges on Monday, 16th September, 1991, and it was appropriate that the opening talk was given by Dr. Jorgen Nielsen, Director of the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at Selly Oak. Dr. Nielsen explained that the first Muslim emigrants in this country had come from the Yemen during the 1870s and 1880s but that the greatest numbers came in the 1950s and 1960s, either from the Indian sub-continent directly, or from Indian communities in East Africa. For this reason, the inheritance of the organisation from the Indian sub-continent predominated in Britain today, though there were significant signs of change. The movements which still dominate arose out of the situation after the Indian uprising of 1857-58 and the fall of the last Mughal emperor, when the Indian Muslims faced the imposition of a non-Muslim government. Three particular trends from this period can be discerned: Deobandi, Ahl-i-Hadis and Barelwi. A later movement was the Jama 'at-Islami, founded in 1941. The Deobandi network was centred in Dewsbury, with a major centre in the Saddam Hussein Mosque in Birmingham. There were several networks of Barelwis, including strong centres in Bradford, London and Manchester. The Ahl-i-Hadith had a smaller number of mosques but were tightly organised, with the main national direction coming from the mosque in Green Lane in Birmingham. There were many Sufi groups but they were difficult to identify because of their informal structure. Recent developments had included the appearance of single-issue groups. At least two groups had come into existence as a result of the Salman Rushdie affair: the Islamic Defence Council and the Islamic Action Committee. Dr. Nielsen described most Muslim movements as very private organisations, mainly decentralised and with little awareness of the importance of written records.

Our next speaker, the Revd Penelope Rundle of the Wiltshire Record Office, spoke with an infectious enthusiasm of the use of religious archives in a county record office. Wiltshire Record Office, she thought, was very typical in that it held records for places far beyond its county boundaries. 'For the Church of England, we are the Salisbury Diocesan Record Office, ... Until the Reformation the diocese covered Wiltshire, Berkshire and Dorset. Then in 1542, Dorset was transferred to the newly formed Diocese of Bristol (except for the parishes which were Salisbury peculiars...). That lasted until 1836. Then Dorset was transferred back to Salisbury, and Berkshire went to the Diocese of Oxford; and a year later, in 1837, the North Wiltshire deaneries of Cricklade and Malmesbury were transferred to the Diocese of Bristol, except

for a few parishes which went to Gloucester. In practice, this means that most diocesan records most of the time cover Wiltshire and Berkshire; from the 19th century on it is Dorset instead of Berkshire; and in some respects we are the *Bristol Diocesan Record Office* for North Wiltshire. Many people find this confusing!' The Wiltshire Record Office also held materials relating to Roman Catholics and to Nonconformists. References to Roman Catholics before the 19th century were mainly indirect as, for instance, lists of papists, e.g. 'the returns of papists in 1706 (D1/9/1/2) which lists between one and four individuals in each of seven villages and then 24 people in Donhead near Wardour Castle, including nine servants of Lord Arundell, head of the noted Catholic family.' The survival of Nonconformist records varied from denomination to denomination. "ome, such as the Quakers and the Methodists, have consistently created and safeguarded very detailed records and now have an official policy of deposit in their local record office. ... Other denominations, such as the Baptists, tend to have individual styles which reflect the relative autonomy of their meetings or congregations; and the question of deposit is a matter for the decision of each chapel or church.' Religious archives in Wiltshire Record Office, Miss Rundle concluded, had an 'enormous richness and variety'. They deserved 'to be better used and better known.'

The afternoon session of the conference saw participants busily engaged in attending a choice of workshops. Three topics were offered: 'polemical archives', 'computer applications', and the 'administration and conservation of artefacts and other non-manuscript materials.' There was a hasty tea break before the last session of the day, a discussion on confidentiality, a subject of perennial concern and interest. The subject was introduced by three panellists; Rosemary Keen, Church Missionary Society, Father David Lannon, Salford Diocesan Archives, and Gareth Lloyd, Methodist Archives, John Rylands University Library Manchester. Anna Hardman, Lancashire Record Office, led the subsequent discussion. Reports of this discussion, the workshops and the papers given by speakers will appear in the *Conference Proceedings* which should be available in the course of the next few months. Copies will be sent to participants and to those who send me an A4 sized stamped addressed envelope.

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RECORD ATTENDANCE AT ANZTLA 1991 CONFERENCE

by Trevor Zweck

The 1991 conference of the Australia and New Zealand Theological Library Association, held at Morling College, Eastwood, NSW, from 5th-8th July, attracted a record attendance of 51 participants, with strong contingents from New Zealand (seven) and Western Australia (four), and one each from Papua New Guinea and Fiji. The conference followed the very successful weekend format (Friday to Monday) of the previous year.

The main emphasis of professional development activities was on reader education. Joyce Kirk (School of Information Studies, University of Technology - Kuring-gai) led the way with her paper, *Information literacy: what does it mean for reader education programs?*, explaining the concept of information literacy and stressing the need to develop information skills for self-directed learning. Robin Walsh (Reader Services Librarian, Macquarie University) followed up with *The changing face of reader education*, emphasising the change taking place from large group instruction to small groups and individual instruction, illustrating his talk with user-friendly examples of programs and materials developed at Maquarie University.

The conference also featured two joint sessions with the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools. The first focussed on automation, with input provided by Hans Arns (Catholic Institute of Sydney, Manly, NSW) on *Automated subject retrieval in theological libraries* and Trevor Zweck (Luther Campus, North Adelaide, SA) on *Some transpacific observations of automation in theological libraries*. Both pressed the need for co-operation in collection development planning, promoting the concepts of conspectus and the distributed national collection. The second joint session, led by Lawrence McIntosh (Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic.), involved a discussion of the faculty-librarian partnership, exploring such topics as the role of the library committee, roles of librarians and lecturers in book selection, and qualifications of librarians.

Concurrent workshops were also held on the Dewey Decimal Classification (with Kim Robinson, Moore Theological College, Newtown, NSW as convenor) and the Pettee Classification (with Philip Harvey, Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic. as convenor). Other sessions included a report by Trevor Zweck on his job exchange with Dick Mintel of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio in 1990, and some assistance to voluntary indexers for the *Australian Religion Index*.

Participants were given a choice of visits to various Sydney libraries: the new Centre for Ministry Library, North Parramatta (with its newly-installed SEA-Urica automated system); the great Moore Theological College Library, Newtown (with its newly-installed Dynix automated system); and

Macquarie University Library, North Ryde (featuring CD-ROM technology, reader services and the online catalogue). In a more relaxed vein, the librarians enjoyed a bus trip, via Kuring-gai Wildflower Gardens, to the northern beaches, taking in a visit to historic St. Patrick's College, Manly on the return trip. At the traditional conference dinner, the Reverend David Brown contributed food for thought in an entertaining address.

The main initiative coming from the General Meeting is a project to produce a style manual for writers of term papers, theses, *etc*, with primary input coming from Lawrence McIntosh. In business carried forward from the previous meeting, the constitution was altered to permit a second person to be included in institutional membership on the payment of an additional fee (currently \$5). In other decisions the meeting resolved: to press the New Zealand Library Association for endorsement of the *ANZTLA Standards*; to establish a committee to look into all matters relating to future updating of *AULOTS*; to give financial support to two missionary librarians in attendance at the conference; to retain membership fees at \$20 and newsletter subscriptions at \$15; and to hold the next conference in Adelaide, 26th - 29th June, 1992. Wendy Davis (St. Barnabas College, Belair, SA) was elected as an extra member of the Executive (making it an all-South Australia committee for the next year) and Helen Greenwood (St. John's/Trinity, Auckland, New Zealand) was elected Statistician; all other office-bearers being re-elected.

*The Revd Trevor Zweck,
Luther Campus,
North Adelaide,
South Australia.*

ABTAPL UNION CATALOGUE OF PERIODICALS by Robin Noad

Thank you to the 25 or so members who responded positively to my letter inserted in the last *ABTAPL Bulletin* regarding a union list of periodicals.

As I'm sure many of you will have seen, Bible Society has had sadly to make 15% of its staff redundant, including one from my own department. In spite of this, however, I am still hoping to produce a union list of periodicals and circulate it at little or no cost to member libraries. I'm sure you will understand if the time-scale is rather longer than I had originally hoped but please bear with me. This enforced delay does, however, allow any other libraries who would like/are able to participate to do so. If you are in this category,

please send your list of periodicals, giving title, holdings, change of title, and notes in hard copy and, if possible, also on a 5¼" floppy disc (but hard copy will suffice) to me by 31st December, 1991.

Robin Noad
Information Unit
Bible Society
Stonehill Green
Westlea
Swindon
SN5 7DG

REVIEW by Peter Larkin

Philosophy Now

There is nothing quite like this new magazine, and that is the point. It represents a brave attempt to open up a new market, in the belief that a 'common philosophical reader', though painfully undernourished, still survives somewhere with a few shillings to spare. The editor, Richard Lewis, has hatched a reasonably professional-looking product from his desk-top equipment (with a slightly more up-market cover) and sees to all the marketing himself. He declares three aims: to provide some lighter reading for those already immersed in philosophy, to lighten the burden of those who would be introduced to it, and to raise the profile of the subject by aiming for the corner newsagent, not the academic stack.

Issue one of *Philosophy Now* seems to get more than halfway towards realising its aims. The articles are in the main clearly written and concise and non-technical in argument. The appeal is to the thoughtful individual who wishes to think things out step by step, a problem at a time, rather than offering any total immersion in collective *isms* and contemporary guru-speak. Its prevailing tone is liberal rather than radical (despite an enthusiastic review of Terry Eagleton's latest) and reflects a background in the analytical tradition's interest in discrete and perennial 'questions' of philosophy. We find articles, always very brief, on decision theory, free will, God, rationality, as well as treatments of aesthetics on the one hand and pre-Socratic philosophy on the other. Not surprisingly, clarity and directness score over originality: it is perhaps symptomatic that the most substantial and provocative essay in the issue, a treatment by Paul Davis of the legitimacy of soft porn, was not

originally written for the magazine. The editor's 'catch' was Anthony Flew, whose sinewy paper on agency and necessity represents quite a *coup* for a magazine like this; unfortunately I found one paragraph quite impenetrable and suspect that the desktop keyboard may have had a bad moment. Poor editing reveals itself in the essay on rationality by a Russian philosopher, Vladimir Shneider, where the thrust of argument is derailed by unidiomatic English.

In other ways *Philosophy Now* cocks a snook at its more respectable and scholarly stable mates: one of its cover-lines asking 'Was Sartre a Fascist?' simply leads to the answer 'No' on page 3. For those who want to mug up the Monty Python drinking song ('Immanuel Kant was a real pissant' *etc*) the authentic text is given in full, and there are metaphilosophy and linguistic philosophy spoofs. At times the jokiness sounds like a backstreet amateur poetry mag (as when subscribers are urged to take out an extra subscription for friends they don't like) but more productive are a news section and a projected round-up of what is being discussed in the 'legitimate' philosophy journals.

To decide whether or not this magazine succeeds would itself be academic. Learned societies are unlikely to go out of their way to stock it, but the small theological library may well find it useful as an adjunct. Neither market will settle the magazine's fate, which is likely to turn on the question of whether it finds a niche for itself alongside such popular worthies as *New Scientist* on the commercial bookstall. If it does, *Philosophy Now* will have accomplished what it set out to do. Given its ingenious scope and unpretentious vitality, one can only hope that it does.

Peter Larkin
The Library
University of Warwick
Coventry

Philosophy Now. Issue 1, 1991 -. (£1.90 per issue; £7.00 for 4 issues). Available from:-

Philosophy Now
226 Bramford Road,
Ipswich
IP1 4AS

NEWS AND NOTES

ABTAPL Spring Meeting, 1992

The 1992 Spring Residential Weekend Conference will be held at Salisbury and Wells Theological College from Saturday 22nd February to Monday 24th February 1992. This change of day is experimental and follows suggestions made at the last two Spring Weekends. It is hoped that moving to Saturday will enable more members - particularly those who do not receive financial support from their employer - to take advantage of weekend tickets. Following a look at the current religious publishing scene by an outside speaker, there will be a number of management seminars, some of which will pick up themes from last year's Weekend. If any members have a topic or topics they would like to be covered in the seminars, they should notify the Secretary as soon as possible. Full details will, as usual, be mailed out after Christmas.

Annual Reports

At the ABTAPL Spring Meeting, held in Durham, it was agreed that *Bulletin* readers might be interested in the contents of member institutions' annual reports. Judith Powles has agreed to receive annual reports from member libraries. She will go through them and make a note of major news and developments for publication in the *Bulletin*. Please send reports to:-
Judith Powles, Librarian,
Spurgeon's College,
189 South Norwood Hill,
London SE25 6DJ .

Christian Booksellers' Convention 1992

This will be held from Monday 2nd to Thursday 5th March 1992 at the Bournemouth International Centre.

Conseil International

The 20th meeting of the Conseil International des Associations de Bibliothèques de Théologie took place in Vienna from 30th September to 2nd October 1991. ABTAPL was represented by Alena Warburton.

Duplicate Periodical Volumes

The following volumes are available from Birmingham Central Library to anybody prepared to pay the cost of postage:-
Crockford's Clerical Directory 1967/68; 1971/72; 1977/79; 1980/82. *Church*

of England Yearbook 1970; 1973-1987. *Minutes and Yearbook of the Methodist Conference* 1969; 1976-78; 1980/81; 1983/86. *United Reformed Church Yearbook* 1976-89. *Baptist Union Directory* 1980-87. *Catholic Directory* 1975-87. *Annuario Pontificio* 1977; 1979; 1980. *Jewish Yearbook* 1976-82; 1984-86. *Index to Religious Periodical Literature/Religion Index One: Periodicals* 1971; 1972; 1974-81; 1983-84; 1986-89. (Incomplete-some years have only part one). *Religion Index Two: Multi-Author Works* 1976. *Christian Periodical Index* 1982; 1985. *Royal Institute of Philosophy Lectures Series*. Nos. 16, 18, 19.

For further information please contact Alan Smith (021-235 2751).

Guide to the Theological Libraries of Great Britain and Ireland.

Second edition.

Alan Jesson has begun work on a complete revision of the *Guide to the Theological Libraries of Great Britain and Ireland*. To that end he has recently sent out a questionnaire to relevant libraries. If anybody has not yet received a questionnaire please contact Alan on 0223 333000 (FAX 0223 333160) as soon as possible.

Librarians' Christian Fellowship

The 1992 Annual Conference of the L.C.F. is to be held on Saturday 4th April 1992 at the Christian International Peace Service, 31 Green Street, London, from 10.30 a.m. The meeting is to have an 'international' flavour and will consider libraries, publishing and communications in various parts of the world.

People

Margaret Ecclestone chairman of ABTAPL since 1988 has recently accepted a post at the South Bank Polytechnic as Administrator in the Modern Languages Department and has decided to resign as Chairman since, unlike her work at Partnership House Library, her new job does not involve any professional contact with the library world. In her three years as Chairman Margaret has become one of the pillars of the ABTAPL committee and a stalwart supporter of ABTAPL's interests as well as a good friend at AGMs and Spring Weekends. We all wish her well in her new appointment and thank her unreservedly for all her efforts on behalf of ABTAPL.

Barry Bloomfield retired last December as Director of Collection Development in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, British Library, a post which he held since 1985. Barry was throughout his career an eminent promoter and practitioner of Oriental bibliography, but will be especially

remembered by ABTAPL members as a committee member of ABTAPL from 1965 to 1971, and Deputy Chairman 1967 to 1971. Our very best wishes go out to him for a long and happy retirement.

Periodical articles

ALEMNA, A.A. 'Libraries in Seminaries and religious institutions: the case of Ghana' in *Christian Librarian* no. 15, 1991, pp. 53-59.

CORNFORTH, John 'Painterly logic revealed' in *Country Life* vol. 185, no. 19, May 9th 1991.
(Article on the Wren Library at Lincoln Cathedral)

HARVEY, Philip 'Procrustean problems' in *ANZTLA Newsletter* 13, May 1991
(Thinking aloud on Library of Congress Subject Headings).

GEUNS, A. 'The preservation of older documents in Europe's religious libraries' in *Debora-Doc. Informations* 1991/2, pp. 1-4

HIGGINS, John 'The St. Nicholas' Library and Heritage Project' in *Church of Ireland Gazette*, July 26th 1991.
(Describes the conservation of an important collection of books from the Henry Collection, originally kept in St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam and then transferred to St. Nicholas' Collegiate College, Galway).

HOFFERT, Barbara 'Spiritual guidance' in *Library Journal*, 115(19), 1st November, 1990, pp. 56-63.
(Reviews current trends in religious book publishing in the U.S.A. and lists the major publishers together with their publishing programmes and specialities).

TRAUE, Jim 'Account of a convention of monastic librarians c. 1475' in *Australian Library Journal*, vol. 40, no. 1, February 1991.

WALKER, Malcolm 'Books in Bucharest' in *Librarians' Christian fellowship Newsletter* no. 48, Summer / Autumn 1991, p.29

WALLER, Richard M. 'Helping theological libraries in the Third World' in *Librarians' Christian Fellowship Newsletter* no.48, Summer/Autumn 1991, pp.5-6.

ZWECK, Trevor 'Some Transpacific perspectives on automation in theological studies' in *ANZTLA Newsletter* 14 August 1991, pp.20-25.
(Describes the implications of automation in theological libraries in the United States for those in Australia and New Zealand).

Publications to Note

Three important reference works on religion have been published in the last year. They are:-

Coptic Encyclopedia, edited by Aziz S. Atiya (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1990). 8 vols. \$900.

Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement, edited by Nicholas Lossky and others. (London: Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, 1991) £44.95.

Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium, edited by Alexander P. Kazhdan. (Oxford University Press, 1991). 3 vols. £200.

It is hoped to feature reviews of these works in later editions of the *Bulletin*.

Situation Wanted

ABTAPL has recently received a letter from a newly qualified librarian in Scotland, Scott Main. Scott is very keen to work in religious and philosophical librarianship, (subjects in which he has taken first degrees) but so far has been unable to find any vacancies. As well as subject knowledge Scott has a good grounding in information technology and is also prepared to work anywhere in the UK. If anybody can help with job offers, advice or guidance he may be contacted at :-

25 Kettlehills Crescent,
Aberdeen

AB2 5TA Tel. 0224 685313

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