

St Marks National Theological Centre
Library Consultative Committee
Library Report
13th September 2016

The Library committee has not met since March. As can be seen from the following report, it has been a most busy few months, dominated by the ANZTLA 2016 conference 'Illuminate & Enlighten'.

CSU Learning Commons Provisions to St Mark's Library

The CSU Learning Commons agreement with St Mark's has been revisited by Emma Street, St Mark's new Business Manager. Emma has reached agreement with Karen Johnson and it is hoped this will be finalised soon. CSU Learning Commons has paid for most School of Theology electronic databases this year. The Learning Commons has also purchased Ebooks this year to the current amount of \$17,638.

Conferences, Displays, Exhibitions

The ANZTLA conference 'Illuminate & Enlighten' 2016 was convened in Canberra from 29th June to 2nd July 2016. Susan, together with Francesca Higgins and Kate Bunker spent 18 months planning the event. It was 4 day live in conference based at the Sundown Motel Resort in Symonston. A total of 25 speakers made the conference a rich and informative experience. A trip to the AIATSIS library was most successful as this is a 'closed' library. The National Library Australia, thanks to Aileen Weir, hosted a morning's events that included comprehensive tours of the basement, the manuscripts room, and the conservation lab. The conference was given generous sponsorship by ACU Canberra and St Mark's, as well as 8 Library vendors who came and gave short presentations on their products.

Highlights were a talk given by Dr Fiona Ffennigworth on her Master's Thesis : an Illuminated Gospel of John. Reverend Doctor John Harris spoke movingly on translation of the bible into indigenous languages. He displayed the first translation of the New Testament into an American Indian Cree language. This was a joyous moment for American ATLA representative Maria Stanton who attended the conference. John followed this by displaying the first translation into Maori, and Vanuatu scriptures to delegates which gave equal joy to the New Zealand and Vanuatu delegates.

The first Keynote speech was given by Dr Michael Gladwin, speaking on 'A different spirit of ANZAC' : illuminating religion and war in Australian Archives.

The conference final Keynote speech was given by Robyn Cadwalladar, author of 'The anchoress'. Robyn spoke of the role that a 'Book of Hours' had in medieval times, their design and ultimate purpose to display the wealth and power of the family or woman who owned one. In addition to these 'highlights', there were many informative talks on library practise and staff management.

Sylvia Young and Thyme Hansson were able to attend the entire conference as St Mark's employed a volunteer to work in the library. Susan would like to acknowledge the many people who offered assistance both before and during the event : Aileen Weir, Annette McGuinness, Sylvia and Thyme, Alan Horner, Miriam Bruning, Jane Craig, Jeanette Mathews, Jane Foulcher, Judy Harris and Ross Phillips, and a particular thankyou to Kate and Francesca who worked tirelessly over many months of preparation. There has been much positive feedback on the richness and content provided during the event. The next conference is in Perth. Susan is currently writing a critique to the ANZTLA board suggesting some changes to the format of the annual conference, including event booking online, holding the conference during the week, using motel online accommodation booking, reducing the length etc.

Staff Activities

Apart from the conference, the library has seen a strong increase in community membership as members of several churches have commenced using the library as prime source for resources within Canberra. As always St Mark's welcomes the Christian community as a means of making more people aware of St Mark's and what it offers. The library always has people present, as many prefer to come for the day.

Residential Schools continue to provide an opportunity for library staff to meet distance students and conduct training. The June and August Schools were well attended and the library became a focal point for many of these students.

Sylvia attended a UNILINC training on Analytics using ALMA.

Thyme attended an Accordance Bible Software Training afternoon.

Susan attended several St Mark's public Seminars and book launches.

Sylvia and Thyme completed a massive reshuffle of the compactus to utilise spare shelving at the end of the stacks.

Susan and John Canning, (volunteer) completed relabelling and checking the entire 'main' collection for miss-shelved items. This task took approximately 18 months, many items that were missed during the move to compactus were identified and moved. Susan and John are currently working through the Reference collection, they will then commence a check of the compactus.

Susan continues to invigilate exams, some Charles Sturt University students, others are from the wider academic community.

Sylvia and Thyme are to be congratulated on completing their studies for Graduate Diploma of Information Studies, CSU. St Mark's library now employs three graduate librarians.

Volunteers, Special Collections

Volunteers have played a vital role in the library this year. The conference imposed an impossible workload on Susan, and she relied on Alison Sloper, volunteer cataloguer to classify most of the new acquisitions. John Canning as always has been a great back up in

the library. The other volunteers continued to work on weeding, processing and shelving the Bible Society collection. Considerable progress has been made in shelving the thousands of volumes that came to St Mark's last year. Many bible duplicates have been sent to the Bible Museum in Melbourne or to Indigenous Bible Colleges.

A new volunteer has offered to work on the Elizabeth Wood Ellem collection. Toni Ralli is a retired librarian. He is currently shelving the Wood Ellem book collection. His aim is to apply for a grant so the collection needs an initial assessment.

Donations

The library received three large donations recently. Neil Edwards bequeathed his theological library. Dave MacDonald, a local Pastor donated 9 large boxes of recent works, and in the last week, Dr Bruce Kaye donated his New Testament collection to the library.

In addition the library received some extraordinary gifts all in the space of a couple of weeks:

- John Nurser, former librarian at St Mark's 1968+, donated 'Erasmus : Annotations on the New Testament' 1549, an exquisite miniature volume in Latin, that was presented to John on his marriage. John sent this from England.
- The Bible Society Collection has been given a Bishop's Bible 1572. This rare bible is extraordinary in that it contains an almost complete family history of the current owners. It has travelled to Australia twice, and sojourned in South Africa in its 500 year span. A Bible Society representative travelled to London to pick up this large bible and bring it to Canberra.
- And also for the Bible Society Collection : A bound copy of the first proceedings of the Auxiliary Biblical Society of NSW 1817 – 1830. The list of attendees at this inaugural meeting is a lesson in Australian history. Governor Macquarie chaired the meeting attended by Rev. Marsden, W. Hassall, John Oxley, William Wentworth, Reverend Robert Cartwright (later to move to Queanbeyan, Gunning area, W Redfern, T Moore, and many other historic names. This copy was owned by Reverend William Cowper, secretary of the Society and Priest at St Phillips Church Sydney in its first 10 years. It was discovered behind some old shelving at the original Bible Society headquarters in Macquarie Place.
- Richard Refshauge donated 'Reformatio legume ecclesiasticarum ex autoritate primum Regis Henrici 8. Inchoate : dinde per Regem Edovardu. Commissioners on the revision of the Ecclesiastical laws of England 1550-1552. A code of ecclesiastical law, intended for use in the Church of England, but never ratified by Parliament. Drawn up in 1552 by Commissioners headed by Thomas Cranmer. Edited, with the later additions and amendments of Matthew Parker, by John Fox, the martyrologist, 1571.

St Mark's library staff were thrilled to receive these extraordinary bibles. The code of law is very rare, the revised 1640 is held by several Australian libraries, but the 1571 copy is unique. This little volume represents the beginnings of the Church of England written as the church was coming into being. And the proceedings of the very first society in Australia, the Biblical Society of NSW are a wonderful historical item to hold in our collection. There are

very few Bishop's bibles in existence. It never gained popularity due to its errors. St Mark's now holds two of these bibles.

Building Issues

The doors to the library from the foyer are still not secured. Issues continue between the insurance requirement to lock, and the fire regulations needing them to be opened in emergency.

These doors currently compromise the security of the library and need to have a new locking mechanism installed. Andrew and Emma are currently investigating the costs of replacing the doors. The foyer to St Mark's continues to cause confusion and is a continuing security risk.

Library Statistics

Library Statistics to August 2016			
	2016	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>
All Loans	7,564	<i>10,194</i>	<i>9,359</i>
Community Borrower	537	<i>929</i>	<i>882</i>
Inter Library Loans	30	<i>64</i>	<i>81</i>
Scan / Copy	365	<i>400</i>	<i>561</i>
Distance loans	5249	<i>5353</i>	<i>5,249</i>
Total Circulation	22,906	<i>29,769</i>	<i>28,390</i>
Postage	\$10,236	<i>\$13,765.60</i>	<i>\$16,664</i>
Acquisitions	\$26,043	<i>\$39,292</i>	<i>\$38,000</i>
Items purchased	523	<i>725</i>	<i>783</i>
All Items added	1248	<i>1,603</i>	<i>1,621</i>
Donations	727	<i>828</i>	<i>854</i>
E Book expenditure (CSU)	\$17,638	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>
Total Items main collection	68,008	<i>66,878</i>	<i>65,487</i>
CSU E-journals	13	<i>11</i>	<i>9</i>
Current Print Journals	90	<i>106</i>	<i>95</i>
Library Training	65	<i>107</i>	<i>unknown</i>