

## AULOTS 1990: a worthy addition to any theological library

Arns, Hans (Ed, with technical assistance by Michael Mason, CSsR) *Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections (AULOTS) 2nd edition*, published 1990 by Catholic Institute of Sydney in association with the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association (ANZTLA), 151 Darley Road, Manly, NSW 2095, cost \$A50 plus \$5 postage and handling.

Most specialist theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand are small, with limited resources both for collecting serials and for joining information networks such as ABN and NZBN. They hold only the basic serials for their disciplines, plus a few extra that are especially relevant to their denominational or theological leanings. For other materials in serial form, they must rely on the interlibrary loan schemes.

But how can they do so if the specialised holdings are mostly in small libraries not linked to an information network, and likewise not listed in SALSSAH or NUCOS?

It is for these reasons that the Union List was first produced in a different form in 1976, updated and reset as AULOTS in 1983, and completely reworked as a database for this new edition. It represents not only an enormous amount of work on the part of Hans Arns, Librarian of the Veech Library at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, but a serious commitment from the member libraries of ANZTLA to the sharing of scarce information in difficult economic times.

AULOTS 1990 contains 3340 serial titles from 85 libraries, identifying the libraries holding each title and the volumes held, and indicating how material may be obtained. It is not a complete directory, including only the libraries of theological colleges and religious institutions; but nearly all of these libraries are missing from the major general directories of serial holdings. AULOTS is therefore an essential supplement to those directories.

I questioned at first the need for a new edition. Some sample counts convinced me: serials under 'Anglican...' grew from 14 to 30, with much detail of holdings; similarly, entries beginning 'Austral...', a more conservative category, went from 84 to 104, and 'Religio...' from 22 to 29. Not that it is entirely a matter of quantity — this edition has picked up many of the more obscure serials that have been so hard to find, and of course many new publications.

There is better information than before about the libraries themselves, including fax numbers and payment methods; and of course the list of libraries has changed substantially since 1983. Presentation of the data and the binding of the volume are both improved.

I do not believe any theological library can do without AULOTS, and the same applies to university libraries and others whose users have interests in religion or theology. For my own research in the field of Judaism and the New Testament, I have already made substantial use of the new AULOTS and expect to go on doing so.

Peter M Mendham  
Library Manager & Academic Dean  
St Mark's National Theological Centre, Canberra ACT □



Eric Wainwright, Kerry Webb, Christine Fry and John Levett at the book launch.

## Book launch

The latest ALIA Press publication, *Microcomputers in Australian libraries* was launched during the Online-On Disc 91 conference at a happy hour sponsored by the National Libraries of Australia. The book (reviewed in *inCite* 1 1991) was launched by Eric Wainwright following a brief introduction to the role of ALIA Press from John Levett. Kerry Webb and Christine Fry's *Microcomputers in Australian libraries* is now available from ALIA National Office. □

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