Research Support in Theological Libraries (1)
by Pauline Allen

ANZTLA 2011
Research Support in Theological Libraries

Pauline Allen
Centre for Early Christian Studies
Australian Catholic University
Objectives of the Centre

- to foster and develop the systematic study of early Christian literature from the first to the eighth century, in the areas of history, philosophy, theology, ethics, politics and social issues
- to conduct and publish research of an international standard
- to provide leadership and advice to the University and other tertiary institutions, on matters pertaining to Early Christian Studies
- to liaise and co-operate with other Centres in relevant fields
- to seek and raise funds from appropriate sources for research and related activities

Funded Research

- Crisis management in late antiquity: the evidence of Episcopal letters.
  ARC Discovery Project 2010-2012 (Pauline Allen and Bronwen Neil) $262,000
- The Clash of Sacred and Secular Authority in the Letters of Innocent I.
  ARC Australian Research Fellowship 2007-2012 (Rev. Dr. Geoffrey D. Dunn) $334,000
- Poverty and Welfare in Late Antiquity.
  ARC Discovery Project: 2003-2007 (Pauline Allen) $320,000
  ARC Discovery Project: 2004-2006 (Mary Coloe) $102,500
- The development of the cult of Mary in North African Christianity (100 - 431 C.E.).
  ARC Discovery Project Grant: 2003-2005 (Pauline Allen, assisted by Geoffrey Dunn) $210,000
  ARC Postdoctoral Fellowship: 2001-2005 (Bronwen Neil) $210,000
- John Chrysostom: A Revisionist approach to a Prominent Figure in Late Antiquity.
  ARC Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship: 2001-2005 (Wendy Mayer) $370,943
- Completing the picture of a vital historical source: The Homilies of John Chrysostom.
  ARC Large Grant: 2001-2003 (Wendy Mayer, assisted by David O’Brien and Silke Trzcionka) $121,461
- The bishop as letter-writer: pastoral care and civic administration in Christian antiquity.
  ARC Large Grant: 2000-2002 (Pauline Allen, assisted by Geoffrey Dunn and Youhanna Nessim Youssef) $111,234
- Edition and translation of documents pertaining to the life of Maximus Confessor.
  ARC Large Grant: 1999-2001 (Pauline Allen, assisted by Bronwen Neil) $134,609
- The Homilies of John Chrysostom: Rehabilitating a vital late antique historical source.
  ARC Postdoctoral Fellowship: 1998-2000 (Wendy Mayer) $171,737
- John Chrysostom and Severus of Antioch as bishops, preachers and letter writers: Pastoral care and civic administration in Late Antique culture.
  ARC Large Grant: 1998-2000 (Pauline Allen, assisted by Kathleen Hay) $91,416
OBSERVATIONS

1. Nature of the research and its difficulties

i. secondary materials in foreign languages
ii. old and out-of-print books
   e.g. G. Przychocki, De Gregorii Nazianzeni epistulis quaediones selectae (Cracow 1912)
iii. limited access to ebooks
iv. unwilling libraries/suppliers
v. financial aspects

OBSERVATIONS

2. Strategies for research support

i. winning competitive research grants
ii. advocacy with senior library staff and DVC Research
iii. donations
OBSERVATIONS

3. Nexus between acquisition and inter-library loans

OBSERVATIONS

4. Manuscript acquisition

i. Greek Latin, Coptic, Arabic, mediaeval French

ii. microfilm/microfiche/photocopy

iii. unreliable catalogues/suppliers

iv. financial aspects