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From the President

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It was a privilege to read through Keith Clouten's draft of his article on ASDAL for the forthcoming *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*. What impressed me the most are the accomplishments of the association, from publishing the Seventh-day Adventist

Periodical Index for over 35 years, to participation in the Adventist Digital Library, launched last year. The work of ALICE (Adventist Libraries Information Cooperative) touches us all, enriching and expanding what we might offer beyond what we could manage working alone. These may be the more public accomplishments, but collaboration in a number of more focused behind the scenes areas have also been fruitful.

While these and other projects may have been initiated by creative and innovative leaders, it took broad collaboration for the products, services, and projects to achieve their current impact. Today, we find ourselves challenged to avoid taking these accomplishments for granted. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who have led or are leading out in these efforts.

The annual conference is a natural venue for our working teams to meet face to face and take care of business, engaging the synergy that flows from their collective wisdom. Thanks to advances in communication technology, most of the essential work can be handled through teleconferences, web services, or email. But the face to face experience adds a personal touch that also builds community.

One distinct advantage for ASDAL is that our collaboration extends beyond our North American

members. The first international conference of ASDAL was held at Newbold College in 1995, and since then conferences have been held in Mexico, Argentina, South Africa, the Philippines, and now we are returning to Newbold College. In addition, we have continuously had an excellent representation of international colleagues who attend and present at our conference.

Thus we as ASDAL are a vibrant and living example of the power of collaboration. All of us are fully engaged in our roles at our home institution, yet collectively we have found time and opportunity work together, on a global scale, for the mutual benefit of those we serve.

Terry Dwain Robertson
ASDAL President