



From the President
Reading into the New Year

A Happy New Year of 2013 to all! Over my holiday travels, I've been reading through Matthew Hedstrom's *The Rise of Liberal Religion: Book Culture and American Spirituality in the Twentieth*

Century. I was excited to see it published due to some of the work in tracing the history of a precursor to ATLA within the Religious Books Round Table of the American Library Association.

While Hedstrom's volume is much more about publishers, religious leaders, and readers than librarians, it was a fascinating look at arguments toward the religious and cultural benefits of reading.

He opens his chronology of "Religious Book Week" in the 1920s with a great quote from the Quaker mystic and philosopher, Rufus Jones, "No Christian man or woman can afford to miss the fresh and vivifying light which will come to religious faith from ...writers who unite great faith with exact and profound knowledge," (p. 12). And as Religious Book Week shifts purposes to support the war effort in the 1940s, senior chaplain John E. Johnson notes, "We take definite steps to prevent them from becoming intellectual morons. What steps are taken to prevent them from becoming moral and spiritual morons?" (p. 139).

This was especially timely as I've begun thinking about the library less as a collection of books and more as a community of readers. So the question becomes: how do we curate and cultivate communities of readers? Religious Book Week was one early attempt, largely driven by publishers but reinforced by librarians, to encourage people to read religious literature through promoting lists of accessible works.

We continue to do this today through promoting new books, notifying faculty about books in their areas, and creating research guides and search interfaces that allow our readers to discover new texts. The *ATLA Religion Database®* itself is a sort of reader's advisory within the journal and essay literature.

How do we continue to connect readers (distant or near) with books (digital or print)? How do we cultivate and embed ourselves into communities of researchers? How do we sustain scholarly communications and publishing? How do we encourage our curricula to include objectives around finding, managing, and using information? These and others will be important questions for our profession.

-- Andrew Keck

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Phoenix Seminary

Fourteen Participants Selected for 2013 Teaching and Learning Colloquy on The Role of Theological School Librarians

Fourteen individuals have been selected to participate in the 2013 Teaching and Learning Colloquy on The Role of Theological School Librarians, jointly sponsored by the Wabash Center and the American Theological Library Association.

Selected participants are:

- Lyle Buettner, Concordia Seminary
- Jaeyeon Lucy Chung, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- Matthew Collins, Candler School of Theology - Emory University
- James Marion Darlack, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- James Estes, Wesley Theological Seminary
- Christina Geuther, University of St. Mary of The Lake
- James Robert Humble, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- Jane Marie Pinzino, Earlham School of Religion
- Kelly Riddle, Boston University
- Sandy Shapoval, Phillips Theological Seminary
- Karl Stutzman, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
- Matthew Thiesen, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Matthew Walter Wasielewski, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Nicholas Weiss, Naropa University

The Leadership Team for the Colloquy includes Cait Kokolus, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Amy Limpitlaw, Boston University School of Theology, and Paul Myhre, Wabash Center.

Theological librarians in the twenty-first century play an essential role in theological education. Institutional standards developed by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) highlight the centrality of the library for theological scholarship and education. Librarians serve at a nexus of faculty, student, and institutional instructional needs. This colloquy will explore the vocation of theological librarianship and promote the development of strategies and skills for increasing the effectiveness of librarians in the teaching and learning process in their institutional and professional contexts.

For more information, please visit [the 2013 Teaching and Learning Colloquy on The Role of Theological School Librarians web page](#).

African American Historical Serials Collection Named an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Magazine



Great news to start 2013! *The African American Historical Serials Collection*, created in collaboration by EBSCO Publishing and ATLA, has been named an Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice Magazine*. A complete, centralized and accessible resource, this digital collection compiles formerly fragmentary, widely-dispersed and endangered material. Titles were collected from seventy-five institutions, including small institutions that had not previously participated in preservation projects. The resource documents the history of African American life and religious organizations from materials published between 1829 and 1922.

[Read the press release here.](#)

Publication Grants Deadline Approaching

The Publications Committee will award up to \$4,000 in grants to support the development of works with a bibliographic focus or scholarly works that advance some aspect of theological librarianship. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2013.

Visit <http://www.atla.com/Members/programs/awards/Pages/Publication-Grant.aspx> for more information. ATLA reserves the first right of refusal of publication for all projects receiving grants.

Theological Librarianship Now Available



The new issue of *Theological Librarianship* was published Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

TL, an online journal of ATLA, is an open access journal publishing essays, columns, critical reviews, bibliographic essays, and peer-reviewed articles on various aspects of theological librarianship and its contribution to theological education.

TL's Editorial Board includes: Managing Editor David R. Stewart, Peer-Reviewed Articles Editor Ronald W. Crown, Bibliographic Editor Daniel Kolb, Columns Editor Andrew J. Keck, and Critical Reviews Editor Melody Layton McMahon.

The articles are now available in both PDF and EPUB allowing for readers to view on their mobile devices.

The newest issue can be found [here](#).

***Theological Librarianship's* Editorial Board Presents at 2012 AAR-SBL Meeting**

Early in 2012, the Editorial Board for *Theological Librarianship* scheduled its planning meeting at Duke University (Durham, NC) instead of Chicago. They did this with the idea in mind of participating in a forum on Open Access journal publishing, convened at Duke on February 24.

From that successful contribution emerged the idea of presenting again within the larger forum of the 2012 AAR-SBL Annual Meeting. A proposal from the Board (Melody Layton McMahon, Ron Crown, Andy Keck, Dan Kolb, and David Stewart) was enthusiastically received, and approved as a "Special Topics Forum." The presentation, "Into the Open: Exploring the Open Access Alternative," took place in the late afternoon of Sunday, November 18.

Presenting at AAR-SBL was a simply outstanding opportunity for the Editorial Board. It provided the impetus to reflect on the growth and development of *TL* as an OA journal since its launch in 2008, it presented the challenge of outlining the major differences between OA and conventional publishing models, etc.

The presentation covered a range of pertinent topics: What makes OA publishing attractive? What are the primary challenges or sources of resistance to shifting to OA? What basic infrastructure is



***Theological Librarianship* at "Into the Open: Exploring the Open Access Alternative" at the 2012 AAR and SBL Annual Meetings.**

required, and what ongoing processes have to be set in motion, for an OA journal to thrive?

The caliber of questions and discussion at the end was an encouraging sign that Open Access is a model whose influence in scholarly publishing is destined to grow, and that ATLA has a valuable contribution to make to the discussion.

Call for Authors for ATLA Book Series

The ATLA Book Series seeks authors and editors interested in developing new reference books, professional development titles, or scholarly texts related to the study of religion and/or the profession of theological librarianship. The ATLA Book Series has long been a valuable resource for scholars and students in the field of religion and for the theological library community. ATLA remains committed to publishing manuscripts which will be of significant value to our member libraries and the

communities and institutions they serve.

Those interested in publishing with ATLA should visit the [Book Series web page](#) to view updated proposal guidelines or contact Book Series Editor Justin Travis at bookeditor@atla.com. Members may also share this information with any scholars at their institution whose projects might align with the mission of ATLA.

ATLA has recently ended its publishing relationship with The Scarecrow Press. As part of this change, The Scarecrow Press will no longer extend a 20% discount

on ATLA Series titles published by The Scarecrow Press. ATLA will work with future Book Series authors to identify the best means of publishing, promoting, and distributing titles.

If you have any questions regarding the ATLA Book Series, please contact Book Series Editor Justin Travis at bookeditor@atla.com.

"The ATLA Book Series has long been a valuable resource for scholars and students in the field of religion and for the theological library community."

Poster Session Proposal Deadline Extended

The deadline for submitting poster session proposals has been extended to Thursday, January 31, 2013. You can submit your proposal [here](#).

ATLA aims to offer many avenues for members to share interesting and creative projects. Therefore, ATLA is continuing to invite proposals for poster sessions at the 2013 Annual Conference, June 19-22, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Scheduled in a 60-minute time slot, poster sessions are informal. The presenter(s) develops a poster and handouts which deliver useful information to the theological library community. At the conference, ATLA will provide each poster presenter with a three-panel poster board, double-sided tape, push pins, and glue for their presentation.



Posters may address a potentially wide range of topics of interest to theological librarians, such as:

- Outreach initiatives
- Building digital collections
- Assessment
- Information literacy
- New library services
- Creative marketing
- New collaborative models
- Cooperative collection development
- Redesigned library space
- Professional development
- The library in society

This is an opportunity to try out new ideas and receive instant feedback from your ATLA colleagues. We sincerely hope you will consider [submitting](#) a poster proposal by Thursday, January 31, 2013.

ATLA Calendar

January

21 - ATLA office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

23-27 - Calvin Symposium on Worship, Grand Rapids, Margot Lyon attending

25-28 - American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending

30 - ATLA Diversity Committee Meeting, Chicago

31 - Poster Session Proposal Deadline

February

1 - International Collaboration Committee Meeting, Chicago

1 - [Publication Grant Submission](#) Deadline

4 - Planned Systems Downtime 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. (CST)

5-6 - Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) Conference, Washington, D.C., Margot Lyon and Veronica Simms attending

6 - ATLA Finance Committee Meeting, Chicago

7-9 - ATLA Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago

8 - *Digital Church: Theology and New Media* Conference, Union Theological Seminary, New York, Rick Rybak and Veronica Simms attending

24-26 - The National Federation of Advanced Information Services (NFAIS) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Lavonne Cohen, and Veronica Simms attending

Member News

ATLA Welcomes New Members

ATLA welcomes [National Bible College and Seminary](#) as a new Affiliate Member Library.

Member Retires

Jo Ann Rhodes, director of the [G. Allen Fleece Library at Columbia International University](#), has retired. Jo Ann served as library director since 2001. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, February 4, 2013. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE, listservs, the ATLA website and member community sections. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Job Openings

Are you in the market for a new position? Be sure to check the ATLA [web listings](#) to see who is hiring now.

Positions posted this month:

- Concordia University Library, Irvine, CA, is seeking a [Distance Education & Technology Librarian](#).
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, Illinois, is seeking an [Information Services Assistant, Part-Time](#).
- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA, is seeking a [Reference and Instruction Librarian](#).
- Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, is seeking a [Chief Librarian](#).

Staff News



ATLA Visits Academy of Preachers

From January 1-5, Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development, attended the Festival of Young Preachers in Atlanta, GA. This event was a gathering for young preachers ages fourteen to twenty-eight. Margot was there with Jenee Woodard, founder and editor of *The Text This Week*, exhibiting about ATLA's online resources (including ATLAS® for ALUM).

For more information on the Academy, a fresh initiative of the Lilly Endowment Inc., visit <http://www.academyofpreachers.net/young-preachers>.

ATLA Board of Directors Election Opens

The 2013 ATLA Board of Directors Election opens January 15. The election will be performed via electronic ballot by Survey & Ballot Systems.

Ballots and the candidates' biographical statements will be posted on a customized website hosted by Survey & Ballot Systems. Personalized access codes to the voting site will be sent via e-mail on Tuesday, January 15 to eligible voting members (Institutional Member representatives, Individual Members, and Lifetime Members) in good standing as of January 1, 2013. The e-mail will come from ATLA Election Coordinator and the displayed e-mail address will be noreply@directvote.net. You may wish to add this address to your address book or alert your IT staff to allow it through your institution's firewall. The election will close on Friday, March 1, 2013.

A reminder to Individual Members who also serve as an Institutional Member representative, you will receive two distinct ballots with different access codes in order to fulfill your voting opportunities as articulated in the ATLA Bylaws.

If you have questions about the election or are missing your ballot, please contact memberrep@atla.com.

ATLA Preservation Survey Update

ATLA is pleased to report a 34% response rate on the recent Preservation Survey issued to ATLA Institutional and Affiliate Members. Ninety-seven member institutions completed this important survey, providing valuable information on preservation and digitization activities, plans, and future needs. The survey closed on December 7, 2012. ATLA staff thanks all of those members who contributed to this survey. Your efforts will help inform the Association's future preservation activities.

Results of the survey are being tabulated by consultants from LYRISIS. Project consultants will prepare a preliminary report, with aggregate data, for review by the ATLA Board of Directors at their February 2013 Board Meeting. A final report for the membership will be issued prior to the ATLA 2013 Annual Conference.

From the Executive Director

Serving Changing Research Practices



In December 2012, ITHAKA S+R released a new study called *Supporting the Changing Research Practices of Historians*. Based on interviews conducted with historians, librarians, archivists, and other research support service providers during 2011-2012, this study reveals some interesting trends that are relevant to those who serve religion and theology researchers as well.

History is characterized as a discipline in transition, with many new resources available in electronic form, yet only a relatively small percentage of the overall primary sources needed have been digitized. As a result, researchers find themselves using not just electronic and paper books and journals, but also incorporating many non-text formats such as video, audio, websites, and video games.

The presence of online finding aids for materials in archives and special collections is especially valued since finding aids allow researchers to make the most cost effective use of travel time and dollars. They can identify the location of needed materials, prepare in advance, and travel only if absolutely necessary when materials are not available electronically.

Historians use whatever libraries and collections are useful and available, whether it be the library at their home institution, nearby public libraries,

independent organizations, or other higher education institutions. This is a reminder to us all that collaboration and partnerships with other libraries – including resource sharing – are key to serving researchers adequately.

When materials are not already available in digital form, the researchers use their own digital cameras to create images to take with them. In fact, many report that their visits to archives and other physical collections are used primarily to capture images; the intellectual work comes after they return to their own campus and have organized the images created while they were on site.

With one foot in the print world and one foot in the digital world, researchers often switch off between the two. Some use Google Books to search the full text of books they own in print, and use both simultaneously.

What are some of the recommendations to archivists and librarians that came out of the study that could pertain to those serving religion and theology scholars? Create online finding aids for our physical collections, make collections as accessible as possible through digitization, make archival aids cross-searchable across multiple collections, allow the use of digital cameras, and facilitate use of non-textual sources such as audio, video, oral histories, websites and video games, and take them into consideration as part of collection development.

In other words, those of us who serve researchers should also keep one foot in both the digital and the print worlds.

--**Brenda Bailey-Hainer**

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We welcome your submission of news, photos, and other items of interest for the *ATLA Newsletter*. All submissions are due on the first business day of the month preceding publication. Contact newsletter@atla.com with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

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ISSN 1946-1518