



Ceiling of the Riley Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth Texas.

Cartoon Contest: The Votes are In!

find it here



Thank you to all those who submitted captions, and to those who participated in voting. The winners are as follows:



Cartoon #1
Winning caption:
"Google me next!
Google me next!"

Submitted by
Duane Harbin



Cartoon #2
Winning caption: "And with the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church we'd like the Pinot Noir."
Submitted by
Jane Elder

Duane and Jane will each receive \$100 in honor of their creativity. Be sure to visit the TLM web pages (http://www.atla.com/tlm_home.html) to see photos and stories from participants in this year's celebrations.

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From the President



Getting the Word Out

In an epic instance of cluelessness I am still at a loss to explain, I have to admit that it had somehow never entered my mind to be a theological librarian when I began my MLIS program.

Why? My meager vocational experience was all in public libraries, so that had something to do with it. Yet my postgraduate study had been in theology: was I really assuming that becoming a librarian meant cutting loose from what I had already studied?

Part of my problem was that theological librarianship was not well known to me, and another part was that theological librarianship had not made itself well known.

Are we doing better now? If you knew of someone who had an interest in theological librarianship, to what resources would you direct them? I have met with several such "prospects" in the past few months, and it helps immensely to be able to offer them some recommendations:

- This newsletter (much more accessible online than before)
- ATLA's online journal Theological Librarianship
- An ATLA regional group (as available)
- A course in Theological Librarianship

What influence can you and I have in shaping the ATLA's future membership? More than it might appear.

Cheers,

David R. Stewart

From the Executive Director



I've only been the director of one library, and it wasn't theological; it was engineering. I was the Director of the Devereaux Library at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT) in Rapid City, South Dakota, from 1993 - 1995, the position I held just prior to coming to ATLA in February 1995.

It was a long time ago, and it was a very different kind of library, but, if I were the director of a theological library in these difficult economic times, I think I would do the same things we did in 1993 at the Devereaux Library - <http://library.sdsmt.edu/>.

My first day on the job, I went to meet the director of computer services at the library to see how we could work together. That was a very important contact, and it resulted in expansion of the computer lab in the library, and today, 14 years later, computer services now has an IT service desk in the library.

When we learned about a technology transfer center being proposed by the president, we met with the new director to see how the library could become involved in this new university initiative. This contact resulted in Devereaux becoming the first Patent and Trademark Depository Library in South Dakota.

When we learned that the Native American club was looking for a place to start a tutoring and study center for Native American students, we offered space on the fourth floor of the library.

When we realized we had very limited social sciences and humanities resources to offer engineering students, we negotiated with the student government for support, and they voted to charge themselves a \$1 fee per credit hour to support new electronic databases in the library.

When we realized that the library was little known off-campus, we formed the Friends of the Devereaux Library and sponsored a middle-of-the-winter film series in downtown Rapid City, a series that I was delighted to learn, is still going strong after 14 years: <http://friends.sdsmt.edu/>.

In short, we took advantage of every opportunity to make connections, to reach out and get connected with every possible segment of the campus and community. If I were the director of a theological library today, I would do the same thing. I would go from door to door all over campus seeking ways that the library could collaborate, participate, support, and be involved in as many aspects of campus and academic life as possible.

-Dennis A. Norlin

To register to receive regular Friday updates of my blog, go to http://edblog.atla.com/?page_id=62.

New Member Loyalty Program

DEADLINE EXTENDED THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2010!!

Sixty-three ATLA member Institutions have already registered for this new benefit - has yours?

The American Theological Library Association is proud to introduce a Member Loyalty Program. We developed this program to thank our current Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate members for your involvement in ATLA and to welcome our new members.

During these challenging economic times, we hope this program will allow you to become an Individual member again if you haven't been for three or more years, register a new person on your staff who hasn't been an Individual member before, or attend the upcoming 2010 Annual Conference if cost has been holding you back.

Loyalty benefits are based on your library's ATLA product subscription level and include:

- Individual membership
- Conference registration
- Gifts to the Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund.

We encourage you to register for the Member Loyalty Program by January 31 -- all you need to do is complete the form available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P7FSGWS>. Your registration will be confirmed and you will be invited at that time to redeem the loyalty benefit of your choice.

As always, we appreciate your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Barbara Kemmis at 888/665-2852 or bkemmis@atla.com. Thank you for your dedication to ATLA as a member and as a subscriber. We are pleased to be able to provide you with a range of products and services.

2009 Library Tour

For the third year in a row, Kelly Campbell from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and ATLA Director of Member Services Barbara Kemmis spent three days before the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Meeting visiting ATLA member libraries and librarians.



Above: The stacks in Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, LA.

This year, two member and two customer libraries welcomed the travelers:

- Bonnie Bess Wood, St. Joseph College Seminary
- George Dansker, Notre Dame Seminary
- Liz Cashman, Loyola University, New Orleans
- Jeff Griffin, Eric Benoy and Ky St. Amant, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



Above: A moment of rest and laughter with the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary staff. Left to right--Jeff Griffin, Rose Guy-Sibley, Kelly Campbell, Kyara St. Amant, and Eric Benoy.

The weather was mild in New Orleans and perfect for driving to the different locations. They drove to lovely St. Joseph College Seminary north of Lake Pontchartrain to learn of their exemplary information literacy efforts and lovely campus. Notre Dame Seminary showed off their newly renovated space and comfortable spaces for study and collaboration. Loyola University boasted the newest space with a lovely ten year old library integrating media services, collaborative work space and quiet study seamlessly. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary exemplifies doing more with less - providing excellent overall service with a small, but dedicated library staff.

The impact of Hurricane Katrina is still keenly felt by all with ongoing renovations in library spaces, continuous mold fighting efforts, dying trees, lower student enrollment and myriad other changes and challenges. It was a humbling experience to hear their personal and professional experiences - a special thank you to the hosts and their colleagues who showed such gracious hospitality and shared their time, stories and expertise so generously.

ATLAS for ALUM Program Deadline Extended to January 31

Over the last several months, we've signed many of our members up for the newly expanded ATLAS for ALUM program. ATLAS for ALUM provides a way for institutions to offer lifelong research tools to their alumni/ae, by providing them with a subscription to ATLASerials® (ATLAS®), our online collection of more than one hundred and forty major religion and theology journals selected by leading religion scholars, theologians, and clergy.

The ATLAS for ALUM program is supported by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., and is now offered on the aggregator platforms. Through this initiative, institutional members of ATLA who are also accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) qualify for a three-year grant to offer ATLASerials® (ATLAS®) subscriptions to their alumni/ae for free.

If you haven't had a chance to sign up for the ATLAS for ALUM program, now is the time to get started. In order to participate in the full three-year grant period, you must submit your ATLAS for ALUM Inquiry Form (http://www.atla.com/products/atlasalum/atlasalum_inquiry.pdf) to Laura Wrzesinski by January 31st, 2010.

For more information about ATLAS for ALUM, please visit <http://www.atlasalum.com/>, or contact Laura at atlasalum@atla.com, or by phone at 312-775-9435.

ATLA Newsletter Contact Information:
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Member News

International Collaboration Committee Meets in Chicago



Members of the Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration met at ATLA headquarters on Thursday and Friday, November 5-6. Pictured above are (front, left to right) Elizabeth Johnson, Eileen Crawford, Board Liaison, (back, left to right) Maggie Tarpley, Paul Stuehrenberg, chair, and Terry Robertson.

ATLA at Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Meeting

At this year's SBL Annual Meeting in New Orleans (November 20-24), ATLA staff hosted a booth that attracted considerable traffic.



Staff also hosted a reception for ATLA members on Sunday morning from 7:30 to 9:30 at Café du Monde (see photo above), a New Orleans' landmark café. More than 20 ATLA members came and imbibed in beignets and café au lait and good conversation.

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 January 22, 2010. Visit http://www.atla.com/pub_com/grant.html for more information. ATLA reserves the first right of refusal of publication for all projects receiving grants.

2011 IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Program

February 28, 2010 is the deadline for submitting an application and supporting materials for the 2011 Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program. This program provides early career development and continuing education for library and information science professionals, including theological librarians, from countries with developing economies. It is jointly sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), and ATLA. Applicants are not required to be ATLA members. Please forward notice of this opportunity to colleagues. Complete applications, which include a cover sheet, a resume, an essay of 1,000 words or fewer, and three letters of recommendation, must be submitted by February 28, 2010. Only complete applications will be considered. All application information is available here: <http://www.oclc.org/community/careerdevelopment/fellows/>.

ATLA Consortia Trainings

ATLA is proud to partner with OCLC and EBSCO Publishing to coordinate two consortia offering ATLA members the best prices possible for a variety of ATLA and other databases.

ATLA staff are working with OCLC and EBSCO representatives to develop and schedule webinars which will highlight new platform improvements and administrative tools. They will also welcome questions you might have to get the most out of your subscription. These webinars will have the most benefit for ATLA consortia participants, but all ATLA members are welcome to register.

Specific dates and times will be finalized and published in the January issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, please send any questions you might have to bkemmis@atla.com to help shape the webinar content.

For more information about the consortia:

- ATLA/OCLC Consortium- http://www.atla.com/member/ATLA_OCLC_FirstSearch_consortium.html

- The ATLA Group Catalog is a database that allows your library users to search for materials cataloged in OCLC WorldCat that are owned by ATLA libraries - http://www.atla.com/member/collaborative_projects/group_catalog.html
- ATLA/EBSCO Publishing Consortium - http://www.atla.com/member/ATLA_EBSCO_consortium.html

Member Institutions Receive Grant for Hidden Collections

Two ATLA member institutions - Catholic University of America and Marquette University Libraries - along with St. Catherine University, have been awarded a \$149,964 Council on Library and Resources (CLIR) Hidden Collection grant for the Catholic Social Action Access Project.

The Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives awards program was created in 2008 with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The program is intended to support the identification and cataloging of special collections and archives of high scholarly value that are difficult or impossible to locate.

According to Pat Lawton, Digital Project Librarian for the Catholic Research Resources Alliance, "This collaborative project brings together three significant collections documenting US Catholic social action in the 20th century. St. Catherine University's Ade Bethune Collection documents the career of a world-renowned liturgical artist and social activist who helped found the Church Community Housing Corporation to develop affordable housing in Newport County. The Catholic Charities, DC (CCDC), archives held by the Catholic University of America document the CCDC's leadership and support of progressive social legislation. Marquette University's Dorothy Day-Catholic Worker Collection includes audio recordings of the voices of most influential Catholic social activists of the 20th century."

More detail on this and the other funded projects can be found at <http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/awards/index2009.html>.

New Appointment for David Stewart

David Stewart, Director of Library Services at Luther Seminary since 2004, has been appointed to the position of Director of University Libraries at Bethel University, beginning in January 2010. The new appointment will focus on coordination and leadership of Bethel's university library in suburban St. Paul, as well as seminary libraries in St. Paul, San Diego, and four locations on the East Coast.

In addition to his work at Luther, David previously served in the libraries of Princeton Theological Seminary and Regent College.

A Visit to SWATLA Libraries

Barbara Kemmis visited SWATLA member libraries in Dallas and Fort Worth and attended the SWATLA meeting hosted by Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University with a guided tour of the special exhibit, "Highlights Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Bible Collection." Conversations with members ranged from appreciation for new member benefits such as the ATLAS for ALUM and Member Loyalty Programs to suggestions for new professional development offerings and the volatile nature of journal publishing.

- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Dr. Berry Driver and Dr. Bob Phillips)
- Brite Divinity School (Charles Bellinger)
- Redeemer Seminary (Steve Vanderhill)
- Dallas Theological Seminary (Marvin Hunn and staff)

Visit <http://gallery.me.com/donaldphilipsimpson#100159> to see a gallery of photos from the trip. Thank you to the members and staff who graciously opened their doors and posed for pictures.

Dennis Norlin Featured in Podcast

In Longshots #195-The ABCs of a Successful Theological Library Association (<http://www.librarybeat.org/longshots/play/195>), Sarah Long talks with Dennis Norlin, executive director of the American Theological Library Association. Dennis explains how the association has maintained its solid financial position, partially supported by the ATLA Religion Database. First published in the 1940s, the now fully electronic resource indexes over 550 religion journals, representing the world's religions in 26 languages. [Length: 17:20]

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, January 4th, 2009. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ATLAS, ASE, discussion lists, and the ATLA Website. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

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 Sara Corkery (scorkery@atla.com) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

Webinar Summary



Seventeen members logged on and dialed in to the November webinar, "What Works Now? Best Practices for a Changing Reality."

Did you miss the webinar? Well, visit <https://atlasalum.webex.com/atlasalum/ldr.php?AT=pb∓SP=MC&rID=33901887&rKey=fb7c9bba0ee872f0> to listen to the 50 minute session. The webinar provided participants with an extended period of time to hear from and interact with panelists on the topic of new best practices for a changing reality.

- David R. Stewart, moderator, Director of Library Services, Luther Seminary Library.
- Eileen K. Saner, Librarian and Director of Educational Resources, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary Library
- Bruce Keisling, Associate Vice President for Academic Resources and Seminary Librarian, James P. Boyce Centennial Library, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Sharon Taylor, Director of the Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Dan LaValla, Director of Library Services, Biblical Theological Seminary Library

Discussion questions focused on strategies for managing staff and budget cuts, using budget discussions as a means to build better working relationships with administration and specific strategies to save money and measure success. Participants were invited to



Clockwise from upper left: David R. Stewart, Eileen K. Saner, Bruce Keisling, Dan LaValla, Sharon Taylor

share feedback following the webinar and offered their own strategies at work on their campuses:

- Cancelling SOs, periodicals, involving faculty in these decisions. Rethinking "inventory control"(aka catalog) relative to costs and how patrons actually find resources; Cross-training staff. Involving staff in decision making. Collaboration with other local libraries.
- This summer the three of us librarians took a hard look at journal titles, particularly those we receive on microfilm (as these are very underutilized). We split up the list of titles between us and looked to see if we currently had electronic access to any of these through one of our databases and if so, what the embargo period was (if any). We also considered how vital each was in supporting our curriculum (both seminary and college). The end result was the cancellation of most of our microfilm journal titles at a savings of many thousands of dollars.
- Taking a closer look at usage of databases and journals (by title). Working more closely with faculty in the selection process of acquisitions. Cross-training of staff and staff involvement in making decisions about restructuring in light of staff reductions.
- Reduce number of standing orders due to save money.
- Working more closely with the business office, institutional advancement team, and upper level of administration with respect to strategic planning, and allocation of financial resources.

Have You Heard?

ATLA Product News

ATLA Customer Advisory - Title Lists Now Available for More than 17,000 Selected Essay Collections in Religion and Theology. Visit http://www.atla.com/news/press/press09.html#Nov_19_09_2 for more information.

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Adds Historically Significant Ceased Titles to ATLASerials® (ATLAS®) Collection. Read more at http://www.atla.com/news/press/press09.html#Nov_19_09_1.

First-Time Conference Attendee Grants Available for California Librarians

Each year the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC) awards grants for first-time conference attendance to librarians and staff at SCELC member libraries. Last year SCELC's Program and Professional Development Committee collectively awarded \$7000 to nine recipients to cover their conference expenses.

Applications for conferences taking place prior to July 1, 2010 are due on Wednesday, December 9! For more information and application instructions, go to <http://scelc.org/grants>.

ATLA Staff News

Jack Liu Dies



ATLA staff members were saddened to lose one of their colleagues in November. Jack Liu, our principal ATLAS programmer analyst, died from cancer on November 25, 2009. Jack was responsible for most of the programming that enables us to produce ATLASerials. He is survived by his wife, Ping, and their five-year old son, Joshua. He will be sorely missed.

CONSER Funnel Pilot Project Relunched

Serials, by their very nature, are constantly changing. But, in the OCLC database, once a serial record has been authenticated by a CONSER member, the record is subsequently unavailable for change by any cataloger who is not part of the CONSER program. This has been a source of frustration for serials catalogers. To date, ATLA serials catalogers have not been eligible to join CONSER on their own because of the yearly number of records CONSER requires of each member institution. To address this problem, ATLA is reestablishing the CONSER funnel project which will function similarly to the current NACO Funnel project. Members pool their cataloging to meet the yearly record requirements for participation in CONSER.

At its Fall meeting, the Professional Development Committee approved the establishment of a CONSER Funnel Project on a one-year trial basis. The program is open to experienced serials catalogers who are members of NACO (not limited to ATLA NACO Funnel members) and will be coordinated by Judy Knop, ATLA Digitization Coordinator. NACO members are not required to be independent in the establishment of corporate names, but will have to have been trained in their establishment. If you meet these requirements, you are welcome to join the ATLA CONSER Funnel Project. Please send an email to memberrep@atla.com with your questions about participating and indicating your experience with serials cataloging and your ability to create corporate name authority records. You will also need an indication that you have institutional approval to participate.

The CONSER Office at the Library of Congress is preparing a one-day training program for new funnel members, focusing on CONSER policies and procedures. The training program will be held on January 15, 2010 in Boston, MA in conjunction with the ALA Mid-Winter Conference. You will not be required to register for the ALA conference in order to attend this training session. The Professional Development Committee will provide assistance with travel/room/board for this training for any ATLA personal member requesting assistance. Please indicate your intention to join the funnel and participate in the January 15, 2010 training by December 17, 2009.

Please consider joining your colleagues in this opportunity to enhance your skills and make a contribution to the quality of the serial records in the OCLC database.

From the International Collaboration Committee

2009 ICC Grant Recipients



The International Collaboration Committee (ICC) Grants for 2009 were awarded to Fang-Lan Hsieh, Associate Dean of Libraries/Music Librarian of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Andrew Keck of the Divinity School, Duke University. The recipients will each receive \$1500. Fang-Lan Hsieh proposed a project entitled "Training Library Staff in Music Cataloging and Church Music Collection Management" in collaboration with Singapore Bible College. Andrew Keck's project is "Duke Divinity School and ISTHA, a Theological School of the United Methodist Church in Côte d'Ivoire: Developing and Sharing a Set of Common Core Resources" in collaboration with Institut Supérieur de Théologie D'Abadjin-Doume (ISTHA). The committee hopes that progress reports of these projects will be shared at the ATLA conference in Louisville next June.

The church music project responds to the needs of Singapore Bible College Library in collection development, cataloging and managing of their music collection. The College has a strong church music program which trains future music ministers and church musicians in Singapore, China and the surrounding countries. The School of Church Music offers both bachelor and master degrees in church music. However, the music collection needs to be developed further in both performance and research materials, especially church music resources. Additionally, the items need to be cataloged and made available online, so that faculty, students, and local churches may benefit from the collection. The library staff has limited

knowledge of music librarianship in general and music cataloging in particular. Fang-Lan Hsieh's years of experience working at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as well as a recent research project in Chinese hymnody would prove beneficial to the library and institution for training the para-professionals as well as teaching the music cataloger how to train future workers in the necessary areas.

As part of the ongoing partnership between Duke Divinity School and ISTHA, the libraries would also like to establish a basic partnership to identify a set of common core resources that could be shared through digitization and a common eBook reader. The Duke Divinity School is interested in working together to identify core resources from each institution that could be shared. The Divinity School would be particularly interested in ISTHA resources that might document the history and current practice of Methodism in Côte d'Ivoire. These resources could include scholarly works, locally produced materials, hymnals, worship books, periodicals, pamphlets, papers of conferences, and books. In exchange, the Divinity School would be pleased to provide copies of faculty publications, our alumni magazine, and other core resources (especially around Methodism) than might be of value to ISTHA. With proper copyright permission, a joint digitization project would target volumes of mutual interest and develop ways to make these integrated into the respective curriculum.

- Paul Stuehrenberg, Chair
International Collaboration Committee

ATLA Calendar

December

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in January ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 18 ATLA Holiday Luncheon, office closed at noon CST
- 24-25 ATLA Office closed for Christmas holiday
- 31 ATLA Office closed for New Year's holiday

January

- 1 ATLA Office closed for New Year's holiday
Submissions for inclusion in February ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 15-17 ATLA Board of Directors Meets at ATLA Office
- 18 ATLA Office closed for Martin Luther King holiday

February

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in March ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 22-23 Dennis Norlin at NFAIS Conference in Philadelphia