Newsletter

Institutional Member Mercer University, Swilley Library, Atlanta, GA, celebrates National Library Week with Paddington Bear, Sherlock Holmes, and Miss Marple.

From the President
Takeaways from ACRL 2015

Last month I attended the biennial ACRL conference in Portland, OR. I saw many familiar faces and met many interesting new colleagues; it was great to see ATLA staff and members in the exhibit halls, during sessions, and at ATLA's reception. The conference was jam packed with content. If you are on Twitter, check out the following hashtags for some ACRL 2015 highlights: #acrl2015newroles, #acrlprocess, #thresholdplan, #critlib15, #acrlframework, and #acrlresearchfutures.

Among the highpoints for me were a session on the 75th anniversary publication New Roles for the Road Ahead: Essays Commissioned for ACRL's 75th Anniversary, several informative sessions on the *ACRL Information Literacy Framework*, and a keynote by Lawrence Lessig, which I could not attend, but read about via Storify. The New Roles report is important because it describes (1) ways that we as librarians can frame the road ahead in terms of education, technology and scholarly publishing and (2) ways that we can reposition ourselves as catalysts for collaboration and change. The *ACRL Information Literacy Framework* continues to spark meaningful ongoing conversations much like the Value of Academic Libraries report did in 2010. I hope there will be further conversation of the *Framework* within the ATLA community. Threshold concepts were discussed in several sessions on the *Framework*. During a related webinar on the *Framework*, Sharon Mader described a threshold as "a pathway or portal to enlarge understandings of ways of thinking and practicing within a discipline" (http://www.acrl. ala.org/acrlinsider/archives/category/information-literacy). Drawing on the 2003 work of Jan Meyer and Ray Land, Mader went on to describe five characteristics of threshold concepts; they are transformative, irreversible, integrative, bounded, and troublesome in that they take us into a "liminal" state, which made me think about how to apply this to our contexts. What are some threshold concepts within theological education? Within courses on research in theological and religious studies? How do we as librarians and information professionals assist students into and through liminal states? At the end of the conference, keynote speaker Lawrence Lessig fired up the audience with his provocative talk on election campaign financing reform, open access, and net neutrality.

If you would like to read more about ACRL 2015 conference, the proceedings are available online. I welcome your ideas and questions. Also, I encourage you, especially those who live on the East Coast, to attend ACRL 2017 in Baltimore.

Beth Bidlack
President

Board Members Elected for 2015-2018

ATLA Members elected the following candidates to serve at three-year term (2015-2018) on the ATLA Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the membership of the Board Secretary's report at the 2015 Annual Conference:

- Tracy Powell Iwaskow
- Timothy Lincoln
- Ellen Frost
- David Stewart

The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors express their appreciation to all of the candidates who agreed to be on the slate and for their many efforts on behalf of the association. The Board of Directors would also like to thank the Teller's Committee: Alan Krieger (Chair), James Darlack, and Leslie Engelson.

Letter from the Nominating Committee

Do you know someone who has the skills and dedication necessary to become a successful member of the ATLA Board of Directors? If so, the Nominating Committee for the ATLA Board would appreciate your suggestions.

To help understand the process by which candidates are nominated for election to the ATLA Board of Directors, please be sure to review the information on the ATLA Nominating Committee's page at: https://www.atla.com/Members/divisions/bod/Pages/Nominating%20Committee.aspx

You will not need to contact the person(s) you are recommending. Committee members will assess all potential nominees and will contact those who appear to show the greatest promise. Please send your suggestions by June 1, 2015 to:

- Tammy Johnson johnsont@ctsnet.edu
- Eileen Crawford Eileen.crawford@vanderbilt.edu
- Carrie M. Hackney chackney@howard.edu

Individual and Student Dues Increase Approved

More than 40% of eligible voters returned ballots in the 2015 election and a majority of voters (85%) approved passage of the proposal to increase individual and student member dues. Member dues supplied by ATLA Institutional, Affiliate, Individual, and Student members provide just 15% of the total amount expended to provide a wide range of services throughout the Association. Institutional member dues were last raised in 2006 and the last time individual and student dues were adjusted was 1998. The approved adjustments to individual and student members include:

- Increase dues for student members from $15.00 to $35.00
- Combine all individual member dues categories for salaries under $20,000 and create a single category ("under $20,000") with a dues rate of $35.00
- Increase all individual member dues by 10%, except for those referenced in the above two points
- Create two new upper salary categories ($100,000 - $105,000 and $105,001 +) with applicable dues

The new dues will go into effect for the 2015-16 membership year. Membership renewal notices with the new rates will be sent summer 2015.

Annual Report

The American Theological Library Association's (ATLA) 2013-2014 Annual Report is now available.

The report highlights the many accomplishments of the Association, including the work of Association's committees and improvements to ATLA's products.

A report from the independent auditing firm McGladrey LLP is also provided, offering an account of the Association's finances at the conclusion of fiscal year 2013-14.

REGISTER NOW

Registration is Open

Register for the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference.

Learn, network, and share with more than 220 colleagues and speakers from around the world focused on religion and theological librarianship in Denver this June!

VIEW SCHEDULE

Browse the Conference Schedule

The 2015 ATLA Annual Conference is on SCHED.org.

SCHED.org allows you to browse conference sessions, develop and print your own schedule, and connect with associates and friends.

TRAVEL GRANTS

ATLA Travel Grants Available

ATLA is pleased to offer travel grants of up to $600 each to support attendance at the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference. Any Student or Individual member that joined or renewed as an ATLA member by January 1, 2015 who receives no financial assistance from their institution to attend the conference is eligible to apply.

Learn more.

Session Spotlight: Racial Equity in Theological Librarianship

The Diversity Committee is hosting a Pre-Conference Session, *Racial Equity in Theological Librarianship* on Wednesday, June 17. Attend a half-day by choosing the morning or the afternoon session, but we encourage you to join us for the full day by attending both.

The morning session includes two trainers, Adrienne Mansanares and Emily Braucher, from The Denver Foundation Inclusiveness Project. This session will guide attendees through a curriculum to help better understand the value of inclusiveness and identify steps needed to create diversity.

The afternoon panel brings together ATLA members and special guest, Martin Garnar, Co-Chair of the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Read more about this exciting and important session: http://sched.co/2gH5

Summit for Indiana Theological Librarians

On Wednesday, March 26, eleven Indiana theological librarians gathered at Christian Theological Seminary to get acquainted and to consider ways to improve services through collaboration. Alan Krieger, Theology and Philosophy Librarian at the University of Notre Dame, described practices used to develop the library's theological collections. He identified subject areas where the resources of other libraries in the state complement university holdings. Gillian Harrison Cain, ATLA Director of Member Programs, highlighted ATLA member initiatives such as the ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program and the E-Book Lending Project.

The summit, which was sponsored by the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana, was followed on Thursday by a workday for PALNI seminary librarians. With PALShare direct borrowing reducing delivery times to about three days, seminary libraries want to coordinate collection development to reduce unnecessary duplication. They agreed to use OCLC local holdings records to generate a union list of print periodicals subscriptions. They will create a shared online list of standing orders.

In future meetings, PALNI librarians will explore customizing WorldCat Discovery for graduate theological research and ways to improve services to distance students. PALNI members that support graduate theological education are Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Anderson University, Christian Theological Seminary, Concordia Theological Seminary, Earlham College (Bethany Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Religion), Grace College and Seminary, Oakland City University, and St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Submitted by Eileen K. Saner, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

ATLA at ACRL 2015

Several ATLA representatives, including our board president, executive director, department directors and other staff, attended the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2015 Conference in Portland, Oregon in March. Our exhibit booth was visited by current members, subscribers, end users and partnering publishers, as well as curious attendees asking what ATLA is all about. Designated "office hours" were offered when booth visitors could connect with ATLA leadership. ATLA also held a reception at the fashionable Jupiter Hotel in Portland's Southeast Warehouse District. More information about ACRL 2015 is available here: Complete Conference Proceedings From ACRL 2015 Available Online | LJ INFOdocket.

A highlight of the week was a breakfast featuring a presentation by Bill Badke, a well-known author and an ATLA member, co-sponsored by ATLA and EBSCO. Bill's talk, entitled, *Racing through the Information Age without Falling Off*, was well-attended and well-received.

On Thursday, May 14 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT, Bill Badke will deliver an encore of his presentation. Register for the free webinar here.

Jennifer Ulrich visits the ATLA exhibit booth.

Bill Badke Presents...

Florida Regional Meeting

On Thursday, March 5, 2015, the Florida Theological Library Association (FTLA) held its annual conference at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, FL. There was a record attendance of fourteen persons. Carol Hayes, Assistant Librarian at Gordon-Conwell (Jacksonville) graciously hosted this event. Her library was the perfect setting for this gathering.

Our first presentation was by Dr. Walter Pierce, Associate Professor of Social Work at Barry University in Miami Shores who shared his research on a Methodist sponsored African American orphanage in Florida. The second lecture was by John Muether, Dean of Libraries at Reformed Theological Seminary. He spoke about a Quality Enhancement Plan program on Islam at his institution's campus in Orlando. Lastly, James Darlack Associate Director of the Goddard Library at the Hamilton, MA, campus of Gordon-Conwell addressed us remotely and gave a very informative talk on databases which analyze Greek texts.

After the presentations, there was a delicious barbecue lunch. Michael Farrell Library Director of Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando and Vice President /President Elect of the FTLA was the master of ceremonies for the morning lectures. He also conducted the afternoon business meeting. Arthur Quinn Library Director of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach and President of the FTLA deserves special thanks for writing and obtaining an ATLA Grant for Continuing Education Programs that helped to fund this event.

Wesley Custer, Library Information Services Manager at Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando has generously agreed to host next year's FTLA conference at his institution. Gillian Harrison Cain, Director of Member Programs for ATLA, also attended the conference. Her support of this regional ATLA association is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Philip M. O'Neill, Barry University

Back row, left to right) John Muether, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando; Jonathan Roach, St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens; Wesley Custer, Asbury Theological Seminary, Orlando; Phillip O'Neill, Barry University, Miami Shores; Laura Armstrong, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando; (front row, left to right) Gillian Harrison Cain, ATLA; Michael Farrell, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando; Carol Hayes, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Jacksonville

ATLA Digital Projects - Member Information Gathering Survey

ATLA is developing a new program as a benefit for Institutional and Affiliate Member Libraries. As part of this program, we are seeking grant funding for collaborative projects relating to digitization and preservation.

We are actively researching grants to pursue and, in order to evaluate grant opportunities and create projects to propose, we need your assistance. We need information about the collections you hold and descriptions of the materials and information on the subjects covered in the collections. We need to know whether or not these materials are digitized, cataloged, microformed, etc. We want to know if you already have a digital asset management system or digitizing equipment on site. We're looking to better understand the state of your collections and what level of help you need.

We have created a survey to gather this information and kindly request you complete it to help us understand more about your collections in order to be able to create grant proposals or develop future programs to help members with digital projects.

Click here to respond to the ATLA Digital Projects survey.

We are still in the early stages of identifying grant opportunities and collections and so we cannot say with any certainty if your particular collection will be included in any specific proposal or project at this time. Each grant opportunity has certain parameters that must be met ("complete" collections, materials that advance scholarship, collections that already have metadata, collections that need cataloging, etc.), and so we are gathering information from you in order to create the strongest proposal that meets the requirements for a given grant.

Thank you in advance for your participation in responding to the survey. We appreciate that responding to these inquiries takes time and we hope that in return we'll be successful in securing grant funding and developing a robust digital program that will help you meet your goals.

Readers' Survey for *Theological Librarianship*: An Online Journal of the ATLA

The Editorial Board of *Theological Librarianship* invites your participation in a survey of *TL* readers and potential readers. We are confident that your input will provide us with useful insights on what we're doing well, where there's room for *TL* to grow, and what new directions we should be considering.

The survey is concise, and includes some questions which invite your personal comments. A few years ago, we ran a separate survey for *TL* authors, and that proved very useful and insightful.

Click here to respond to the survey.

Thank you for taking the time to offer this useful feedback.

Gratefully,

TL Editorial Board
(Miranda Bennett, Ron Crown, Gary Daught, Suzanne Estelle-Holmer, and David Stewart)

ATLA / EBSCO Publishing Consortium

ATLA is currently working with EBSCO on quotes for renewing and new members of the ATLA / EBSCO Publishing Consortium for the 2015-2016 subscription year that runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. This program provides consortium pricing for several EBSCO Publishing databases via EBSCOhost, including *ATLA ReligionDatabase®*, *ATLASerials®*, *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index®*, *Old Testament Abstracts* (*OTA*) and *New Testament Abstracts* (*NTA*).

Institutions that participated in the consortium in 2014-2015 should have received an e-mail in early April and need to confirm their desire to participate this year by April, 23, 2015. If your institution has not participated in the past and is interested in joining the consortium, please contact Kelly Jurecko at kjurecko@atla.com.

ATLA / OCLC Consortium for WorldCat Discovery (formerly OCLC FirstSearch)

ATLA is currently working with OCLC on quotes for renewing and new members of the ATLA / OCLC Consortium [CGH1] for WorldCat Discovery for the 2015-2016 subscription year that runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. This program provides consortium pricing for WorldCat Discovery.

WorldCat Discovery Services will replace the OCLC FirstSearch service in December 2015. All libraries that provide access to the WorldCat database on FirstSearch can use WorldCat Discovery now as a part of their existing subscriptions. FirstSearch and WorldCat Discovery will operate in parallel through December 2015, to provide time for library staffs to become familiar with the new service before access to FirstSearch ends December 31, 2015.

Below are upcoming WorldCat Discovery instructor-led training classes on searching and configuration:

WorldCat® Discovery Searching: Advanced Topics
- 15 April 2015 - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Eastern Time, North America)
- 22 April 2015- - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (Eastern Time, North America)

WorldCat® Discovery Configuration: Advanced Topics
- 21 April 2015 - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Eastern Time, North America)
- 28 April 2015 - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (Eastern Time, North America)

Institutions that participated in the consortium in 2014-2015 will be receiving an email in late April and need to confirm their desire to participate. If your institution has not participated in the past and is interested in joining the consortium, please contact Kelly Jurecko at kjurecko@atla.com.

ATLA / OCLC Consortium for OCLC WMS

Throughout March we collaborated with OCLC to offer a series of three private, online events designed specifically for religion and theological libraries to learn more about WorldShare Management Services.

In addition to demonstrations of WMS, these events contain information about the advantages of joining your 23 peer libraries that have subscribed to WMS and an exclusive offer for ATLA members.

Recordings for all three events are now available:

- A WorldShare Management Services Virtual Panel -- Firsthand accounts from a panel of ATLA librarians on their experiences with WMS
  ◊ Dale Dobias, Associate Director of the Library at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
  ◊ Tonya Fawcett, Director of Library Services at Grace Theological Seminary
  ◊ Trisha Burr, Acquisition and Serial Librarian at Luther Seminary Library
- A WorldShare Demonstration: Acquisitions and Metadata
- A WorldShare Demonstration: Circulation, WorldCat® Discovery Services, Analytics and WorldShare® Interlibrary Loan

ATLA is currently working with OCLC on quotes for renewing and new members of the ATLA / OCLC Consortium for WorldShare Management Services. This program provides consortium pricing for OCLC WMS. The number of libraries committed to participating as of April 30, 2015 determines the discount level for the consortium. If your institution has not participated in the past and is interested in joining the consortium, please contact Paul Cappuzzello at cappuzzp@oclc.org or your OCLC Sales Representative.

Consortia Offers and Renewals / Calendar

New Digital Loeb Classical Library Offer Available to ATLA Members Through SCELC

Through its relationship with SCELC, ATLA is able to offer member libraries an exciting new offer from Harvard University Press and SCELC for the Digital Loeb Classical Library.

The Loeb Classical Library was designed to bring the written treasures of the ancient Greek and Roman world "within the reach of all who care for the finer things in life." This gold standard of classical study has now been produced online, allowing readers to enjoy its Greek and Latin texts alongside English translations in familiar as well as surprising new ways.

ATLA will be hosting a webinar with Gregory Kornbluh, Digital Product and Web Marketing Manager for Harvard University Press, and Jason Price from SCELC for you to learn more about this valuable resource and an offer currently available through SCELC. Register for the Loeb webinar.

The ATLA/SCELC Affiliate program provides ATLA Institutional Members in the United States with the opportunity to acquire electronic resources at reduced rates negotiated by SCELC. There is no charge to become a SCELC Affiliate Member, simply complete the forms at http://scelc.org/atla. To view the full details of the Digital Loeb Classical Library offer, or any other offer through SCELC, you will need to register on the SCELC website.

ATLA Calendar

April
- 6 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA Systems
- 24 - CATLA (Chicago Area Theological Library Association), Chicago, IL - Maria Stanton attending
- 24 - SCATLA (Southern California Theological Library Association), Fullerton, CA - Gillian Harrison Cain attending
- 26-29 - ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia), Albany, NY - Gillian Harrison Cain attending
- 30 - "NACO and CONSER Funnels: Background and Benefits for ATLA Members" Webinar

May
- 1 - Scholarships in Diversity Applications Due
- 1 - Travel Grant Applications Due
- 1-5 - ForATL (Forum of Asian Theological Librarianship) Workshop and Consultation, Bangkok - Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 4 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA Systems
- 6 - "Digital Loeb Classical Library Offer through SCELC" Webinar
- 14 - "'Racing through the Information Age without Falling off ' by Bill Badke" Webinar
- 15 - Early Bird Registration Deadline for ATLA Annual Conference
- 15 - Housing Deadline for ATLA Annual Conference
- 19 - PNWRTLA (Pacific Northwest Religious and Theological Library Association), Newberg, OR - Gillian Harrison Cain attending
- 26-27 - Society for Scholarly Publishing, Arlington, VA - Margot Lyon and Gregg Taylor attending

June
- 1 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA Systems
- 1-2 - CRRA (Catholic Research Resources Alliance), Chicago, IL - Gillian Harrison Cain attending
- 4 - MTLA (Minnesota Theological Library Association), St. Paul, MN - Gillian Harrison Cain attending
- 17 - ATLA Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO
- 17-20 - ATLA Annual Conference, Denver, CO

Webinar: NACO and CONSER Funnels: Background and Benefits for ATLA Members

ATLA's NACO and CONSER funnel projects benefit technical services professionals, their institutions, and the greater cataloging community. NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program) and CONSER (International Cooperative Serials Cataloging Program) are component parts of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). Participants in these projects create and modify name authority records in the Library of Congress Name Authority File (NACO) or master serial records in the OCLC database (CONSER).

Join **Judy Knop, Metadata Curator at ATLA,** to learn about the funnels and how they function. She will share information about the requirements for membership, opportunities for training, and describe the review process. Catalogers interested in joining one of the projects as well as administrators looking to learn more about an important professional development opportunity for their catalogers as well as a benefit to their institution are encouraged to attend.

Register for the NACO and CONSER Funnels webinar.

Webinar: New Digital Loeb Classical Library Offer Through SCELC

The Loeb Classical Library was designed to bring the written treasures of the ancient Greek and Roman world "within the reach of all who care for the finer things in life." This gold standard of classical study has now been produced online, allowing readers to enjoy its Greek and Latin texts alongside English translations in familiar as well as surprising new ways.

ATLA will be hosting a webinar with Gregory Kornbluh, Digital Product and Web Marketing Manager for Harvard University Press, and Jason Price from SCELC for you to learn more about this valuable resource and an offer currently available through SCELC. Register for the Loeb webinar.

Encore Webinar: 'Racing through the Information Age without Falling Off' with Bill Badke

The information age is rapidly advancing its tendency to foster anarchy over control. Whether it is data without metadata, a blurring of the distinctions between the scholarly and the popular, or increased challenges by information users to determine their goals, there are new opportunities for librarians to do information literacy in new ways. If we fall off the ride we will fail to hold off the coming darkness.

Join **Bill Badke, Associate Librarian at Trinity Western University for Associated Canadian Theological Schools and Information Literacy,** for this encore webinar of his engaging presentation at ACRL during a breakfast co-sponsored by ATLA and EBSCO.

Register for Bill Badke's encore webinar.

Drew Kadel Retires

The Rev. Andrew Kadel has resigned as Director of the Christoph Keller, Jr., Library and as member of the faculty of The General Theological Seminary, effective May 23, 2015.

Fr. Kadel came to the Seminary as director of the St. Mark's Library in 2003. During his time here he oversaw the transition to the new Keller Library, participating in planning and fundraising, and overseeing the move in and out of an interim space to the new Keller Library. He was instrumental in improving the technology in the library, including the introduction of e-books and installation of our new online library catalog system. He was also active on Faculty committees and has served as faculty secretary since 2010.

We congratulate Kadel on his retirement and look forward to his future publication, "How Do You Baptize a Whale?"

Jim Skypeck Retires

Jim Skypeck, Head of Public Services at the Theology Library at Boston University, has resigned his position effective May 14.

Jim has been a highly valued member of the Boston University staff for 15 years. An alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts at BU, Jim started working at the university as the bibliographer for religion and philosophy at the Mugar Library. He joined the staff of the Theology Library 13 years ago and is currently the Head of Public Services. During his time at the Theology Library, Jim also served as Interim Head Librarian from 2009-2011. Jim has also served on a number of library committees throughout the university library system. He has been an active member of the ATLA and has presented a number of times at ATLA conferences.

Thank you to Amy Limpitlaw for writing the above description. We congratulate Jim on his retirement and thank him for his many years of service, and most importantly, for his wonderful sense of humor.

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:

- ATLA, Chicago, IL, is looking for a Digitization Specialist.
- Congregational Library of the American Congregational Association, Boston, MA, is looking for a Library Director.
- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA, is looking for a Reference and Instruction Librarian.
- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, CA, is looking for a Collection Development and Services Librarian.
- Moody Bible Institute, Spokane, WA, is looking for an Assistant Branch Librarian.
- Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, is is looking for a Director of Academic Technology and Digital Scholarship Services and Collection Development Librarian.
- Regent University Library, Virginia Beach, VA, is looking for a Head of Special Collections, Archives, and Digital Initiatives.
- Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, is looking for a Chief Librarian.
- Yale University Library, New Haven, CT, is looking for a Director.

Doug Scheftner Joins ATLA

We are excited to have Doug Scheftner as the new Site Manager for the ATLA production system and related tools. In this role, he will lead the technical effort to maintain, enhance and develop the system to support our work related to existing products as well as new offerings.

Doug brings a unique blend of experience and educational background. Many of his roles have involved leadership in developing technologies that thoughtfully support workflow optimization of one sort or another. At The University of Chicago, he led several initiatives supporting the development of web-based applications to improve the efficiency of scientific research. Doug pairs a PhD in Biochemistry with an MS in Computer Science.

Please join us in welcoming Doug to ATLA!

ATLA CNI Member

ATLA has become a member of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI). This coalition is dedicated to supporting the transformative promise of digital information technology for the advancement of scholarly communication and the enrichment of intellectual productivity.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer Elected to NFAIS Board

ATLA Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer was elected to the NFAIS (National Federation of Advanced Information Services) Board for a three-year term (2015-2018). NFAIS is a global, non-profit, volunteer-powered membership organization that serves the information community.

Contact Information

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.

Stay Connected

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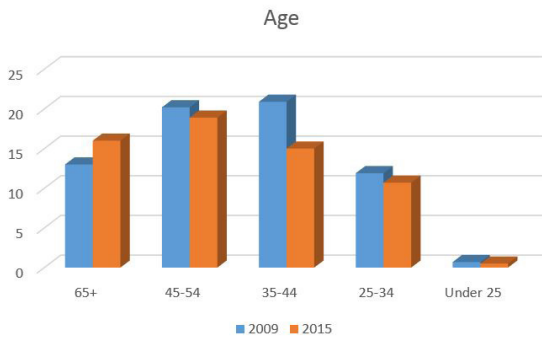ISSN 1946-1518

From the Executive Director

ATLA Members by the Numbers

In January 2015, ATLA issued two brief demographic surveys in order to compare the characteristics of the 2015 membership against the results of earlier surveys conducted in 2009. This column will focus on responses from personal members (Individual, Student, and Lifetime). As of January 31, 2015, there were 336 Individual, 62 Student, and 89 Lifetime members. The results reported below reflect 208 respondents in 2015 (42.1% of ATLA personal members); 277 responded in 2009.

- 91.7% live in the U.S., another 5.3% in Canada, and 2.9% elsewhere, with every continent (except Antarctica) represented
- 89.8% are white, compared to 89.4% in 2009

- 86% are currently employed in a library
- 83.2% hold a Masters in library/information science; 52.9% hold a Masters in theology
- 59% plan to retire in 10 or more years; 33.7% in less than 10; 7.2% are already enjoying retirement
- 54.8% are female, up from 46.2% in 2009
- 27.9% have been ATLA members for 20 years or more; 21.2% have been members for 2 years or fewer
- 16% are over age 65 compared to 13% in 2009; respondents in all younger age groups declined
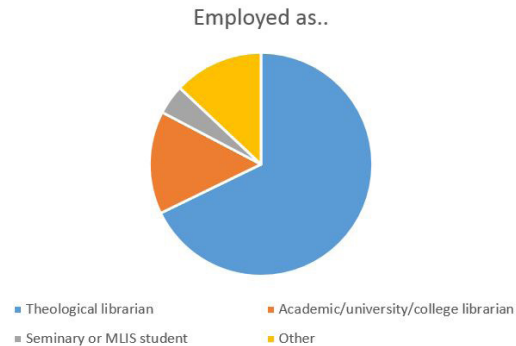- 14% are ordained

A wide range of denominational affiliations was reported for respondents' institutional employers just as it was in 2009, but some shifts have occurred. Those with 5% or more of the responses included:

- 12.2% Methodist - down from 13.8%
- 10.7% Presbyterian - down from 13%
- 10.2% Nondenominational - up from 6.9%

- 9.6% Baptist - down from 13.8%
- 9.6% Roman Catholic - slightly up from 9.3%
- 7.1% Inter- or multi-denominational - down from 11.8%
- 6.1% Lutheran - down from 9.8%
- 5.7% None - down from 14.2%
- 5.1% Anglican - up from 4.9%

Many other denominations were represented by 1-3 respondents each. Two religions not represented in 2009 appeared in 2015: Jewish and Shambhala Buddhist.

In general, many of the trends established with the 2009 survey held true. ATLA membership remains well educated, is skewing older, and is still not very racially or ethnically diverse. The majority of members are

employed at mainline Protestant institutions, but many denomination affiliations for respondent's institutional employers showed a decline. "Nondenominational" increased the most while other slight increases were reported for Roman Catholic and Anglican. Other religious affiliations are beginning to appear, which adds to ATLA's overall religious diversity. In terms of membership longevity, the two groups at opposite ends of the spectrum represent the highest percentages -- 20+ years and 2 years or less. This may create some challenges for ATLA in the future since there could be significant differences in the aspects of membership that each group values most.

Watch for additional ATLA member demographics snapshots in future issues of the newsletter.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer
Executive Director