

Newsletter



Harding School of Theology, Memphis, TN, celebrated Theological Libraries Month with a Halloween costume party of celebrated biblical characters, theologians, and characters from classic Christian fiction.

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From the President
Aligning the Work of
the Association with Its
Organizational Ends (Part
1): A Summary of the 2013
Conference Luncheon

At its recent fall meeting, the Board discussed a summary of the comments made at the annual conference luncheon. In June many ATLA members gathered at tables

to share a good meal and fellowship and to discuss the future of theological libraries and librarianship. At each table a current or former board member was available to facilitate the conversation, and a recorder took notes, which were later transcribed thanks to ATLA staff. A board task force, chaired by Tim Lincoln, analyzed the comments.

The conversations centered around four questions. In response to the first question - "what does the librarian of the future look like in terms of knowledge and skills?" - a large number of comments focused on managing and leading, including being an advocate, having a vision, dealing with money, and working with staff. Having technical skills and communication skills were also mentioned by many people. Adaptability, teaching skills, and collaboration were also popular responses. Other skills mentioned were being a life-long learner, having a service orientation, having theological or other subject knowledge, and having educational credentials.

The second question - "what are the information-related opportunities and problems facing libraries?"- elicited the following responses: digital publishing as an opportunity and challenges in theological education; problem of information overload; distance education as an opportunity; and problems in scholarly publishing.

The third question -"what are the emerging research needs of users?"- prompted responses around the following themes: varied sources and formats of information; information-seeking skills; and tools needed to help users, including discovering and indexing. Other comments mentioned the need to know how to do research in general; the need for critical thinking skills and for better writing skills; and access to electronic information.

Finally, there was discussion about the questions "whom should the work of ATLA primarily benefit?" and "what would be

ATLA Member Leaders Convene for Joint Meeting in Chicago

On Thursday, October 17, over thirty ATLA member leaders from the Board of Directors, ATLA Committees, and ATLA Interest Groups gathered in Chicago for a joint meeting.

Participating Member Groups included:

- Board of Directors
- Diversity Committee
- Endowment Committee
- International Collaboration Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Publications Committee
- Emerging Technology Interest Group
- Public Services Interest Group
- Special Collections Interest Group
- World Christianity Interest Group
- World Religions Interest Group

The joint meeting took advantage of the regularly scheduled Fall meetings of the Board of Directors and ATLA Committees, seeking to increase the value of these meetings by bringing together all of the member leaders for a day of joint discussion, leadership development, and networking. At the Board of Directors' request, the chairs of active Interest Groups were invited to participate. The meeting was facilitated by Paul D. Meyer, Principal Consultant, President, and Co-CEO of Tecker International.



The ATLA Board, Committees, and Interest Group members discuss how to break down silos and work together on the Organizational Ends



Nicholas Weiss and Amy Limpitlaw catch up during a break.

The meeting focused on best practices and trends in associations, the relationship of members to the work of the association, and opportunities for innovation. Member leaders engaged in group discussions around how ATLA could help share members' and libraries' current experiences; engage in project-based work; make the most of conference activities; leverage the association's grant and funding opportunities; communicate and respond to members' current issues; and articulate the value of membership. The ideas generated were further discussed during committees' meetings on Friday.

Participants expressed enthusiasm for this joint meeting and noted the collaborative opportunities meeting together provided.

See more photos at the ATLA Flickr page.

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of the American Theological Library Association focused on the needs of members when it met in Chicago on October 18 and 19, 2013. Comments recorded at the June member's luncheon reveal a concern for library advocacy, leadership skills, and ATLA's benefits to scholarly communities. The Board considered how these priorities are reflected in the Association's Organizational Ends and in ATLA programming, both current and under development.

The Board reviewed issues raised by the executive director's quarterly monitoring reports of July and October. Brenda Bailey-Hainer described the formation of ATLA's Scholarly Communications in Religion and Theology Task Force. Representatives from Association of Theological Schools (ATS), Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), and American Academy of Religion (AAR) will join several ATLA members to address common concerns of scholars and librarians.

The Board reviewed data showing that a high percentage of the cost of member programs is covered by revenue from ATLA's database products. Member dues have not been raised in several years. Reducing the dependence of member programs on product revenue would release funding for research and development. A Board task force will develop a dues increase proposal for the Board to consider in late 2013.

On October 17, the Board attended a joint meeting with ATLA committees and interest group chairs. Paul Meyer of Tecker International spoke on the roles and responsibilities of volunteer leaders and facilitated discussion on how the work of Committees and Interest Groups can advance the Association's Organizational Ends. Board members benefited from table conversation with ATLA's member leaders and affirmed the focus of Committee work on the Association's goals.

Full minutes of the October Board meeting will be posted on the ATLA SharePoint pages available to all ATLA members.

Eileen Saner ATLA Secretary

Theological Libraries Month Recap and Book Spine Poetry Contest Winners Announced

Several institutions across North America celebrated Theological Libraries Month (TLM) with the Book Spine Poetry (BSP) Contest. It was exciting to see Facebook and Twitter posts by various member institutions posting their students' poetry. One student added, "Thank you for making time spent in library more fun!"

Congratulations to our Book Spine Poetry winners!



Anne Marie Decker, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Library

I was just wondering where is God? In harm's way Setting men free Overcoming the world



Carmanie Bhatti, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Dear Nobody, God is a new language, Vine, Love The Meaning of Life



Sarah Choo, China Evangelical Seminary North America

Red sky at night
Three of China's mighty men
Wise as serpents, harmless as doves
Rescued from the dragon
Come wind, come weather
God reigns in China!

These winners will all receive a \$25 gift card. More BSP entries can be found on our website.

Along with the Book Spine Poetry Contest, ATLA awarded over \$5,000 in grants to sixteen libraries across the United States and Canada to support their celebration of TLM throughout October. Please read the full press release here.

Twenty institutions submitted their plans and responses of their TLM celebrations, which we have added to our website.

Thank you for making Theological Libraries Month a success!

Letter from the President Continued

the primary value?" Attendees listed the primary beneficiaries as the scholarly community, including scholars or faculty members, students, and users/patrons; librarians; libraries; and members with the primary value being collaboration, products, and advocacy.

During the course of its discussion about your responses and comments, the Board observed that its task is to represent the membership in formulating policy to guide the work of the staff and the membership. We believe that the comments made during the luncheon generally confirm that the Board does understand member concerns, but that attention should be given to themes not represented in the Organizational Ends such as leadership, communication, and management skills. We also noted that many participants mentioned that

the work of ATLA should benefit the scholarly community. The Board's Governance Committee will look for specific ways to reflect your comments and priorities within our organizational ends. Thanks to you, the ends continue to reflect the current priorities of the Association. The Board is very grateful to those who participated in the luncheon conversation on theological libraries and librarianship. We would like to keep the conversation going. If you have additional feedback, please contact us.

Beth Bidlack President

ATLA Receptions at AAR & SBL Annual Meetings

ATLA will host two receptions at the National Aquarium during the Concurrent Annual Meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) in Baltimore this November 23-26. We invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship. Feel free to bring a colleague. Please RSVP to rrybak@atla.com by November 17 with your name, the name of your guest, and the reception(s) you will attend.

Guests will access the building through an alternative entrance. If you plan to attend, please pay close attention to the following instructions:

ATLA Guest Entrance to the National Aquarium: Facing the aquarium, walk to the far right of the building down the red brick walkway. You will see a submarine docked adjacent to Aquarium building. Opposite the gangway of the submarine, enter through the set of sliding glass doors marked "Aquarium Office/Staff Entry."

Evening Reception

Saturday, November 23, 2013
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
National Aquarium Baltimore
Knott Harbor View Room
501 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Self-guided touring of the Aquarium prior to event, from 6:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m.

Morning Reception

Monday, November 25, 2013
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
National Aquarium Baltimore
Knott Harbor View Room
501 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Self-guided touring of the Aquarium following the event until 12:00 noon

This information and a map are available on the ATLA website: https://www.atla.com/products/Pages/ATLA-Receptions-at-AAR-and-SBL-Concurrent-Meetings-2013.aspx.

Also, please stop by the ATLA exhibit booth #1228. Exhibit hall hours are November 23-25 (Saturday-Monday), 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; November 26 (Tuesday), 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

New to ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index® (ATLA CPLI®)

ATLA is pleased to announce that the ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index® (ATLA CPLI®) now has two new features for enhanced searching.

First and foremost is the Publications Authority File, a tool which displays coverage information and other details on the journals indexed in the database. The *ATLA CPLI* Publications Authority File is like those found in *ATLASerials®* (*ATLAS®*) and in the ATLA Religion Database® with ATLASerials®, in that it has EBSCO's Hierarchical Journal Authority File (HJAF) structure. Within this HJAF structure, users may perform a variety of tasks, including: searching within a publication, retrieving items by journal issue, and subscribing to RSS feeds for EBSCO*host* journal alerts.

Also new to *ATLA CPLI* is the Genre Limiter, which narrows searches to particular genre types. Among the limiter options are "church documents" and "papal documents," which select for records on texts of speeches, homilies, apostolic pronouncements, encyclicals, and official documents from popes, the Roman Curia, and bishops' conferences. Those long familiar with *ATLA CPLI* will recognize that some of the new genre limiters were formerly categorized as "publication types"; ATLA recently recategorized these items to improve search precision and user experience.

If you have any questions about how to use these new features, how to access content in *ATLA CPLI*, or about other matters related to ATLA's products, please contact the Product Support Team at support@atla.com, and they will be happy to assist you.

2012-2013 ATS / ATLA Library Statistics Available

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) collaborate to collect and provide library statistics from ATS member institutions and ATLA member libraries.

2012-2013 ATS / ATLA library data has been posted to the Member Community section of the ATLA website under ATLA Member Publications - ATS Statistics.

The most recent two years of data is now also available from a <u>publicly accessible page on the ATLA Site</u>.

ATLA Offers Two Online Preservation Workshops

The ATLA <u>2012 Preservation Survey</u> revealed members' interest in educational programs that address preservation issues for libraries and archives.

ATLA is pleased to provide <u>two opportunities for online training</u> in preservation topics.

ATLA has worked with preservation consultants Liz Bishoff (The Bishoff Group) and Tom Clareson (LYRASIS) to develop the following webinars.

Webinars are free and open to all ATLA members, including staff at ATLA Institutional, Affiliate, and International Institutional Members. Recordings will be made available on the ATLA web page following the completion each two-part series.

The available online sessions are:

FUNDING YOUR PRESERVATION PROGRAM

This two part webinar will explore various options for funding a preservation program including local funding, state and federal grants, and foundation support. The sessions will also discuss the component parts of a grant, the grant review process, and grant management activities. By the end of the program, participants will be familiar with a variety of sources of funding for preservation projects, and know the components many funders are looking for in a preservation grant proposal.

Part One: Monday, December 16, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Central Part Two: Tuesday, December 17, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Central

DIGITAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT: THE A-Z OF DIGITAL PROJECTS

This two-part webinar will address the basics of digital collection development, metadata and digital content creation, options for providing access to digital collections, promotion of digital collections, and program evaluation. Staff from organizations that are new to building digital collections, as well as those interested in the latest standards and best practices, should attend this session. By the end of the program, participants will understand the various aspects of a digital project.

Part One: Thursday, January 30, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Central Part Two: Friday, January 31, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Central

Please RSVP for either or both of the webinars by sending your name and e-mail to memberrep@atla.com. Please include the sessions you would like to attend. Instructions for accessing the live webinars will be sent at least one week prior to each webinar.

To sign up for a reminder notification of the webinar with instructions for accessing the session, please contact memberrep@atla.com. ATLA staff will send a reminder message before each session for all members who have submitted their request.

E-Book Lending: Accelerating the Pace of Change

I am writing this news item with the distinct sensation that I am falling faster down the rabbit hole. All librarians are acutely aware of the many changes and disruptive innovations that are transforming our profession. Recently, when discussing the possibilities and pitfalls of electronic dissertations, one person to whom I was talking stated, "We're in the worm hole, and we don't know what is on the other side" - whether it is a worm hole leading to a new galaxy or a rabbit hole down to an unpredictable Wonderland remains to be seen.

When it comes to e-books, I suspect that while we have all read some kind of e-book by now, many of us are still sharply divided as to whether or not we prefer an e-book to a paper book. In my opinion, e-books are still in their infancy as a technology, and many of the most significant hurdles to their adoption and access are issues of licensing and distribution, not questions of technology or reading platforms.

The issues of licensing and distribution become especially acute when it comes to the e-books already embedded in our collections. In spite of the dearth of available electronic formats for traditional biblical studies resources like commentaries, most theological libraries have already accumulated e-book packages of one type or another. (Anybody remember netLibrary from before OCLC purchased it in 2002?) Interlibrary loan protocols and CONTU guidelines have largely allowed us to continue the sharing of journal articles within and without our libraries regardless of the format of the journal article. This has not been the case with e-books where publisher and aggregator licenses have balkanized our fledgling e-book collections into community-centric resources that cannot be shared between libraries.

Enter the ATLA E-Book Lending Project, or ELP.

Our intentionally broad mission statement states:

The E-book Lending Project (ELP) exists to fulfill a vision for ATLA libraries to purchase to permanently own e-books (not license access to them through a distributor or aggregator) for our circulating collections. This project is structured to research and realize this vision by designing or tailoring an e-book model akin to Douglas County Libraries (Colorado) to meet the needs of theological research libraries.

We're just getting started but exciting things are happening already. We are in active dialogue to develop a pilot project for lending e-books between ATLA libraries. We already know that ATLA librarians

ATLA Opens Call for Exhibitors at 2014 Annual Conference

ATLA has opened a call for exhibitors at the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference.

The exhibit hall is an important part of the ATLA Annual Conference, providing opportunities for attendees to learn about ATLA ANNUAL THE NEW PRODUCTS and services available to theological libraries.



Members are invited to share the <u>Exhibitor Prospectus</u> with vendors and partners that may be interested in attending the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference. Interested exhibitors can also contact <u>memberrep@atla.com</u> to receive additional information.

Center for the Study of Information and Religion (CSIR): Call for Papers

Center for the Study of Information and Religion (CSIR) in the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University will host its fourth annual conference on June 5 and 6, 2014, at the university.



The theme for the 2014 conference is "Informa.tion Management in Religious Organizations." Keynote speaker will be Kenneth Inskeep, Ph.D., Director, Research and Evaluation, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and co-author of *Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of Mainline Denominations*.

CSIR invites scholars and students to submit paper and poster abstracts that align with the chosen theme and represent original contributions exploring the intersections of religion and information. The deadline for abstract submission is November 30, 2013.

For details and the proposal submission form, visit http://www.kent.edu/slis/research/csir/annual-conference-on-information-and-religion.cfm.

E-book Lending Continued

are keenly interested in opening up access to religion and theology e-book collections. We believe our project will also attract religion and theology publishers interested in a strong partnership with ATLA libraries. Stay tuned for more news about this pilot project as our plans develop. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the ELP project page above and join our E-Book Lending Project listserv if you want to know more. Those interested in joining the discussion list may do so by sending an e-mail to memberrep@atla.com.

Submitted by Blake Walter, Northern Seminary

The Annual Conference Proposal Review Process

Each year, the ATLA Conference Committee asks for proposals from members of ATLA and the theological library community to build the conference schedule for the coming year. What happens once these submissions are received? The Conference Committee met November 7-9 in New Orleans, LA, and is happy to demystify the process:

- Submissions are collected by ATLA staff and forwarded to the committee for initial review prior to our fall meeting.
- During the meeting, committee members discuss each proposal in turn, noting the strengths of each proposal; the places where more clarification is needed to make the intent clearer to the committee and the eventual conference attendees; any similarities between proposals received that might warrant a joint presentation; and if there are additional topics not present that should be included (and if so, where we might find members able to present on these topics).
- We then attempt to create a rough schedule for the conference. The final schedule aims to place topics of interest for the same general audience at different times when possible and to keep one person from making different presentations close together. The time period requested for each session is considered also as we develop the general time table for each day.
- Following the meeting, committee members contact each proposal submitter with information about the acceptance process, including requests for additional information or suggestions to consider joining forces with another member who has proposed a similar topic. The final schedule is built from these accepted proposals.

Overall, the goal of the conference committee is to ensure that topics proposed are in line with conference objectives, are clear and appropriate for the type of session and time slot selected, and represent a broad range of the interests of ATLA conference attendees. We welcome both new and returning conference presenters. As ATLA members ourselves, we share an interest in making the ATLA Annual Conference as helpful as we can. If you have any questions or concerns about the Annual Conference submission process, I invite you to let me know by contacting me.

Submitted by Tracy Powell Iwaskow, Chair

Member News

Member Joins Association of Theological Schools (ATS)

Debbie Creamer has joined the staff of the Association of Theological Schools as Director, Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation. Her work will include facilitating accrediting reviews, providing education and support to member schools about the process of accreditation, and providing staff support to the work of the ATS Board of Commissioners. Prior to coming to ATS, Debbie served at Iliff School of Theology, beginning in 1997 as a member of the library staff, becoming director of the library and a member of the faculty in 2005, then associate dean for academic affairs in 2009, and interim dean and vice-president for academic affairs for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Member Joins Christian Theological Seminary (CTS)

Anthony J. Elia has been named the Director of the Library and Educational Technology at CTS. Anthony has been in the theological library field for the last decade, having worked at the American Theological Library Association (ATLA), the Lutheran School of



Theology at Chicago & McCormick Theological Seminary (JKM Library), and most recently at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary (Burke Library), where he has held the position of Public Services Librarian and Lecturer of Theological Writing, respectively. He began at CTS in mid-October 2013.

Submitted by Matthew Myer Boulton President and Professor of Theology, Christian Theological Seminary

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:

- Association of Theological Schools, Pittsburgh, PA, is looking for a <u>Director, Accreditation</u> <u>Services</u>.
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, is looking for a <u>Technical Services Librarian/Lead</u> <u>Cataloger</u>.
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is looking for a <u>Director of Production</u>.
- Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, is looking for a <u>Resource Description Librarian</u>.
- Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA, is looking for a <u>Reference Librarian</u>.
- Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, is looking for a <u>Reference Librarian and</u> <u>Outreach Coordinator</u>.
- Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston, MA, is looking for a <u>Library Director</u>.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, December 2 and January 6. 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.

ATLA Calendar

November

- 13-14 Theological Librarianship Editorial Board Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 23-26 AAR & SBL Annual Meetings 2013, Baltimore, MD, ATLA staff attending
- 28-29 ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 2 Routine Maintenance Performed on ATLA Systems
- 6 ATLA Offices Closed (Partial Day) for Staff Holiday Event
- 24-25 ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday

January

- 1 ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of New Year Holiday
- 6 Routine Maintenance Performed on ATLA Systems
- 20 ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 24-27 American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Conference, Philadelphia, PA, Brenda Bailey-Hainer and Margot Lyon attending

A Member's Innovative Advocacy for Special Collections

ATLA member Chris Anderson uses his Drew University radio show The 80s Vault as a way to relive the music of the 80s and to showcase the library's Special Collections and University Archives. Check out the Live Stream Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. EST: http://groups.drew.edu/wmnj/?.

Member Retires

A. Chris Beldan, Associate Librarian and IT Director at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, retired the end of May 2013, and has moved back to Canada. He and his family have settled in Hamilton Ontario.



From the Executive Director Digital Humanities: Whither Religion and Theology?

At the recent NFAIS Humanities Round Table meeting held in Chicago and sponsored by ATLA, Dr. Christopher Cantwell (University of Missouri - Kansas City) gave the keynote address on "Digital Humanities. Digital Data." His

presentation provided a general overview of digital humanities, but also served to highlight the dearth of digital humanities projects related to religion and theology scholarship.

One of the barriers to the entry of religion and theology scholars into digital humanities work is that many of them are not heavy technology users. They therefore lack a strong relationship with the campus computing department where the support for such technology would usually be housed. (Perhaps this is an area where theological libraries could bridge the gap.) The start-up cost of projects may be prohibitive as well, with grants from organizations such as National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) providing only a portion of the cost. And finally, digital humanities projects have not yet been fully recognized as credible scholarship, often because a framework for peer review has not been in place.

One of the organizations that has worked to overcome the peer review barrier is the <u>NINES Nineteenth Century Scholarship Online</u>, which provides access to a robust

system of peer-reviewed digital resources archives created by scholars. Outside reviewers evaluate both the intellectual content and the technical structure of each project.

Other places to learn about digital humanities include <u>Digital Humanities Now</u>, an experimental, edited publication that highlights informally published scholarship and resources from the open web, and the <u>Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations</u>, which is an umbrella organization of a number of digital humanities associations from many countries.

One excellent example of a digital humanities project that does include aspects of religion is the <u>Lincoln Logarithms: Finding Meaning in Sermons</u> project housed at the Digital Scholarship Commons at Emory University's Robert W. Woodruff Library. Four different digital tools were used to do topic modeling, text mining, and data analysis. The analysis shows how frequently words appear and how they are arranged in texts, as well as the ability to make visualizations of the word patterns.

Are you or any of the faculty at your institution involved in digital humanities projects related to religion and theology? Please let me know about them. The American Academy of Religion meeting later this month in Baltimore will feature a THATcamp organized by Dr. Cantwell. THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) will embrace any topic connected to the intersection of technology and religion and Lintend to be there.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer Executive Director

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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