



ATLA NEWSLETTER

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From Staff Leadership Connections and Conversations in East Asia

Submitted by Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development

“Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind.”
 – Seneca

In early July, Su Hyeon Kang, ATLA Metadata Analyst, and I traveled to Seoul, South Korea to exhibit at the International Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature. Approximately 55% of the 550+ attendees were from Asia or the Global South. During the trip, I also had the opportunity to visit with customer libraries and publishers in Japan and South Korea.

The conversations and visits with the international users of ATLA’s products were insightful because the librarians and students provided suggestions on features and global content to potentially include in ATLA’s products. While some of these conversations could have happened strictly via e-mail and telephone, I believe the face-to-face meetings were invaluable for building relationships, avoiding misunderstandings, and truly listening to each other. For example, we were able to see what other bibliographic tools, systems, and collections were used by librarians and scholars for research in religion and theology. We also had meetings with several new potential content providers and publishers who were thrilled to hear that there are subscribers to ATLA’s Products in more than 70 countries.

Many customers and end-users were pleased to hear about the ATLA Developing Country Initiative Program (<https://www.atla.com/products/support/Product-Support-FAQs/Pages/developing-countries.aspx>) whereby schools and libraries in eligible developing countries can now subscribe to *ATLASerials*®, an online full-text collection of major religion and theology journals, without a concurrent subscription to the *ATLA Religion Database*®. We also discussed the ATLA Historical Monographs Collections (<https://www.ebscohost.com/archives/atla-monographs>) and the ATLAALUM program (https://www.atla.com/products/Pages/ATLA_ALUM_Product_Offerings.aspx).



From the President Ends? Ends!

Submitted by Timothy D. Lincoln, ATLA President

Like most everybody else, it is easy for us librarians to become immersed in the details of our work. Consequently, we can happily help patrons at the reference desk, teach information literacy sessions, or catalog new materials without giving too much thought to the deeper “why” of what we do. It’s like: I’m a librarian and I do librarian things.

It is important from time to time, though, to step back and think about the bigger picture: the ultimate reasons for why we spend time doing librarian things.

The Board of ATLA constantly is asked to keep The Big Picture in mind. We do this through a technique called policy governance. One aspect of policy governance is the notion that the Board should constantly be concerned with “the ends” of ATLA. In this context, “ends” is equivalent to the long-term objectives of the organization. Under the model of policy governance, official ends matter so much that they shape the way that we ask the Executive Director to report on the work of the Association.

The Executive Director of ATLA has broad freedom to figure out and implement ways to accomplish the ends, so long as the Board can see how these approaches (means) are consistent with the ends of ATLA. Given the changes going on in the way that information in the fields of theology and religion is produced, stored, sold, accessed, and used by students and scholars, it is no surprise that means change from time to time.

At our next meeting in October, Board members will discuss and perhaps approve a renovated set of Organizational Ends (<https://www.atla.com/about/who/Pages/MissionStatement.aspx>) for ATLA. I am confident that these new ends will be consistent with the hospitable, open future that the Board envisions for the Association.

It is great to walk down a shady path and admire the trees. It is also necessary to take care of the forest.

An Overview of the Process for the Nomination of Candidates for Election to the ATLA Board

Submitted by Eileen Crawford, Chair, ATLA Nominating Committee

To help members understand the process by which candidates are nominated for election to the ATLA Board of Directors, the ATLA Nominating Committee (<https://www.atla.com/Members/divisions/bod/Pages/Nominating%20Committee.aspx>) has provided the following overview.

In the April ATLA *Newsletter* (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2016/letter-from-the-nominating-committee/>), the Nominating Committee provided information on how members may submit names for consideration to the committee and gave a June 1 deadline for receiving nominations.

Beginning in April, the committee identified potential nominees, including current Board members eligible for re-election. The committee has been contacting individuals to confirm their interest in running and to answer any questions they might have.

In addition to nominations put forth by the Nominating Committee, individuals may petition for inclusion on the ballot. Nominations other than those submitted by the Nominating Committee may be made by petition signed by no fewer than ten (10) Voting members of the Association and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association no later than December 1. These nominations may be submitted by fax, email, or surface mail and shall be included on the ballot with the nominees presented by the Nominating Committee.

No later than October 1, the committee will have submitted to the Board Secretary and the Director of Member Programs, a slate of at least two (2) candidates for the four directorships to be filled at each Annual Member Meeting. The Director of Member Programs will ask each nominee to submit biographical information along with a statement concerning his or her view of the Association's needs and/or mission. These materials will be included with the ballot.

No later than October 15, the Director of Member Programs will send email or letters to all eligible ATLA voting members announcing the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee and including information about making petition nominations to the Secretary.

No later than December 1 is the deadline for submissions, by petition, of additional nominations by the membership.

Between December 1 and January 7, the Director of Member Programs will confirm the eligibility of all candidates and the Secretary will inform petition candidates of Board duties and verify their willingness to serve. All candidates will be asked to finalize and submit their biographical information

and statements concerning their view of the Association's needs and/or mission.

No later than January 7, the Director of Member Programs will have prepared the ballots and distributed them to all eligible ATLA voting members (https://www.atla.com/_layouts/CRM4M/loginSSO.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fcommunity%2f_layouts%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252Fcommunity&Source=%2Fcommunity)

Full information about the nominating process can be found in the Board Policy Manual, available in the Community Section of the ATLA web site.

Kelly Jurecko Resigns as Member Programs Assistant

Kelly Jurecko resigned her position as Member Programs Assistant on Wednesday, June 22.

Kelly has been a significant contributor to the Member Programs team, supporting the consortia, member renewals, and the conference in addition to being the front line responder to member inquiries as well as a million other tasks. Her bright smile and enthusiasm will be missed both in the office and by the members.

Please join us in wishing Kelly all the best on this next phase of her life and thanking her for all her efforts on behalf of ATLA over the past five years.

And meet the new Member Programs Assistant, Charlotte Koelsch (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2016/welcome-charlotte-koelsch-member-programs-assistant/>).

Welcome Alexandra McGee, Digitization Specialist

We are pleased to announce that Alexandra McGee will be joining ATLA as a Digitization Specialist beginning August 10.

Alexandra has held a number of archival internships, including preserving materials and creating finding aids for the Provident Hospital and Nursing School Collection at the Black Metropolis Research Consortium, as well as digitizing materials and updating the digital archives in the digital asset management system at the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

She is also currently a student at DePaul University studying history.

Please join us in welcoming her to ATLA!

Welcome Charlotte Koelsch, Member Programs Assistant

ATLA welcomes Charlotte Koelsch as the Member Programs Assistant in the Member Programs Department beginning August 8.

Charlotte was hired on a temporary basis in January as Executive Assistant working on various projects with Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer and the Board of the Directors. For those who attended the 2016 ATLA Annual Conference, you may have seen her at the registration desk with a smile on her face.

In this new role Charlotte will be assisting with the Member Rep e-mail inbox and handling general inquiries via phone and e-mail; coordinating member consortia purchasing programs; supporting membership renewals; coordinating webinars and other online learning opportunities; supporting the work of committees, working groups, task forces, and other member groups and handling logistics for their meetings; and assisting with the Annual Conference.

Charlotte is a recent graduate of Loyola University Chicago in English. She worked as an intern at both the Pritzker Military Museum & Library and The Newberry Library, helping with a wide variety of projects and events.

Please join us in congratulating Charlotte to ATLA!

Call for the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference Proposals

The ATLA Conference Committee cordially invites members and friends to submit proposals for the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference, June 14-17, 2017, in Atlanta, GA, hosted by Columbia Theological Seminary; Pitts Theology Library-Candler School of Theology-Emory University; Erskine Theological Seminary, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center-The Interdenominational Theological Center; and Mercer University-McAfee School of Theology.

The deadline for all submissions is Sunday, October 9, 2016.

While we welcome proposals pertaining to all areas of librarianship, we are particularly interested in topics that relate to creative uses of technology, open access in relation to scholarly communications, intermediate or advanced level programs, and programs that apply to religious studies bibliographers working in university settings.

[Submit Proposal \(http://bit.ly/2cqO4In\)](http://bit.ly/2cqO4In)

[Click here for more information on proposal guidelines.](#)

Register for the NFAIS 2016 Humanities Roundtable

Registration (on-site and virtual) is now open for the NFAIS 2016 Humanities Roundtable.

This year's event, hosted and sponsored by ATLA Member, Pitts Theology Library-Candler School of Theology-Emory University, focuses on "Digital Humanities: Preserving the Past, Capturing the Present & Building the Future." Other sponsors include ATLA, EBSCO, and the Modern Language Association (MLA).

An opening reception will be held from 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Thursday, September 22, followed by a full day of programming Friday, September 23.

The Program and Agenda can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2cmiP07>

The NFAIS 2016 Humanities Roundtable theme is set to appeal to a variety of audiences in the information community, including librarians, digital humanities scholars, information aggregators/providers and publishers. Our set of expert presenters will explore the world of digital humanities through a variety of perspectives and lenses, including:

- How scholarly communications supports digital humanities
- Challenges and opportunities from a legal standpoint
- How humanities researchers discover content
- Key cutting-edge, innovative projects in digital humanities
- Exploration into the ways millennials search for humanities information

For more information:

Contact: Nancy Blair-DeLeon

Phone: 443-221-2980 x102

Email: nblairdeleon@nfais.org

ATLA Calendar

ATLA is around the globe this season. Check out the ATLA Calendar (<https://newsletter.atla.com/events/>) for a list of events, deadlines, and meetings.

As a reminder, routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, September 12. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (CDT). 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.

The Human Touch in the Digital Age Launch and Theological Libraries Month

More than a search engine.

More than a source.

More than a building.

Librarians bring the human touch to the digital age.

How is your library bringing the human touch? How are you making meaningful connections with your faculty and students? How are you showing your library is about books and so much more? How are you bringing people into your library's physical or virtual space? How are you and your resources getting out your library's physical or virtual space and connecting with your users wherever they may be?

The month of September kicks off a year-long celebration of theological libraries and librarians around the theme, The Human Touch in the Digital Age. To spark imagination and bring focus to theological library promotion, we are introducing a theme that will permeate through programs and events throughout the year, culminating at the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference — Southern Harmony: The Human Touch in the Digital Age.

The goal of this year-long program is to increase awareness of the importance and value of librarians and libraries serving theology and religious studies programs through communications and activities for faculty, administrators, staff, and students. Program activities throughout the year will include providing materials you can take advantage of to promote your library, sharing of success stories, webinars on marketing and advocacy, and more.

The first event to launch the theme is Theological Libraries Month (TLM). And while we hope you will participate in TLM, it's only one month out of the year and we're excited to offer you assistance and opportunities in promoting your library all year long.

Theological Libraries Month

October is Theological Libraries Month (TLM)! How can you participate in TLM?

- [Download and print posters and other resources](#) to announce TLM on your campus.
- Share your plans and ideas with ATLA so that we can promote them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and in the ATLA *Newsletter*. Send your plans to memberrep@atla.com.
- Write and disseminate press releases for use in campus publications and local community newspapers.
- Participate in the [TLM Contest](#).

Theological Libraries Month Contest

Librarians bring the human touch to the digital age. As Neil Gaiman once said, "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one." Whether forged in the library building, or in the classroom, or in an online chat... there's something special about a relationship with a librarian.

More than a search engine. More than a source. More than a building. Librarians bring the human touch to the digital age.

Yes, libraries provide access to a journals, stacks of books, and a quiet place to study. But how do libraries enrich your institution? Join us this October in sharing how a librarian has impacted you!

Here are some examples. Has a librarian ever:

- Helped you with research
- Helped your student write a better paper
- Found something you couldn't find on your own
- Provided you with access to computer/wifi
- Provided a quiet place to study
- Provided a room where you could meet with others
- Helped you get a better grade
- Offered an inspiring speaker/program
- Helped you get a better job
- Opened your eyes to something amazing

Tell your story for a chance to win a \$25 gift card.

Read the [Official Rules & Regulations](#) for more information on how to participate.

Vote for the 2017 Annual Conference Excursions

The Local Host Committee (LHC) is working on making arrangements for excursions at the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

They have identified three excursions (marked with a * in the survey) to have the greatest attraction for ATLA members based on what we've seen over the years at other conferences. They've also identified a dozen additional possibilities for excursions. Several of the excursions listed are in close geographical proximity to one another, and so it would be possible for a group to take in two or three places in a single outing.

On the basis of the survey results, the Local Host Committee will work with ATLA staff to create a final set of excursions for the conference.

Please visit the survey site (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/excursions2017>) to vote.

Religious Materials Toolbox for Archivists: Solutions to Problems Facing the Profession

Submitted by Andy Carter, ATLA Digital Projects Manager

I presented at the annual Society of American Archivists (<http://www2.archivists.org/>) convention in Atlanta, Georgia this August. I was part of a panel presentation titled *Religious Materials Toolbox for Archivists: Solutions to Problems Facing the Profession*. I was accompanied on the panel by Malachy McCarthy, Ingrid Hsieh-Yee, and Mark Duffy.

Our presentations covered a range of topics facing archivists of religious materials. Mark, Director of the Archives of the Episcopal Church, was our moderator. Ingrid, a library and information science professor at The Catholic University of America, talked about how user generated search terms related to Library of Congress (LOC) subject headings in metadata records from the Catholic Portal. Malachy, Province Archivist for the Claretian Missionaries Archives, discussed the development of an in-house web site for archival processing policies. You can access copies of our presentations online here (<https://archives2016.sched.org/event/6mYW/310-religious-materials-toolbox-for-archivists-solutions-to-problems-facing-the-pro>).

My own presentation covered ATLA's efforts to improve the cataloging authorities used to describe religious materials. ATLA has been a partner in two recent projects: Genre/Forms for Religious Terms and the Thesaurus of Religious Occupational Terms. I will provide a brief description of each.

The Genre/Forms for Religious Terms project began in 2010 and grew out of a Library of Congress initiative to refine genre/form designations for six pre-selected subjects. ATLA was joined in this work by Association of Jewish Libraries, the Catholic Library Association, and the Council on East Asian Libraries. In 2015, forty-five new terms were approved by the Policy and Standards Division of the LOC. These terms refine the relationships between descriptive headings for religious materials. An example (UF = "use for"; BT = "broader term"):

155 Breviaries
 455 UF Divine Office (Breviaries)
 455 UF Hours, Liturgy of the
 455 UF Liturgy of the Hours
 555 BT Liturgical books

In 2014, ATLA joined with the Catholic Library Association and the Association of Christian Librarians to begin work on the Thesaurus of Religious Occupational Terms (TROT). The impetus for this came from an ATLA taskforce – Best Practices in the Field of Religion – that was asked to create a standard for occupational terms that could be used in the occupations field (374) of name authority records. TROT was approved for use as a standard by the LOC beginning in September of 2016. An example:

Biblical scholars [LCSH]

UF

Biblicists
 Scholars, Biblical

NT

New Testament scholars
 Old Testament scholars

You can find more information about these new authorities, as well as an ATLA document on best practices for authority records in the field of religion at:

- Approved Genre/Form terms: <https://classificationweb.net/approved-subjects/1518.html>
- Genre Forms for Religious Terms Project: <https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/Pages/Genre-Forms.aspx>
- Thesaurus of Occupations in the Field of Religion: <https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/libtools/Pages/default.aspx>
- Best Practices for Authority Records in the Field of Religion: <https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/libtools/Pages/default.aspx>

Archives and Institutional Power: A Critical Perspective

Submitted by Adam Paradis, ATLA Metadata Librarian

Together with a panel of archivists and librarians, I presented at the Society of American Archivists 2016 Annual Conference to engage the topic of institutional power and the role of archives in perpetuating or underwriting such power.

Our goal was to interrogate the notions of institutional power, from abuses and misuses to the more benign, while trying to sketch the relations among power, archives, and so-called activism. We used a live polling technology to bring the audiences' diverse viewpoints to bear on the discussion to work towards an understanding of activism as it relates to (or does not) to the production and maintenance of an archive.

As we went live, the purpose of the panel became three-fold: first, we wanted to maintain the ad-hoc tradition of archives professionals interrogating justice, social justice, and cluster of political activism and praxis at our annual professional gathering. Second, we wanted to gather three friendly archives people from three different archival situations to investigate these issues. Lastly, we wanted to make the discussion as horizontal and democratic as such a gathering may allow: we wanted to integrate the audience into our discussion, respond to the audience, and work together to question our topic. In this overview, I will address the latter two components, for they are more interesting and applicable to ATLA's conference panels.

The participants of our panel were pulled from four different backgrounds: Terry Baxter is an archivist for the Multnomah County (Oregon) Records Program; Jessica Farrell is a digital collections curator for Harvard University's Law Library, and a former archivist for McDonald's; Dierdre Scaggs, our moderator, is Associate Dean, Special Collections Research Center; Director of the Wendell H. Ford Public Policy Research Center; and I, Adam Paradis, am a metadata librarian/indexer for ATLA, reference and instruction librarian for City Colleges of Chicago, and co-founder of the Fr. Michael L. Pflieger Archives here in Chicago. In a word, we were a motley bunch of public records, special collections, academic libraries, and grassroots archivists all coming together to investigate the following questions:

1. What are the kinds of abuses of power that nonprofit and institutions of higher education commit?
2. How do archives and archivists support these abuses?
3. How do institutions use archives to either obscure or highlight abuses of power?
4. How can an archivist be an activist while working in an abusive organization?

It must be noted that among the three panelists, we share a critical approach to the work and position of archives

vis-a-vis power, institutions, and so on. It's worth noting, too, that archives always exist in relation to an institution, indeed they are typically established by an institution, for which they are ancillary and dependent upon for a mission and records. The question of activism, then, turns into two questions: the question of this relation between records (their use, production, preservation, and so on) and the activities recorded; and the question of an-archival practices, what I would call important functions to produce a robust archives, but that may fall under 'other duties'.

Jessica Ferrell summed this up well in her eleven points (forthcoming) under the title "Challenging Institutional Power," which includes acting in solidarity with campus activities, walk outs, student movements, critical pedagogy, and information literacy, and refusing to accept the normalization of unpaid-internships on the grounds that "if it must be done with slave-like labor, then it doesn't need to be done."

Terry focused on the possibility of power, democracy, and accountability inherent in record keeping and public institutions. He demonstrated an important check on power and institutional overreach by the mere presence of archives. I instead focused on a re-construing a truly radical notion in archival collections: how do we, and should we, collect the undocumentable, the unrecordable, the truly marginalized — that is, those that do not leave even ephemera to be collected, such as the unemployed and the unemployable. These individuals are being left behind by documentation practices and becoming written out of the public record as a result of this. I think our panel was in part a success because we had three strong and nuanced yet critical views on these questions.

Perhaps most provocative was our demand on our audience. Not only did we want them to participate, we wanted them to collaborate with us on these questions during the presentation. Terry devised a poll everywhere program and had the audience write unique responses and down-vote or up-vote each other's replies as we worked through our prepared remarks. The technology was valuable because we had the audience re-inscribing our points in advance, as it were, such that we could gloss over key points of agreement to address more particular issues. To have the audience contribute in real time (and making these data available as part of Jessica and Adam's forthcoming publication) dismantled the dais in favor of something more akin to the exercise of democracy: moving forward we can, as participants in the profession, come together and hold the profession accountable in its inevitable relations to power.

List of Endowments to Churches and Monasteries in Anatolia and to The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem Through the 16th and 18th Centuries: The Syriac Manuscript of Mardin 248

Submitted by Iskandar Bcheiry PhD, ATLA Metadata Analyst

The library of the Church of Forty Martyrs, belonging to the Syriac Orthodox in Mardin, South-East Turkey currently owns an unpublished historical register in Syriac, containing list of endowments and donations to local monasteries in Anatolia and to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem during the Turkmen principalities and Ottoman period. In the Ottoman Empire, Syriacs kept their own baptismal, marriage, funeral, endowments and other records, but not all these have survived. Some of these records can be found in various libraries, churches, and monasteries in the West and East, with a large concentration in Mardin, which was once the spiritual headquarters of the Syriac Christians and their patriarchate.

The Syriac manuscript found in the Forty Martyrs' Church in Mardin, number 248/7, 21×15 cm, 100 leaves, black ink, Serṭō script, contains lists of endowments that were collected from older sources and copied into this register in the second half of the 19th century. This manuscript is particularly interesting because it offers information from the period between the sixteenth century and the middle of the eighteenth century. Thus, it casts light on this period of the Syriac Orthodox Church history for which documents are scarce.

In addition, this register is important from both a topographic and demographic aspect. The Syriac community as well as many other Christian communities was subject to demographic changes which occurred in Anatolia and Syria especially under the Ottoman dominion. Many villages and towns were depopulated and others were rebuilt due to emigration or deportation. This historical document serves as sort of a measurement to gauge the presence of the Syriac community in certain areas in South East Anatolia and Syria during the Ottoman Period in a way that we can note what changed and what remained. This is possible when we compare the data found in our document with facts and information from other periods before or after, which belong to other sources.

This document also increases our knowledge about the social and economic life of the local people through the amount and type of their donations. Furthermore, the names of the donors and their families show an interesting cultural and social fact. The personal names recorded in this list seem to reflect a community with strong religious tendency. Most of the names used by the inhabitants are either the names of Biblical personages or Church Saints. The most common of these names are

Simon, John, Jacob, Daniel, Elijah, Joshua, Matthew, Thomas, Ephrem, Barsoum, Samuel, Michael, Paul, Peter, Mark, George, Stephen. Such collection of names points to a Christian religious community, at the same time it indicates the ethnic background. Also we notice male devotional forms of names by pacing 'Abd "servant" before one of the "Hundred Names of God" or before Christian terms to make names like 'Abd Allāh "servant of Allah" 'Abd al-Ahad "servant of the Sunday", or 'Abd al-Karīm "servant of the generous".

Below I would like to present a table that contains a sample of data of information extracted from the historical register:

Location	Year	Beneficiary	Type of Donation	Titles	Number of donators	Total amount of donation	Reference and notes	
Village of al-Manṣuriyyah	1886 A.G.=1575 A.D.	Jerusalem	Šahī	priest	64	68 Šahī	ff.14-15	
		Monastery of Mori Heworō		leader				
				deacon				
Village of Šamanzah In the district of Bšeryeh	1886 A.G.=1575 A.D.	Jerusalem	Šahī	Kihwā	6	27	p.10	
				Priest				
Village of Kafarō in the district of Bšeryeh	1886 A.G.=1575 A.D.	Jerusalem	Šahī	priest	10	24 Šahī		
				Qūrš		Kihwā		½ Qūrš
				Qubrušī				7 Qubrušī
Village of Mašqūq in the district of Mardin	1886 A.G.=1575 A.D.	Dayr al-Za'farān	Šahī	priest	3	6 Šahī	There is an introduction	
		Jerusalem	1 Measure of wheat	Barṭ Qyomō Kihwā			Castrum	
Village of Bamatnī in the district of Hatak	1886 A.G.=1575 A.D.	Jerusalem	Šahī	Maqdesī	15	44 Šahīyyah	In p. 21 list of properties in the village of Ḥamaš was mentioned	
				property		priest		5 Qūrš
Village of Malahā in the district of Hatak	1886 A.G.=1575 A.D.	Dayr Mori Heworō and Za'farān	Qūrš	Barṭ Qyomō	10	21 Šahī	p.22	
		Jerusalem		Šahī				priest
Village of Malahā in the district of Hatak	1886 A.G.=1575 A.D.	Za'farān		Barṭ Qyomō			The Monastery of Mori Heworō (the white monastery or the monastery of Mori Theodore) was mentioned	
		Jerusalem		Šahī			priest	

Surveying Members' Professional Development Needs

Submitted by Megan E. Welsh (2016-2017 Chair, ATLA Professional Development Committee) and Judy Schroeter (ATLA Research Associate)

Introduction

The ever-evolving demands of the profession provide both a reason to engage in professional development and a challenge in finding the time and resources to do so. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) (<https://www.atla.com/Members/divisions/committees/Pages/Professional-Development-Committee.aspx>) of ATLA seeks to provide ATLA members with the opportunity to engage in learning opportunities that can benefit their careers. We recognize that not all professional development opportunities are created equal and, as a committee, we want to be sure that we are addressing your needs. The PDC is committed to developing programming that reaches members at each stage in the profession, working in a variety of settings, and engaged in various professional duties. From a retiring cataloger to a brand new instruction librarian, we value your experience and hope to enhance it through the opportunities and programming we offer.

Last February and March, the PDC conducted a needs assessment survey in order to determine what professional development needs exist amongst the ATLA membership. We wanted to make sure the programming we already support is in line with these needs and we seek to develop future programming which addresses these needs as well. The survey link was distributed through the ATLA *Newsletter*, emails to members, and via the ATLANTIS listserv, resulting in 181 completed survey responses. The results of this survey will inform the PDC as we expand our programming to suit your needs. We detail some significant results of this survey for you below, so that you can see the needs you and your colleagues expressed. We also outline what work we have already done to address these needs and what our committee plans to do in the future to support the professional development of ATLA members.

Survey Results

Of the 181 respondents, the majority (56%) work in a seminary or divinity school. The remainder are employed by a Master's and/or PhD-granting institution (31%), by a Bachelor's level institution (4%), by an Associate's level (1%), or some "other" type of institution (8%). We also asked respondents to identify at what stage they are in their career, especially to determine trends and needs for professional development among each group. A slight majority of respondents identified themselves as mid-career, however, when viewed together, the respondents identifying in either of the two categories of "Advanced career" and "Nearing retirement," represent half of those members who completed the survey (see Figure 1), indicating a wealth of experienced professionals in our membership.

Of the eight possible job roles and functions (of which multiple responses were permitted), respondents were most likely to

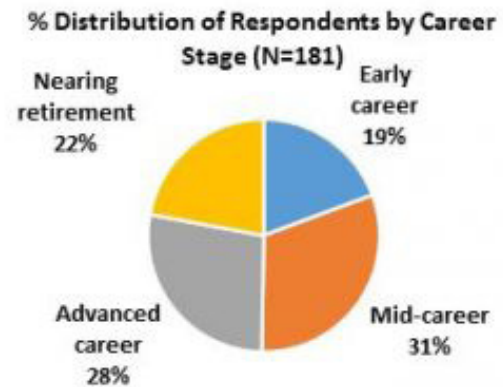


Figure 1: Career stages identified by respondents

name administration (56%), reference/research/instruction (49%), and collection development/subjects (45%), followed by technical services (34%), and electronic resources/digital content (28%). Understanding the roles of ATLA members will help the PDC to anticipate topics associated with job duties which may be of interest.

Another survey question asked respondents explicitly to choose which professional development topics most interested them. Respondents could choose up to three topics and could name additional topics in an "Other" category. Of the choices offered, technology (named by 63% of respondents), library instruction (61%), management skills (61%), leadership (60%), distance education (59%) and outreach/advocacy (57%) were the leading content areas. Publishing, scholarly communications, digital humanities, and digitization were also named, as were "latest trends" and future directions of the profession. Respondent comments also included a number of theology and religiously themed interests. Common themes of note include: interest in broader knowledge of and information about non-Western or non-familiar religions, world Christianity and global trends, and strategies and resources for promoting religious tolerance. Respondents were asked at which level of expertise these topics should be presented and many members indicated an interest in an intermediate or advanced level of learning.

When asked to rank their preferred format for PDC supported professional development opportunities, the overwhelming majority of respondents expressed interest in professional development delivered through webinars.

PDC Past Actions

The PDC organized four webinars to which more than 40 members registered this past Spring. Our first webinar, entitled "Succeeding in the Library Job Market," focused on early-career librarians and those looking to change jobs. Our next webinar, "Work-Life Balance of Women Leaders in Association of Theological Schools," was focused on mid-career women

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Surveying Members' Professional Development Needs Continued

in leadership positions. "Developing a Mutually-Enriching Library Volunteer Program" focused on how to establish a volunteer program and what the benefits of such a program are in theological library settings. Our most popular webinar, "Preparing for a Linked Data Future – The Importance of ATLA's NACO and CONSER Funnel Projects," highlighted the funnel programs of which many ATLA member institutions are already participating. These webinars, though presented in real time, were recorded and are available to be viewed by visiting the "On Demand Learning" section of ATLA's website (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/OnDemandLearning/Pages/default.aspx>).

PDC Future Directions

This fall, we plan to host webinars on the role of Theological Librarians in Theological Education, ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education and its role in Theological Libraries, and the proposed involvement in the SACO Funnel program.

The PDC will continue to refer back to the results of the survey to enhance webinar programming. At our annual committee meeting to be held in October, we will discuss ways the committee can expand webinars, which platforms we want to use to host professional development opportunities, and develop programming for specific populations of ATLA members (e.g., early-career librarians, mid-career librarians, etc.). We will discuss how we can focus some professional development on transitional leadership strategies so that as members retire, mid-career and advanced career librarians can more easily assume leadership roles within their institutions.

Conclusion

This survey is a particularly rich source of ideas for potential program content, as well as the needs and interests of specific professional development audiences within the ATLA membership. We value your experiences and appreciate the time you took to make us aware of your professional development needs. Through your feedback we will expand our learning opportunities and target them to your needs. If you have any further comments and especially if you have suggestions for specific speakers and professional development topics, please direct them to Megan Welsh, the current Chair of the PDC at Megan.Welsh@colorado.edu.

10 Books to Read in Honor of National Book Lover's Day

In honor of National Book Lover's Day, we wanted to share 10 books from the [Contemporary Religious Literature](#) session at the 2016 ATLA Annual Conference. This conversation group was moderated by Donna Wells, Assistant Director, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Library, and Jennifer Ulrich, Technical Services Librarian, Eastern Mennonite University. The group came up with 29 titles that stood out to them from Fiction to Non-Fiction from new publications to classics alike.

We recommend adding *at least* one of these books to your bookshelf.

The full list will be published in the 2016 ATLA Annual Conference *Proceedings* this winter, but for now here are 10 titles:

1. Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker (2015). *The War That Saved My Life*. London: Puffin Books.
2. Doerr, Anthony. (2014). *All the Light We Cannot See*. New York: Scribner.
3. Gaiman, Neil. (2001). *American Gods : A Novel*. New York: W. Morrow.
4. Hannah, Kristin. (2015). *The Nightingale*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
5. Joyce, R. (2012). *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel*. New York: Random House.
6. Kelly, Martha Hall (2016). *Lilac Girls: A Novel*. New York: Ballantine Books.
7. O'Brien, B. J., & Richards, E. R. (2012). *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes*. IVP Books.
8. Penny, Louise (2016). *A Great Reckoning: A Novel (Chief Inspector Gamache Novel)*: New York: St. Martin's Minotaur.
9. Robinson, Marilynne. (2014). *Lila: A Novel*. New York: Picador.
10. Simonson, Helen. (2016). *The Summer Before The War: A Novel*. New York: Random House.

Notes from the Road: Visiting the Robert W. Woodruff Library in Atlanta, GA

Submitted by Andy Carter, ATLA Digital Projects Manager

While in Atlanta, Georgia, for the 2016 Society of American Archivists I was able to visit the Robert W. Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center. Brad Ost, Theology Librarian and ATLA Board member, was kind enough to give me a tour of the facility. We also had a chance to talk about their ongoing grant-funded project to digitize African-American religious collections.

The Woodruff library is unique in that it supports four historically black colleges and universities: Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, and Spelman College. The library also houses the Archives Research Center which preserves rich collections documenting the African-American experience. Notable holdings in the archive include the Henry P. Slaughter and Countee Cullen Memorial collection, the Tupac Amaru Shakur collection, and the Martin Luther King Jr. collection.

Renovated in 2010, the library is an open and bright space with the latest in instructional technologies and reconfigurable collaborative learning spaces. The archives, found on the upper level, focus on African-American life in the United States (and specifically Atlanta): “The collections document civil rights, race relations, education, literature, visual and performing arts, religion, politics, and social work.”

In 2015, the library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities targeted towards under-represented humanities collections. This grant funded a project called *Spreading the Word: Expanding Access to African-American Religious Archival Collections*

of the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library. The project selected fourteen collections of rare materials, in a range of formats, that explore African-American religion from the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century. Over a three-year period, the project will facilitate access to one hundred and twenty-six linear feet of collections including 1,163 audio and video cassette tapes and 2,000 photographs.

I was able to witness some of the vital, but hidden, labor that such a project requires. On the day that I visited, a graduate assistant (and doctoral candidate at Clark Atlanta University) named DuJuan Morris was listening to audio tapes in order to provide descriptive information and subject headings that would eventually become metadata making that audio tape discoverable online. Every individual tape will be converted digitally and then have similar metadata generated manually. There are no shortcuts in this type of work, but the payoff comes when researchers are able to search and find their subjects within this previously unavailable corpus.

The archive is sharing information about the grant and its progress online (<https://aucwoodruffarchives.wordpress.com/>). You can learn more about the technical hurdles of converting analog collections to digital and also find out when newly digitized collections become available to the public.

I want to thank Brad and everyone I met on staff. They manage a vibrant, engaged library. If you are in Atlanta next year for the ATLA Annual Conference (and you will be, right?) (<https://www.atla.com/Members/conference/Pages/default.aspx>) I would recommend a visit.

ATLA Retiree Spotlight: Tony Amodeo

The ATLA Endowment Committee presented an update on the ATLA Retirees and Lifetime Members at the 2016 ATLA Annual Conference. This Newsletter series will recap what they shared.

Tony Amodeo retired June 2, 2015, after 31 years at Loyola Marymount University.

Tony was first introduced to ATLA while he was working at the Newberry Library (76-82). He took a computer indexing workshop by Julie Hurd in Evanston, IL.

Here is a list of his many accomplishments in the profession:

- Illinois Cooperative Conservation Librarian, 1982-83, SIU Carbondale
- LMU: Von der Ahe Library, 1984-2009; Hannon Library (new), 2009-2015
- SCATLA Board, 1985-2015; President (after much evasion), 2011
- CathLA: Chair of Academic/Seminary Section, 1996-97; worked with Charlotte Ames to found the Preservation of American Catholic Materials Roundtable, still ongoing
- ATLA: led formation of Cooperation for Preservation of Archives & Libraries Interest Group (CPAL), now defunct...but the struggle continues!

A Humble Honoree

Tony is the humble honoree of a beautiful 1496 incunabulum added to the Special Collections at Loyola Marymount University in his honor. Theological Studies graduate students presented Tony with a plaque and faculty gave a 17c map of his birthplace in Italy. Question: What's Italian for *overwhelmed*?

Vacation after 40 years!

After 40 years of working in libraries, Tony headed to Italy last September and enjoyed the following activities:

- Attending the Festival Filosofia, in which the public squares of Modena, Sassuolo and Carpi host thousands of ordinary folks listening to presentations from some

Welcome New ATLA Institutional Members

Please join us in welcoming our new Institutional members to the American Theological Library Association. These institutions were once Affiliate members and are now Institutional Members due to the adopted new Bylaws.

We would like to take this opportunity to help you get to know a few of these institutions better.

Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, Jacksonville, FL

Education at the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies (<https://iws.edu/>) centers on worship ministry. The Institute engages students to teach them the biblical foundations, historical contexts, and theological disciplines for them to become effective and informed ministers.

- of the outstanding philosophers, sociologists, and even Harvard's head Librarian, in both the original language and translation, and visiting a handpress workshop
- Visiting both historic and art museums, traditional balsamic vinegar makers, walking tours, and beautiful walks and beautiful times with my cousins and their families
- And, of course, a busman's holiday at the Italian kings' Biblioteca Reale/Royal Library in Torino
- As usual, I discovered some books in danger and e-mailed the curator, who thanked me and fixed the problem. I know informed suggestions help, as it worked some years ago at the Bodoni Museum in Parma, which is now beautifully redone
- RULE: never be shy if you can save a threatened historical book! It ain't ego, it's preservation!

Current activities? Future hopes?

- Some family caregiving
- Taking some courses and Great Courses
- Some vegetable gardening, and a hope to create a well-designed garden with splayed apple, peach and Italian plum trees
- Granted the mental and physical capacity and the time, hope to transcribe and perhaps translate a 17c Italian manuscript book in Hannon's Special Collections
- And, of course ... Yes, I finally did clean out my office (this is the "Before"). But now I have 40 years of library and personal papers to go through. Wish me luck!

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for their work in curating this information. If you would like to submit your story for publication and for the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference, please e-mail memberrep@atla.com.

The library collection (<https://iws.edu/resources/library/about-the-iws-library/>) reflects this focus on Christian worship and liturgy. It includes over 10,000 books, several thousand of which belonged to Robert Webber (<https://iws.edu/2016/08/who-was-bob-webber/>) and were donated by his wife Joanne after his death. The majority of the collection is in circulation and available for students to loan.

Piedmont International University, Winston-Salem, NC

Established in 1945, Piedmont International University (<http://www.piedmontu.edu/Page.aspx?pid=191>) offers bible-centered higher education to prepare students for ministry. In addition to the main campus in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Piedmont offers online (<http://www.piedmontu.edu/online>) degree programs.

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Welcome New ATLA Institutional Members Continued

The George M. Manuel Library (<http://www.piedmontu.edu/page.aspx?pid=448>) at Piedmont International University, named for the first full-time librarian of the institution, holds over 60,000 volumes. Other resources include numerous periodicals, daily newspapers, audiovisual items, and online databases. When Piedmont International University merged with Spurgeon Baptist Bible college in 2004, Atlantic Baptist Bible College in 2008, and Tennessee Temple University in 2015, various holdings of the libraries were installed in the George M. Manuel Library.

Heritage Christian University, Florence, AL

The Overton Memorial Library supports the research needs of the students, faculty, and staff of Heritage Christian University. Each year, the Friends of the Overton Memorial Library host the Charles Coil Colloquium (<http://www.hcu.edu/library/annual-events/>), a one-day event created to enrich the academic community of the university through the expertise that scholars are invited to share at this event.

The Overton Memorial Library also features several unique special collections. These include the Frederick William Danker's gifts of his personal lexicons (<http://www.hcu.edu/library/special-collections/lexicon-museum/>) and papers (<http://www.hcu.edu/library/special-collections/frederick-william-danker-depositorium/>), the Coy D. Roper Rarities and Antiquities Collection (<http://www.hcu.edu/library/special-collections/coy-d-roper-rarities-and-antiquities-collection-rrac/>) of antique and rare books, and the Olie and Cynthia Tillery Bible Collection, which includes codices and Bibles of various versions and languages.

Are you Eligible?

As the ATLA Membership voted to adopt new Bylaws, many Affiliate members are now eligible to become Institutional members. Your institution may be eligible under the revised qualifications:

1. The institution your library serves is
 - An institution of higher education supporting programs in theology or religious studies
 - Accredited by an authority recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, Council of Higher Education Accreditation, or the equivalent thereof in other jurisdictions.

OR

2. Your organization is non-degree granting and maintains one or more significant collections primary of theological, religious, or ecclesiastical research material.

If your institution meets these qualifications and wants to become an Institutional member, please notify ATLA at memberrep@atla.com so our Member Programs team can verify and convert your institution's membership to institutional.

ATLA Job Board

- David Allan Hubbard Library, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, is looking for a Reference Librarian <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Reference-Librarian.aspx> and Archivist and Digital Preservation Librarian <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Archivist-and-Digital-Preservation-Librarian.aspx>
- Drew University Library, Madison, NJ, is looking for a Head of Special Collections and Archives and Methodist Librarian <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Head-of-Special-Collections-and-Archives-and-Methodist-Librarian.aspx>
- Hekman Library, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI, is looking for a Theological Librarian [https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Theological-Librarian-\(One-year-appointment\).aspx](https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Theological-Librarian-(One-year-appointment).aspx)
- Moody Bible Institute, Spokane Library, Spokane, WA is looking for a Theological Reference and Instruction Librarian <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Theological-Reference-and-Instruction-Librarian.aspx>
- The George Mark Elliott Library at Cincinnati Christian University, Cincinnati, OH, is looking for a Technical and Electronic Services Librarian <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Technical-and-Electronic-Services-Librarian.aspx>
- The Roling Memorial Library, Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL, is looking for an Interlibrary Loan Supervisor <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Interlibrary-Loan-Supervisor.aspx>
- Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, is looking for a Library Faculty Position (Instruction, Reference, Outreach and Promotion) <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Library-Faculty-Position.aspx>

Promote the ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program to New Students

As the new school year begins, we wanted to remind ATLA Institutional Members that they are eligible to participate in the ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program (<https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/Pages/Reciprocal-Borrowing-Initiative.aspx>), an arrangement between participating North American Members to grant check-out privileges to each other's patrons/students.

It's as easy as a student walking into a participating library, showing proof of current enrollment at another participating library, and checking out materials based on the library's local lending policies.

If you are already a participant, promote this program to your new students by downloading the marketing materials, including posters and bookmarks. You may download the materials here (<https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/Pages/Reciprocal-Borrowing-Initiative.aspx>). We also have a map of libraries (<https://batchgeo.com/map/bd1ab19ef812bd0d7c2fc57e5eb28f7d>), which provides information on where students may check out materials.

Learn more about this program and join today (<https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/Pages/Reciprocal-Borrowing-Initiative.aspx>).

The Deadline for *Proceedings* Extended

With the new school year in full swing, we understand that your schedule has become exponentially busier. As such, we have extended the deadline for the 2016 *Summary of Proceedings*.

Submit your 2016 ATLA Annual Conference presentations and/or committee and group reports for the 2016 *Summary of Proceedings* by Friday, September 30.

Step 1: Read the instructions [Proceedings Instructions.pdf](#)

Step 2: Email files to memberrep@atla.com

Step 3: *New* Post your presentation, including PowerPoint, handouts, etc., directly onto SCHED. [Follow the instructions here](#). Please note: these files will not be included in the 2016 Proceedings.

Those encouraged to make submissions to the Proceedings include:

- Conversation group facilitators
- Denominational Group secretaries
- Interest Group speakers and secretaries
- Listen and Learn speakers
- Panel discussion presenters
- Paper/presentation speakers
- Plenary speakers
- Pre-conference workshop presenters
- Posters
- Regional Group secretaries
- Worship Leaders

If you have any questions please e-mail memberrep@atla.com.

Announcing Additions to ATLA Products – August 2016

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is pleased to announce the addition of titles now available in *ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®)*.

New indexing titles in *ATLA RDB*

- *Christian Higher Education* by Taylor & Francis
- *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church* by Routledge
- *Journal of Beliefs & Values* by Routledge
- *Journal of Jewish Education* by Taylor & Francis
- *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* by Routledge
- *Helmántica* by Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca
- *International Journal of Islamic Thought* by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
- *Lectionary Homiletics* [ceased] by Luther Seminary
- *Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi Dergisi* by Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi
- *Historical Papers* by Canadian Society of Church History

[Read the full press release here.](#)