



Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary Library, Denver, CO. Photo by Brenda Bailey-Hainer

From the President

Meeting needs



In his book, *Why Read?* (Bloomsbury, 2004), Mark Edmundson offers a critique of information technology and its ability to meet the most pressing needs of faculty and students, particularly the use of “computers” to support research

in the humanities. Quoting Marshall McLuhan, Edmundson argues that professors and librarians have shaped electronic tools, which are now shaping us to give central importance to research and the compilation of information regarding “the facts” of history, and biography, and theory. This technological focus on information about historical and critical contexts is, Edmundson argues, impoverishing the transformative search for personal meaning and contemporary significance in literature: “the result is to suspend reflection about the differences among wisdom, knowledge, and information” (15). Edmundson concludes that our information technologies are disabling professors and their institutions from challenging and transforming the ideas and beliefs of students, because “there is only information.”

Perhaps, like me, you want to debate this line of reasoning, or to know more about Edmundson’s answers to the question of how information technologies meet, or don’t meet, the needs of our library users. It is, of course, the type of question that librarians often ask regarding the relevance of research tools, (whether digital or not), and their capacity to address the needs and problems of our library clientele. It is also a question that is central to ATLA’s identity, seen, for example, in a number of ATLA’s [organizational ends](#), including End 2.1: “Excellent research tools supporting the study of religion and theology are created *to meet the needs* of libraries, librarians, scholars, students, clergy, and laypeople” (emphasis added). Looking ahead to the schedule for our annual conference, it seems likely that this question will also emerge in sessions on research tools and our diverse clientele, e.g. faculty authors, evangelical students, and clergy. I look forward to hearing your voice in these conversations!

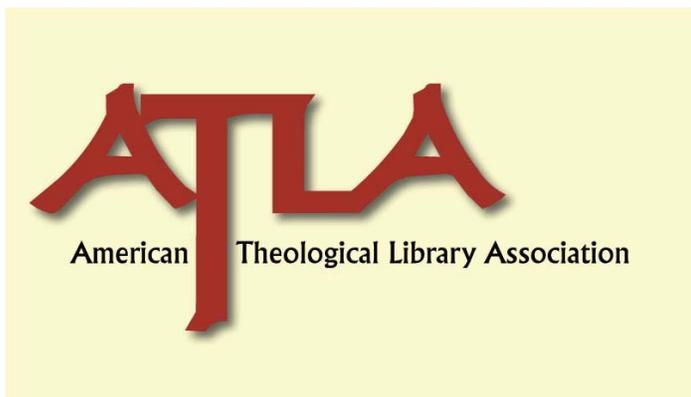
--John B. Weaver

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SharePoint Upgrade

Starting Friday April 20th, ATLA will begin the process of upgrading the ATLA website to SharePoint 2010. The upgrade process will last five days. During this period the ATLA website will be read only. On Wednesday April 25th the ATLA website will again function normally.



2012 Annual Conference - Scottsdale, AZ

Early Bird Registration Deadline

The early bird registration deadline is May 18. [Register now by clicking here](#). Registrations made after this date will increase by \$50.

Two Ways to Save on Conference Costs

Travel Grants

ATLA is pleased to offer grants of up to \$750 each to support attendance at the conference. Any ATLA Student or Individual Member who receives no financial assistance from their institution to attend the conference is eligible to apply. You may apply for a travel grant until April 17, 2012. Visit www.atla.com/Members/conference to apply. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis and approved recipients will be notified on or before Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Recipients must register for the conference before May 1, 2012, and will be required to stay at the conference hotel.

Member Product Loyalty Program Rewards

ATLA Members can be proud of the distinguished line of resources produced by the Association. In turn, ATLA is proud to sponsor the Member Product Loyalty Program. This member benefit is designed to recognize and reward our current Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate Members who demonstrate their loyalty to ATLA through subscription to both the *ATLA Religion Database*® (*ATLA RDB*®) and *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®).

How it works: ATLA reserves a portion of funds garnered from product sales for distribution to eligible member sites. This year a maximum of \$300 per eligible site is available to be re-invested into ATLA Member Programs. Redeemable loyalty benefits include:

- a total of \$300 toward ATLA conference registration (maximum three registrations), OR
- up to \$300 toward one year of individual membership (maximum two memberships), OR
- a \$300 gift to the Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund.

The deadline to apply and redeem your benefits of the Member Product Loyalty Program is Friday, May 18, 2012. Please complete the form available [here](http://www.atla.com/Members/benefits/projects/Pages/Member-Loyalty-Program.aspx). (<http://www.atla.com/Members/benefits/projects/Pages/Member-Loyalty-Program.aspx>)

Reserve Your Room by June 1

The hotel rates for the Hyatt Regency Resort and



A desert retreat · ATLA 2012 Annual Conference · Scottsdale · June 27 - 30
Hosted by Theological Library Cooperative of Arizona (TLCA)

Spa at Gainey Ranch are \$145 per night - single/double occupancy. Conference rates at the hotel expire after Friday, June 1. For your convenience, [click here for the Passkey link to secure your room\(s\) online](#). If you have questions regarding your reservations, please call 1.888.421.1442.

Conference Excursion

Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect of the 20th Century

Considered by many the greatest American architect of the twentieth century, if not of all time, Frank Lloyd Wright's creatively designed structures dot the American landscape. Over more than 70 years he drew up plans for a prodigious number of works, totaling 1141. These included an assortment of structures: homes, churches, schools, libraries, bridges, and museums in addition to other types of buildings.

Wright is noted for distinguishing himself from European and other foreign styles of architecture. His originality made for an American style of architecture that he believed reflected America's democratic ideals and values. Wright desired to free Americans from Victorian "boxes" so he designed rooms that were more open and flowed into one another. His architecture was "organic." The building had to flow from its natural setting so it would fit in with its environment and harmonize with its inhabitants. Wright coined the word Usonian when referring to this distinctively American architecture.

Much can be written here of Wright's architectural style, but to really understand his greatness and his genius you need to see it firsthand. There will be an excursion to visit Taliesin West (see above picture) this June at the ATLA conference. For more information on this and other excursions, visit the excursions page on the [conference website](#). We hope to see you there!

2012 Annual Conference - Scottsdale, AZ

How Can ATLA Serve Ministry Education?

Seminaries and seminary libraries face broad understandings of what ministry is, and high expectations to provide resources which help make clergy and congregational leaders successful in these vocations. For that reason, we're inviting members interested in the changing role of seminary libraries in pastoral education to join us at the ATLA Annual Conference for the "Exploring ATLA's role in Developing Research Tools for Clergy and Laypeople" conversation group, Thursday, June 28, at 10:30 a.m. We'll be discussing what new or improved services ATLA can provide in order to ensure that seminaries have the best possible resources to offer their students and alumni. If you are interesting in participating, please be sure to register for this conversation group at the [ATLA conference website](#).

Calling All Singers: Participate in the Conference Choir!

The ATLA Singers, a small volunteer choir that sings at one of the conference worship services, is looking for new members to swell its ranks, particularly individuals with some choir experience, blending voices (and the technique to control vibrato, if any), and some ability to read music. The music is sent out to singers so that they have the opportunity to learn it ahead of the limited rehearsal time at the conference. If you would like to join, please contact the choir director, Ellen Frost, at efrost@smu.edu. Past singers, please be sure to resubmit your name to ensure that you'll receive the music ahead of time.

ATLA Calendar

April

- 11-13: Catholic Library Association (CLA) Annual Convention, Boston, MA - Deborah Winarski attending
- 17: Deadline to apply for Travel Grant
- 22-24: International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) Meeting, Denver, CO - Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending

May

- 1: Submissions for June ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 18: Deadline to redeem Member Product Loyalty Program benefits
- 18: Early Bird Registration deadline for ATLA 2012 Conference
- 18-19: Second International Conference on Information & Religion, Kent State University, Kent, OH - Rick Rybak and Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 28: ATLA office closed in observance of Memorial Day

June

- 1: Submissions for July ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 1: Housing deadline for ATLA 2012 Annual Conference
- 22-26: American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA - Margot Lyon and Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 26: ATLA Board of Directors meeting, Scottsdale, AZ
- 27-30: ATLA 2012 Annual Conference, Scottsdale, AZ

Member News

Retirees Wanted!

Did you retire during the past year or are you planning to retire before June 30? Please send your information to newsletter@atla.com so you can be recognized in the newsletter and at the ATLA Annual Conference.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, May 7, 2012. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 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.

Upcoming Board Nominations

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. Information on the process and a list of qualifications for board members may be found in the Bylaws of the Association (see Article 4) and the ATLA Board Policy Manual (pp. 24-29) (<http://www.atla.com/community/Pages/default.aspx>). Be sure to review this information before forwarding your suggestions to the committee. 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, 2012 to H.D. Sandy Ayer (sayer@ambrose.edu), Joanna Hause (samkimo@hotmail.com), or Armin Siedlecki (asiedle@emory.edu).

Job Postings Online

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

Several positions have been posted this month:

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, California, is seeking qualified applicants for an immediate opening as the [Reference and Instruction Librarian](#).

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri, announces an opening for [Head of Acquisitions](#) to begin on August 1, 2012.

New Life Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC, seeks a committed and devoted [Head Librarian](#) with strong leadership skills who desires to affect the Lord's Kingdom by helping students prepare for Christian ministry.

Retirement at Columbia Theological Seminary

Sara J. Myers has announced that she will retire as Director of the John Bulow Campbell Library at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, effective June 30, 2012. At its March meeting, the Columbia Board of Trustees voted to name her Professor Emerita of Theological Bibliography upon her retirement.



Board Members Elected for 2012-2015

The following candidates have been elected to serve a three-year term (2012-2015) on the ATLA Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the membership of the Board Secretary's report at the 2012 Annual Conference: H.D. Sandy Ayer, Carrie M. Hackney, Timothy D. Lincoln, and Melody Layton McMahan.

The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors express their thanks to all candidates who appeared on the slate and for their many efforts on behalf of the Association.

-Carrie M. Hackney, Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors



Clockwise from top left: H.D. Sandy Ayer, Carrie M. Hackney, Timothy D. Lincoln, Melody Layton McMahan.

Florida Theological Library Association Conference

By Philip O'Neill

On Thursday, March 15, 2012 the Florida Theological Library Association (FTLA) held its annual conference. The host site was Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida. Nine theological librarians attended representing Barry University, Reformed Theological Seminary, the University of South Florida, and Southeastern University. Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Executive Director of the American Theological Library Association, also participated.

Our featured speaker was Rev. Dr. Richard C. Harris, Assistant Professor of General Communications, Southeastern University. His presentation "One Nation Under CURSE -- A chilling journey into the highest ranks of America's oldest terrorist organization and back out to freedom" was an account of Harris' membership in the Ku Klux Klan as a young man. He later experienced a religious conversion and has spent his entire life fighting against racial injustice.

Philip O'Neill, President of FTLA and Coordinator for Theological Resource at Barry University, led a roundtable discussion entitled "Theological Librarianship in Florida: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow."

Grace Veach, Dean of Library Services, and Joanna Hause, Technical Services Librarian, both of Southeastern University, were generous hosts, whose efforts were indispensable in making this event a great success. Brenda Bailey-Hainer's advice to FTLA was invaluable.



Front Row, Left to Right: Joanna Hause, Southeastern University; Marilyn Burke, University of South Florida; Laura Armstrong, Reformed Theological Seminary. Back Row, Left to Right: John Muether, Reformed Theological Seminary; Glenn Pearl, Southeastern University; Philip M. O'Neill, Barry University; Michael Farrell, Reformed Theological Seminary (photo by Brenda Bailey-Hainer)

ATLA Consortia Negotiations Begin this Month

ATLA is in the process of working with EBSCO Publishing and OCLC, Inc. on renewal and pricing for the ATLA EBSCO Consortium and the ATLA OCLC Consortium. The ATLA Wilson Consortium will be absorbed into the ATLA EBSCO Consortium since EBSCO Publishing acquired HW Wilson and its product line last year. Institutions that participated last year in any of the three consortia will be contacted directly later in April. If your institution did not participate in the past and you have questions about your eligibility or would like a price quote, please contact: consortia@atla.com.

Contact Information

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

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From the Executive Director

Keeping ATLA Healthy

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently published an article on the future of disciplinary associations: "[Scholarly Groups' Choices Yield Diverging Fortunes.](#)" According to Pauline Yu, president of the [American Council of Learned Societies](#), the business model of disciplinary societies has traditionally been a combination of three major funding sources: annual meetings, journal publications, and membership dues. While ATLA's revenue streams have become more diverse over the years, the association itself has some of the same concerns described in the article.

1) Aging of the membership. Based on member responses to a 2010 ATLA Member Profile Survey, 46% of members were age 55 or older and nearly 27% indicated that they planned to retire within 9 years or less. Only 13% indicated they were age 34 or younger. This reflects, in part, the educational requirement for theological librarians which is often a minimum of two masters' degrees, but it also raises awareness of the continuing need to recruit newly minted theological librarians to membership in ATLA.

2) Attendance at annual meetings has been impacted by a reduction in institutional support for professional development. Member attendance at the ATLA Annual Conference peaked in recent years at 284 in both 2006 and 2007, immediately prior to the economic downturn. After a low turnout of 217 in 2008, member attendance gradually increased back up to 249 in 2011. ATLA has been fortunate in its ability to offer conference Travel Grants to attendees whose institutions do not provide travel funding, thus keeping our attendance higher than it otherwise might have been.

But a third area in which ATLA resembles other disciplinary associations profiled in the article is a positive one: 3) Societies with comparatively robust revenues benefit from online scholarly database income. Like the American Economic Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Modern Language Association, ATLA derives a significant portion of its revenue from the online scholarly databases it produces. The revenue from these databases helps ATLA continue to provide valuable programs and services for members, including the annual conference, ATLA Serials Exchange (ASE), Creating Leaders of Tomorrow, group purchasing discounts, and support for Theological Librarianship as an open access publication.

However, the health of an association is not determined solely by its finances. A continual influx of new members to replace those retiring, with active participation from members at all stages of their careers, is needed to keep an association robust. A major aspect of [ATLA's mission](#) is to enhance the development of theological and religious studies libraries and librarianship. Joining ATLA and remaining an active participant is a critical contribution that each of you can make to ensure ATLA remains a vibrant organization.

Help ATLA continue to thrive as a disciplinary association by keeping your institution's membership - and your own --current, attending the annual conference, being active in ATLA's governance, and recruiting your colleagues to join ATLA. ATLA's future health depends on it.

--Brenda Bailey-Hainer