



Above: A view from the grounds of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS). Photo courtesy LPTS.



Thanks to our April sponsor:
<http://www.shu.edu/academics/setonworldwide/institute-for-librarians-in-catholic-institutions.cfm>

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Board Members Elected for 2010-13



Left to right: Andrew Keck, Sandra Lipton, Blake Walter, and John Weaver

The following candidates have been elected to serve a three-year term (2010-2013) on the ATLA Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the membership of the Board Secretary's report at the 2010 Annual Conference: Andrew Keck, Sandra Lipton, Blake Walter, and John Weaver. 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.

-Eileen Crawford, Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors



"How Do You Manage?" Revisited

A month ago I raised a friendly question regarding what management resources people had found helpful. My assumption was that others had found their MLIS courses in this line to be as uneven as I had (I remain puzzled at the "A" grade I received, lacking any sense of having learned anything useful).

What I gleaned from more than a dozen responses to the question I promised to post to ATLANTIS was both surprising (happily, many people had found their required courses to be much more helpful) and not so surprising (what people find useful they have picked up from mentors, from dedicated workshops or seminars, from their own reading, and from experience.)

This inquiry has reinforced a few useful principles for me:

- While valuable in its own way, what we know when we start out is usually less important than our capacity to learn as we go;
- We can (as Yogi Berra put it) "observe a lot just by watching"-- there's no substitute for good models and mentors when it comes to running things well.
- "Good" management has a lot of different faces, according to the context where it is needed.

Another good reminder of the benefits of being a learning community.

Cheers,

David R. Stewart



From the Executive Director

Several recent stories about the disagreement between Google and China mentioned that the Chinese website <http://www.baidu.com> had twice as many users as Google in China. I decided to search baidu to see if there were any references to ATLA. I was pleased to find a significant number of entries for our Association and also for ATLASerials. There is a strong and growing interest in religion in China, and I'm pleased that it manifests itself, in part, by references to ATLA on the officially approved Chinese search engine. I'd be interested in hearing from ATLA members about other national search engines where they have found references to our Association or our products.

-Dennis A. Norlin

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

Member News

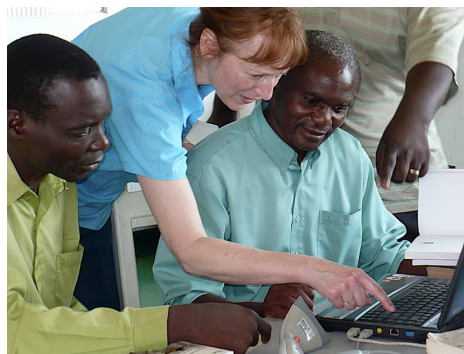
Professional Development Committee Conference Call
The Professional Development Committee met via conference call on March 9-10.



Committee members include Christina Torbert and Seth Kasten (above, seated) and Timothy Lincoln, Chair, and Ellen Frost. Professional Development Committee

New Library Established

"Thanks to Melody Mazuk, librarian at Eastern University's Palmer Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA, and Eileen Crawford, librarian at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, TN, a respectable library has been established at Zambia International Theological College (ZITC)," said the college's principal, Nelson Hayashida.



Above: Eileen Crawford and ZITC library staff.

"They came March 8 and spent five intensive days at our campus in Kalulushi. Melody and Eileen were joined by our own librarian, Rev. George Zulu,

and two student librarians, Rev. Peter Mwewa and Rev. Frank Sungubele," Nelson explained. Together with his wife, Sandra, and himself, "We seven worked day and night to be trained in the intricate and precise details of putting our theological resources on the shelves. In order to do so, bar codes and Library of Congress labels were meticulously placed on each book, and training in accessioning books onto the database took place."

Congratulations to our two ATLA members and their colleagues on a job well done! Be sure to visit <http://www.zambiaitc.org> for more information on the college. You can view more photos of the project here.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, May 3, 2010. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE, ListServe and the ATLA Websites. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

ATLA Staff News

New Director of Financial Services, Marie Jacobsen, assumed her duties on Monday, April 5. Ms. Jacobsen has a long history of working with non-profit associations in Chicago, extensive experience with Great Plains (our new accounting software) and FRX (the reporting tools that go with Great Plains). Please join us in welcoming her to ATLA.

From the Professional Development Committee

Professional Development in Wonderland: Running Twice as Fast



If there are theological librarians who like to go to work content in the knowledge that what they do tomorrow will be the same as they have been doing for the past decade--they must be an unhappy group. At the spring teleconference meeting of your association's Professional Development Committee, we

discussed training for members to participate in Name Authority Cooperative Program of the Library of Congress (NACO) and looked ahead to the successor standards for AACR2, dubbed Resource Description & Access (RDA). We also talked about mounting a member-developed reference module on ATLA's soon-to-be-deployed website.

Theological librarians who go to work content in the knowledge that tomorrow will bring new challenges like standards that can describe electronic resources and shifting economic models for print and electronic resources--they must be a happy group.

I looked at course descriptions recently for elective classes in the master's program at the School of Information of The University of Texas at Austin. In one course, students learn about "human-computer interaction, understanding client groups, information filters, information literacy and information-seeking behavior, as well as user studies and usability testing." When I was in library school, we did discuss where the on/off switch was on computers, but not human-computer interaction--and certainly not usability testing. North American libraries today assume that we connect with needed information through networked computers. We know that requiring "too many clicks" will discourage users from getting to the information that they want. Things change.

In *Through the Looking Glass*, the Red Queen says "Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!" Theological librarians understand that our users want to get somewhere else. We need to get to somewhere else to assist them. Thus, there is a continued role for professional development. If there are ways that the professional development committee can assist you in getting from here to there, let us know. We are runners, too.

- Tim Lincoln, Chair

Local Host Committee

Spring Fever Means Baseball in Louisville

We have spring fever in Louisville. The winter of our discontent (we know it wasn't anything like the winters elsewhere) is made glorious spring at Slugger Field, home of the Louisville River Bats. We are a little over two weeks from opening day of the 2010 baseball season for our field team of the Cincinnati Reds, and even non-baseball fans are excited.

You already know about Louisville as the greatest baseball city because of the Louisville Slugger. The wood used to make these bats has not taken any performance enhancing drugs and its legacy stands untarnished. Please visit the Slugger Museum (<http://www.sluggermuseum.org/>) at 8th and Main Street while you are here.

We've also planned an evening excursion for you to attend a game of the Louisville River Bats, a triple-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. Register for the conference and the excursion on the official conference website: http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2010/conference_home.html.

Another baseball attraction is the Walk of Fame that honors players inducted into the Louisville Slugger Hall of Fame by the placement of replicas of their bats along Main Street from the Slugger Museum and Factory at 8th and Main going east to the Slugger Field. Visit <http://imgserver.cms2005.com/imgServer/137269/WalkFame%20Brochure.pdf> for a detailed list of players and locations of their bats.

For the true baseball fans there's even more: Louisville was the home of Pee Wee Reese, a National Hall of Fame player. A statue of Reese stands in front of the Main entrance to Slugger Field. See photos of Slugger Field, Pee Wee Reese's statue, and Hank Aaron's plate on the Walk of Fame at the Facebook event (<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=89900927644>).

Some final thoughts:

Baseball is the right excursion for the association as we come "home" to Louisville. A. Bartlett Giamatti, former baseball commissioner, saw in baseball a metaphor for life--and for home. He said, "Baseball is about going home and how hard it is to get there and how driven is our need. It tells us how good home is. Its wisdom says you can go home again but that you cannot stay. The journey must always start once more, the bat and oar over the shoulder, until there is an end to all journeying."

Best,
Bruce Kiesling, Local Host Committee

ATLA 2010 Annual Conference

News and Updates



Momentum is Building

We anticipate that the conference in Louisville will be well-attended. To date, 125 participants have signed up for their choice of the wide range of papers, roundtables, panel presentations, and excursions on offer. Be sure to register now and save space for your 2010 conference experience.

Come Early for Free Professional Development

This year, there are no extra fees to attend the Preconference Workshops. Join us on Wednesday morning, June 16, and learn about archives, copyright use, original cataloging, and other useful topics.

Pick Your Excursions

This year's local hosts have made it easy for you to sample the greatest sights, sounds, and tastes that Louisville has to offer. With excursions ranging from baseball to fossils, from Merton to bourbon and fine dining, and from Churchill Downs to Victorian architecture, you're sure to be entertained and enlightened in this fair city.

So--don't wait! You can register for the conference, the sessions, and the excursions through the official conference website at http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2010/conference_home.html

Member Loyalty Program--Free Conference Registrations

The American Theological Library Association is proud to support the Member Loyalty Program to thank our current Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate members for your involvement in ATLA as members and customers. 88 member libraries have registered and are sending 78 staff to Louisville.

During these challenging economic times, we hope this program will allow you to attend the upcoming 2010 Annual Conference if cost has been holding you back.

We have extended the member loyalty program registration until the conference to accommodate

members who would like to attend and are managing tight budgets-- all you need to do is complete the form available here. Your registration will be confirmed and you will be invited at that time to redeem the loyalty benefit of your choice. Please note that loyalty benefits are not transferable.

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

Travel Grants for 2010 Conference

Generous gifts to ATLA from corporate and member donors make it possible for us to offer grants of up to \$500 each to support attendance at the conference. Just as we did last year, we have expanded the program to provide additional grants for any ATLA student and individual member who receives no financial assistance from their institutions to attend the conference.

You may apply for a travel grant until April 16, 2010. Simply contact Barbara Kemmis by email (bkemmis@atla.com) to express your interest. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis and winners will be notified on or before April 23, 2010. Applicants not selected to receive a grant will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted if a selected recipient cancels. If you are chosen to receive a grant, Barbara will contact you by email and you must be prepared to register for the conference shortly thereafter. In the interest of privacy, we will not announce the names of the recipients; however, we will announce that grants have been made.

ATLA values all our members. We hope that this support will allow those of you who might not otherwise be able to attend the conference to join your colleagues in Louisville.

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

Impact of EBSCO Announcement on the ATLA/EBSCO Publishing Consortia

An important announcement was made on March 17 by EBSCO reporting the acquisition of NetLibrary and licensing of several FirstSearch databases from OCLC. ATLA staff have worked very closely with OCLC over the course of the past month regarding the recent transfer of database licensing to EBSCO. FAQs here http://support.epnet.com/uploads/kb/faq_documentnetlibraryfirstsearch_march_2010.pdf (Pages 1 and 7-13 focus on the FirstSearch databases) and here <http://www.oclc.org/firstsearch/content/questions/> provide many answers to questions you might have.

You'll find the press release at <http://www.ebscohost.com/uploads/thisTopic-dbTopic-1418.pdf>

There are still outstanding questions to be answered specifically regarding the ATLA/OCLC and ATLA/EBSCO Publishing consortia, and we are working with OCLC and EBSCO staff to answer them in order to continue the consortia negotiations. I would like to pass along member feedback and questions to our OCLC and EBSCO representatives, so please continue to communicate with us so that we may best serve you. Should you wish to comment, please email (bkemmis@atla.com) or phone me at 888/665-2852.

EBSCO Offer

EBSCO Offers Free Trials to ATLA Members for Historical Monographs Collections

EBSCO has partnered with ATLA to provide new collections of historical monographs and serials in digital format. ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: 19th Century, (<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=1152>) ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Early 20th Century (<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=1153>) and ATLA Historical Serials Collection (forthcoming) consists of digital versions of rare and historical primary sources.

The monograph collections contain more than 29,000 monographs covering religion and theology. The majority of the monographs date from 1850 through 1923 with the earliest monograph from 1322. The monograph collections are estimated to include 7.5 million pages of content. The historical serials collection will contain more than 1,200 serials from the early 19th Century to the early 20th Century and are estimated to include 5.4 million pages of content.

With each collection, researchers can view all of the typography, graphics, and drawings as they were originally presented. EBSCO enables libraries to purchase ownership of each collection rather than provide leased access which is required with subscription-based databases. Digital archive products are typically sold as "static" collections for a one-time purchase price with an annual maintenance fee. EBSCO provides access via its EBSCOhost® interface, one of the most-used research platforms available.

EBSCO is offering ATLA members free trial access to the ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 1 (13th Century to 1893) and ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 2 (1894 to 1923) through June 30, 2010. If you are interested in participating in this free trial, please send an email to memberrep@atla.com with the following information before April 15, 2010:

Site name; Address; Contact name; Phone number; Email address; trial set up on "main" profile or on a separate trial profile

For sales information, please contact your EBSCO representative directly.

ATLA Calendar

April

- 1 Submissions for iMay ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 6-8 Barbara Kemmis at Catholic Library Association Convention in Minneapolis

May

- 1 Submissions for June/July ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 31 ATLA office closed for Memorial Day holiday

June

- 16-19 ATLA 2010 Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky

Winter 2010 Library Tour A Visit to Denver



Colorado members served up lovely spring weather for my recent visit to their campuses. I started my visits at St. John Vianney Seminary with a tour of the Cardinal Stafford Library and campus led by Stephen Sweeney and Tamara Conley. I ended the day with the staff of Iliff School of Theology: Laura Harris, Alice Runis, Katie Fisher, Debbie Creamer, and Mary Olson (below, l to r).



Friday dawned clear and sunny and tour of the lovely Denver Seminary campus hosted by Keith Wells (above), Lisa Grover, Charlotte Nutter, and Tom Jacobs, as well as several friendly student workers. A quick jaunt west toward the

mountains, and I was greeted by the staff of Colorado Christian University, Gayle Gunderson, Tracey Lane, and Karen Neville.

On Saturday, I drove to Boulder to have breakfast with lifetime members, Elmer and Betty O'Brien (below). Betty showed off the library she's organized in their retirement community, and our conversation ranged from historical ATLA topics to the future work of the Endowment Committee on which Elmer serves.



I drove to Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's Rocky Mountain Campus for a tour and visit with Barbara Russo before convening the whole Denver regional group at a luncheon on St. John Vianney's campus. Ivan Gaetz of Regis University and ATLA lifetime member David McWhirter and his wife, Diane, joined us for lunch. Conversation ranged far and wide, from local professional development opportunities to the joys and perils of implementing new ILS systems, which several schools face. Luncheon discussion closed with sharing about strategies for delivering online and in-person research and library discussion.

Thank you to all for welcoming me so warmly and tolerating my amateur photography efforts.

—Barbara Kemmis
Director of Member Services

Salary Survey

Now Available in SharePoint for Members Only

ATLA is pleased to present the first ATLA Salary and Benefits Survey which attempts to benchmark compensation in the field of theological librarianship. We hope this will prove to be an important member benefit by providing data for your future budgeting and human resource planning.

Log-in to the member publications section of the SharePoint Communities site to find a summary of the survey results. The introduction and the section on methodology will help provide a detailed explanation of how the results were organized and some direction for maximizing their utility. Be aware that the attached document is a summary only. Should you wish to see different views of the data or more specific figures, contact Director of Member Services Barbara Kemmis at bkemmis@atla.com and she will be happy to supply customized views.

We encourage you to share any feedback you may have. The volunteers and staff learned a lot in the process of designing and implementing this survey and hope to improve it in future iterations.

Have You Heard?

Visiting Scholars and Ministers Fellowships at Bridwell Library
Bridwell Library is accepting applications for the 2010/2011 Visiting Scholars and Ministers Fellowships. Six one-month fellowships, including a \$3,000 stipend, will be awarded. The program is open to all active scholars from Ph.D. students to retired professors, and to religious leaders of all faiths. Deadline for applications is Saturday, May 1, 2010. Visit <http://smu.edu/bridwell/methodiststudies/fellowships.htm> for more information.

Westminster John Knox Press Discount

Get a 25% Discount with Westminster John Knox Press's Standing Order Program

As publishers, Westminster John Knox Press truly values your institution and the critical role you play in providing theological resources to your community. To show our appreciation, we offer a Library Standing Order Program designed to save you both time and money. We offer several ordering options, including affordable subscription plans and a 25% discount. Please visit our Web site at <http://www.wjkbooks.com/atla> to view our catalog of spring 2010 academic titles. At the top of the page, you'll find a link to Library Standing Order Program details. For those of you who already participate in the program, this site includes a bibliography of academic titles that will ship as soon as they become available.

Planned Power Outage at ATLA Office

The building where the ATLA office is located will be undergoing a large electrical infrastructure upgrade this month, from Saturday April 10th 3:00PM (CDT) to Sunday, April 11th 8:00PM (CDT). The upgrade will necessitate a power outage for an extended period of time.

Web Services

During the outage, ATLA's web services will be temporarily suspended due to a proactive shutdown. We plan to have our services back online Sunday, April 11th at 8:00PM CDT. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Email

During the outage, all incoming email will be stored at a third party location. Once the system comes back up on Sunday night, those emails will be downloaded to staff inboxes.

Phone System

During this 28 - 30 hour period, telephone callers will receive a busy signal. Phone service will be the final thing suspended and the first thing restored.

Catholic Reference Resource McCabe for the 21st Century

The Roman Catholic Denominational Group of the American Theological Library Association is pleased to announce a new resource that will benefit the theological library community. Catholic Reference Resources (<http://cathrefbooks.wikidot.com/>) is a wiki that provides global open access to information about print and online reference resources in Catholic studies.

The first phase of the project, completed in 2009, involved scanning and editing the text *Critical Guide to Catholic Reference Books*, by James Patrick McCabe (3rd ed., Libraries Unlimited, 1989). We are grateful to Mr. McCabe and the publisher for permission to reproduce the work. The scanned text was then edited and formatted into a wiki. The wiki is set up to search by keyword, or by the subchapters and groupings outline used in the print edition. The user may search all words by using the "Search This Site" box in the upper right corner, or browse the chapters and subchapters by clicking on "Contents" on the top bar or side bar. Breadcrumbs link each entry to related entries. The "Find a Copy" link takes the user to the WorldCat record for the resource.

The next phase is to update existing entries with newer editions and online editions, as well as to add resources that have been written or created since McCabe was last published in 1989. We welcome participation by anyone who has an interest. Please contact Melody McMahan (mmcmahon@ctu.edu) if you would like to be a contributor.

The idea for the project was developed by Lorraine Olley, Laura Olejnik, Ron Crown, Cait Kokolus, and Melody McMahan. Cait scanned the text of the book and Lorraine managed copyright permission. Members of the RC denominational group have been taking subchapters of the text, correcting the OCR copy and doing some basic editing. Thanks to Lisa Gonzalez for having the idea to add the "Find a Copy" with the permalink to WorldCat. Stephen Sweeney served as an assistant administrator. Several people went way beyond the call of duty and edited and proofread like crazy: Tony Amodeo, Kristof DeCoorne, Kathy Harty, Elyse Hayes, Dan Kolb, and Andre Paris.

ATLA Newsletter Contact Information:
Sara Corkery, Communications Specialist
scorkery@atla.com • 888.665.2852

Report from Abroad

Libraries and Birding in Asia and Africa



Above: Sandy Ayer (third from right) and the library staff in Manila.

In February 2009, I made my first-ever trip to Asia. It came at the invitation of reSource Ministries International, an organization dedicated to supporting theological education in the developing world. My assignment was to spend five days evaluating the libraries of three seminaries in metro Manila for the purpose of helping reSource determine future library-related funding priorities in the city. I enjoyed getting to know the libraries and their staff, even though I had to work hard to get my preliminary reports done on time for the afternoon debriefing sessions with administrators.

Fortunately, I had no jet lag thanks in part to the No-Jet-Lag® herbal pills I popped every two hours on the flight over. I also had a morning of birding at Mount Makiling, one of the prime birding hotspots in the country, to look forward to on the final day of my stay.

The libraries in question were all well-run by well-qualified and dedicated Filipinas, each of whom had an MLS, and one of whom had a Ph.D. All had faculty status. Each library had a high-quality collection of about 40,000 books, but nothing in the way of electronic resources. (Of course, I recommended that all three acquire the *ATLA Religion Indexes* with *ATLASerials*®). All used computers for most of their operations; two had wireless internet access; one even had an electronic security system; but none had an integrated library system.

All three libraries were filled to capacity, and all had very lean collections, so none could gain much space by weeding. One (high-ceilinged) library had tried to solve its space problem by installing ten-foot-high ranges. To reach the upper shelves staff and patrons must rely on portable wheeled mini-staircases. Definitely not the most elegant solution. The most constricted of the three had resorted to two-foot-wide aisles. It also had the misfortune of being situated in a basement that leaks during the monsoon season, and so it was no wonder that it sustained considerable water damage during the typhoon that recently inundated Manila.

Each staff was adept at maximizing available resources, but the prime example of their resourcefulness had to be their way of getting their American book orders past the notoriously corrupt Filipino customs:

the balikbayan box. The box in question is an oversize cardboard affair of government-standard dimensions in which Filipinos living abroad are permitted to ship personal effects duty-free directly to an address in the Philippines. Each of the seminaries had ex-pat Filipino contacts in the U.S. with an ample supply of the boxes, so the librarians simply submitted their orders to American suppliers and had the books delivered to one of these contacts. Once they'd received enough books (around 100) to fill a balikbayan box, these intermediaries would take it to one of several Filipino-run shipping companies that specialize in transporting them. So, four or five times a year, each of the libraries would receive a bibliographical present of sorts.

The excursion to Mount Makiling turned out to be one of the most frustrating birding experiences I've ever had: three species seen and three heard. After three hours, I simply gave up in disgust.



Above: near Maduda, DRC, just after my host, Dr. Kenzo, our guides, and I had swatted our way through a swarm of ants

(I wish I could say lions) on a narrow mountain trail.

In late June, I spent 10 days in Boma, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), evaluating the library of la Faculté de Théologie Évangélique de Boma (FACTEB) at the invitation of Dr. Mabiala Kenzo, professor of systematic theology at Ambrose Seminary and rector of FACTEB. He's also the vice-president of the 1.2 million-member Communauté Évangélique de l'Alliance au Congo, and one of his many friends and relatives was always at my side: I never once feared for my safety in this troubled country. On my arrival in Kinshasa, two of his contacts met me on the tarmac, shepherded me through customs, and retrieved my baggage. One, an army chaplain with the rank of major, also accompanied me on my eight-hour taxi ride to Boma, so I even had a military escort of sorts.

The FACTEB Library is much smaller than its counterparts in Manila. It has only 3,800 books, and half of these are in English, a language that few Congolese can read. Yet it's one of the largest libraries in this city of 250,000. The outgoing librarian (who is working on a D.Min. and is soon to become Professor of Missions at the Seminary) had catalogued and classified the entire collection; and his successor, a Dutch missionary, had just finished entering the entire catalogue on Papyrus, an inexpensive European integrated library system that's apparently MARC-compatible. The library even had WIFI.

However, unlike its Manila counterparts, the FACTEB Library had no materials budget and was entirely dependent on occasional grants and gifts-in-kind for the few books it acquired--and donations of French language theological books are not easy to come by. To make matters worse,

corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency make it virtually impossible to import books into the DRC by conventional means. In fact, Dr. Kenzo has boxes of books sitting in his garage in Calgary that were returned to him by the shipping company through which he tried to send them from Europe to Boma. No balikbayan boxes here. As a result, the library must rely on "colporteurs," Congolese returning from abroad or overseas visitors willing to include a few books in their luggage.

FACTEB must also contend with frequent disruptions in internet access. For example, this spring the librarian had to drive two hours to another city to e-mail me my letter of invitation (a visa requirement) because of a hiatus in service that lasted two weeks. Unfortunately, all access is via dial-up connection, and so even when the internet is functioning properly many websites time out before FACTEB students can connect to them. Here's one instance where a CD-ROM version of the *ATLA Religion Indexes with ATLASerials* would come in handy. Power outages can also last more than two weeks; and even when the electricity is working, the current is so weak that light bulbs don't provide enough light to read by.

But the forecast is far from bleak: a German charity has provided seed money for the construction of a new library building; Ambrose Seminary has entered into a collaborative agreement with FACTEB; a new Calgary-based charity, the Friends of Boma, has undertaken some fundraising projects in aid of the seminary; and Congolese ingenuity and industriousness always finds ways of maximizing whatever support comes the seminary's way.

Those of you who know of my passion for birds are probably

wondering whether I got a chance to do some birding while I was in the DRC. Well, I certainly exploited every opportunity, although I managed to see only around 100 species in all. Some of the sightings were quite significant, however. Ironically the best--Cape Glossy Starling--occurred adjacent to the campus of FACTEB during an afternoon break from report-writing. I thought little of it at the time, but when I got home I discovered that no one had ever satisfactorily documented a sighting of this species in the DRC before. So I submitted a rarity report. It was (unofficially) accepted, and so the country list of bird species has unofficially increased from 1,040 species to 1,041. Actually, I had enough sightings of potential interest to science for an article. "Some Recent Observations of Birds and Bird Behaviour in Kinshasa and Bas-Congo Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo" has been sent to the referees, and if all goes well it will be published in the September 2010 issue of *Malimbus: Journal of West African Ornithology*.

I plan to return to the DRC in the summer of 2011, this time with a group of birder friends to do "service birding". Our goal will be to compile preliminary species lists for two wildlife refuges whose avifauna have yet to be surveyed.

This coming May, in a twist of modus operandi, I hope to drop in on three seminary libraries in San José, Costa Rica prior to participating in my first-ever guided birding trip. My host for the library portion of the visit will be longtime ATLA member Álvaro Pérez.

-H.D. Sandy Ayer