



atla  **Newsletter**

Volume 67

Issue 1

September 2019

This is a PDF version of the Atla Newsletter Digest. View the Atla blog at atla.com for the latest Atla news.

BACK

THE ENDS MAKE THE MISSION

BLOG POST

The Ends Make the Mission

by Stephen Sweeney, President 2019-2020 / September 06, 2019

Newsletter, From the President



*“I’d like to think that here and there,
When I am gone, there shall remain
A happier spot that might have not
Existed had I toiled for gain;...”*

That quote is from a poem entitled *Compensation* by Edgar A Guest (1881-1959). The poem captures the goal for which we strive as professionals engaged in librarianship and scholarly communication in theology and religion worldwide. Memorials at Atla Annual provide us the opportunity to remember colleagues who have worked tirelessly toward that end, while we who are still here continue to endeavor for the cause. You will find a similarly lofty goal in Atla’s mission statement “...to foster the study of theology and religion by enhancing the development of theological and religious studies libraries and librarianship.”

How are you striving toward that goal in your own institution? How can Atla continue to foster/encourage/strengthen you along your path? I welcome your comments on this topic. Toward the Mission and Ends of the Association <<https://www.atla.com/about/mission/>>, in mid-August, seven Board members, two Atla staff, and a Policy Governance coach came together in Denver to explore the intricacies of Policy Governance and how that works in practice for the Atla Board.

Starting with the premise that all organizations exist on someone's behalf and moving on to the role of the Board member in Atla's context, this annual training provides new and returning Board members the opportunity to learn and reflect on how excellent governance is practiced. The Board will then apply this learning at the October meeting.

As the Atla Board continues to aim for the goal inspired by the poem above, we will continue the work of governing the association. In so doing, we keep foremost in our minds the Mission and the Ends of our organization.

BACK

INSPIRATIONS AND INTERSECTIONS AROUND THE
WORLD

BLOG POST

Inspirations and Intersections Around the World

by Margot Lyon / September 04, 2019

Newsletter, From Staff Leadership



At the start of Atla's new fiscal year, I would like to offer a list of meaningful news articles and projects that inspired me over the past year related to libraries, archives, religion, and digital humanities. I also welcome your suggestions <<https://twitter.com/margotlyon>> on what news and projects have recently inspired and motivated you in your work.

Public Scholars Project <<https://www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/resources/psp/>>

The Public Scholars Project is a joint initiative of the American Academy of Religion (www.aarweb.org) and the Religious Freedom Center of the Freedom Forum Institute. Through seminars and other resources, the Public Scholars Project equips scholars of religion to effectively communicate in the public sphere and foster religious literacy. They offer a free archived and upcoming monthly webinars on such topics as Religious Studies and Pop Culture, Religious Studies and Hospitals, and Religious Studies, Native Americans, and the Free Exercise of Religion.

New Exhibit on Earlham College’s Relationship with Japanese Americans During WWII at Lilly Library

During the war, Earlham College worked in partnership with the American Friends Service Committee to enroll twenty-four students — five of whom graduated. More than 110,000 Japanese Americans living in the western interior of the United States were forcibly relocated by the United States government following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and other tensions resulting from the global conflict. Many Americans of Japanese descent lost their jobs, businesses, and property as a result of government policy. Earlham was one of only a handful of colleges and universities in the U.S. who agreed to enroll Japanese American students during the war.

Online Access to One of the World’s Oldest Buddhist Manuscripts

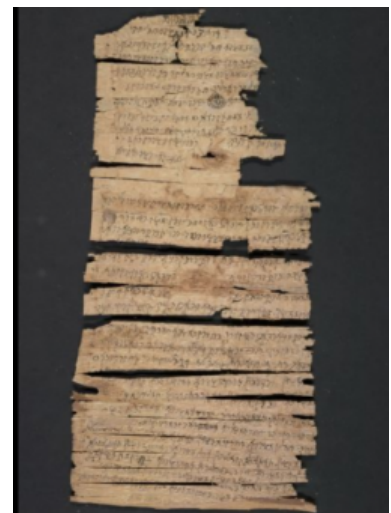
The Library of Congress has restored and made available online the Gandhara Scroll <<https://www.loc.gov/item/2018305008>>, a manuscript dating back to around the first century B.C., that offers insight into early Buddhist history. The scroll is one of the world’s oldest Buddhist manuscripts.

Build a Model to Transcribe Ancient Kuzushiji into Contemporary Japanese Characters

<<https://kaggle.com/c/kuzushiji-recognition>>

Can you build a model to transcribe ancient Japanese manuscripts into modern Japanese, and help unlock a billion historical documents? What was the weather like 500 years ago? What happened when Mt. Fuji erupted? How can one fold 100 cranes using only one piece of paper? The answers to these questions are in

those books. Japan has millions of books and over a billion historical documents such as personal letters or diaries preserved nationwide. Most of them cannot be read by the majority of Japanese people living today because they were written in “Kuzushiji,” an older cursive writing style. They are crowdsourcing help from machine learning experts.



Portion of the Gandhara scroll. Photo Credit: Library of Congress

Wikipedia: WikiProject 1000 Women in Religion

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/wikipedia:wikiproject_1000_women_in_religion>

This major initiative of the AAR/SBL’s Women’s Caucus is planning to add 1000 Women biographies in religion, theology, and wisdom traditions to Wikipedia, where only 17.49% of the entries are about women. Atla is proud to be a sponsor and supporter of this initiative, and some members and friends of Atla are actively involved.

The EAP254 Project Digitized Manuscripts Held by the Library of Romanat Qeddus Mika’el in Tigray, Ethiopia <<https://eap.bl.uk/project/eap254>>

This project aims to digitize the library in the church Romanat Qeddus Mikael Dabre Mehret, Enderta. The library possesses around seventy codices and includes several valuable manuscripts of high quality, some of them with illuminations and valuable marginalia. The collection builds an indigenous and integral local documentary archive in a region important for the history of Ethiopia.

The American Religious Sounds Project <<https://tricycle.org/trikedaily/religious-sounds-project/>>

What does religion in the United States sound like? This question animates the American Religious Sounds Project (ARSP) <<https://religioussounds.osu.edu/>> which aims to offer new resources for documenting and interpreting the diversity of American religious life by attending to its varied sonic cultures. To date, the

Project has centered on: (1) the construction of a unique sonic archive, documenting the diversity of everyday religious life through newly produced field recordings, interviews, oral histories, and related materials; and (2) the development of a digital platform and website, which draws on materials in our archive to engage users.



<<https://eap.bl.uk/project/eap254>>
Local priests, members of the community, and the representative of the Tigray Culture and Tourism Agency. Photo credit: British Library

Berlin's First Arabic-language Public Library Aims to Redefine Refugee Integration

<<http://ow.ly/dwxv30kss4x>>

The small collection is the first Arabic-language public library in Berlin and, according to its founders, the first-of-its-kind Arabic-language literary and cultural center in the German capital, which is now home to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees.

Sacred Spaces in 360 <<http://digitalchicagohistory.org/exhibits/show/digital-chicago-churches/sacred-spaces-introduction>>

This project, based out of Lake Forest College, features educational virtual reality walkthroughs of three of Chicagoland's historically and artistically important sacred sites: First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest, Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago, and St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Parish in Chicago.

Follow me at @margotlyon. <<https://twitter.com/margotlyon>>

BACK

TAKE SHORT DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY FOR ATLA
MEMBERS

BLOG POST

Take Short Demographic Survey for Atla Members

September 05, 2019

Newsletter

One of Atla's Core Values [<https://www.atla.com/vision-purpose-values/>](https://www.atla.com/vision-purpose-values/) continues to be "hospitality, inclusion, and diversity." To help inform the Board [<https://www.atla.com/about/board/>](https://www.atla.com/about/board/) and staff on diversity initiatives, we survey our members about their demographic information. View 2015 and 2017 results in the Members Only Content found in the My Atla web portal.

Help us benchmark our progress toward this important goal by filling out the 2019 demographic survey emailed to members in late August. We will also send out reminder emails in September up until the survey closes in mid-September. Thank you in advance for your participation.

The survey will only take five minutes to complete and will be anonymous. If you are an individual member and an official representative of your institution, you will receive two separate emails. Please fill out both of them since they are slightly different.

If you have any questions about the survey, contact us. [<https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/>](https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/)

BACK

ATLA COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE
APPOINTMENTS FOR 2019-2020

BLOG POST

Atla Committee and Task Force Appointments for 2019-2020

September 06, 2019

Newsletter, Committees

Much of the work accomplished toward meeting Atla's Organizational Ends <<https://www.atla.com/about/mission/>> is done by members who serve on committees and task forces. Our thanks go to those who are ending their terms and a warm welcome is extended to those who are beginning their service.

Thank you for your service:

Conference Committee

- ▼ Gerone Lockhart
- ▼ Robert Roethemeyer
- ▼ Paul Tippey

Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- ▼ Drew Baker
- ▼ Ondrea Murphy
- ▼ Lee Staman

Endowment Committee

- ▼ Dennis Swanson

International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force

- ▼ Sandy Ayer

Professional Development Committee

- ▼ Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir

- ▼ Martha Adkins

Scholarly Communication Committee (formerly the Task Force on Scholarly Communication in Religion and Theology)

- ▼ Sabahat Adil
- ▼ Jérémie LeBlanc

Atla Committee and Task Force Appointments, 2019-2020

Conference Committee <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/conference-committee/>>

- ▼ Erica Durham, Chair
- ▼ Cindy Aalders, 2019 Local Host Committee Representative
- ▼ Robert Burgess, 2021 Local Host Committee Representative
- ▼ Christopher Spilker, 2020 Local Host Committee Representative
- ▼ Vance Thomas
- ▼ Megan Welsh
- ▼ Miranda Bennett, 2018 & 2019 Editor in Chief of Atla *Summary of Proceedings*, ex-officio
- ▼ Kris Veldheer, 2020 & 2021 Editor in Chief of Atla *Summary of Proceedings*, ex-officio
- ▼ Gillian Harrison Cain, ex-officio
- ▼ Denise McFarlin, Staff Liaison

Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/dei/>>

- ▼ Evan Boyd, Chair
- ▼ Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir
- ▼ Daniel Baek
- ▼ David Kriegh
- ▼ Alice Song
- ▼ Donna Wells
- ▼ Christine Fruin, Staff Liaison

Endowment Committee <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/endowment-committee/>>

- ▼ Pat Graham, Chair
- ▼ Eric Benoy
- ▼ Craig Kubic
- ▼ Sharon Taylor
- ▼ Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Staff Liaison

▼ Marie Jacobsen, Staff Liaison

International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force* <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/itle-taskforce/>>

- ▼ Kelly Campbell, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, U.S.
- ▼ Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
- ▼ Carisse Berryhill, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas, U.S.
- ▼ Kerrie Burn, Catholic Theological College, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia
- ▼ Matina Ćurić, Berlin, Germany
- ▼ Seoyoung Kim, World Mission University, Los Angeles, California, U.S.
- ▼ Griselda Lartey, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, U.S.
- ▼ Ephraim Muldave, Africa International University, Nairobi, Kenya
- ▼ Cynthia Pelena, Central Philippine University, Iloilo City, Philippines
- ▼ Álvaro Pérez, Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana, San Jose, Costa Rica
- ▼ Yesan Sellan, South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS), Bangalore, India
- ▼ Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Staff Liaison

Professional Development Committee <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/pdc/>>

- ▼ Michael Bradford, Chair
- ▼ Karen Clarke
- ▼ Justin Lillard
- ▼ Warren Watson
- ▼ Patsy Yang
- ▼ Gillian Harrison Cain, Staff Liaison

Scholarly Communication Committee <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/scholarly-communication-committee/>>

- ▼ Michael Hemenway, Chair
- ▼ Cliff Anderson
- ▼ Melody Diehl Detar
- ▼ Barbara Jenkins
- ▼ Andy Keck
- ▼ Christine Fruin, Staff Liaison

**The term of appointments is indefinite.*

If you are a member interested in serving, contact us <<https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/>>.

BACK

DOES YOUR GROUP MEET AT ATLA ANNUAL?
SUBMIT PROPOSAL BY SEPTEMBER 30

BLOG POST

Does Your Group Meet at Atla Annual? Submit Proposal by September 30

September 05, 2019

Newsletter, Atla Annual



If you haven't heard, we've added additional session types to the proposal process in the My Atla web portal. This change affects Atla groups, including Denominational, Interest, Regional, and other formal and non-formal groups.

The new session type is "Business Meeting" and your Chair/Submitter may select which type of group is meeting.

This session type has always been in the schedule, but we've now included it in the proposal process. This will make it easier for you to organize your group's itinerary ahead of conference while also helping the Conference Committee plan the Atla Annual 2020 schedule. If accepted, this will also ensure that your group's Business Meeting will be in the Conference Program Book and on SCHED.

If you are a group who usually meets at the conference, we invite you to submit your proposal by September 30. This helps the Conference Committee organize the conference and make space for your business meetings.

Types of Groups

- ▶ Denominational Group – A meeting of an Atla Denominational Group. All meetings of this type are held concurrently at a time to be assigned.
- ▶ Interest Group Meeting – A meeting of an Atla Interest Group. Groups will be given time slot options to select from in the Spring.
- ▶ Regional Group Meeting – A meeting of a Regional Group. Groups will be given time slot options to select from in the Spring.
- ▶ Other Meeting – A meeting of any other group, such as NACO, Reciprocal Borrowing, Atla Digital Library, Atla Open Press editorial boards, etc. Groups will be given time t options to select from in the Spring.

Opportunity to Organize Worship or Excursion Sessions

We also encourage groups to submit proposals for worship services and excursions by selecting the session types below:

- ▶ **Worship** – Groups or individuals organize worship or other observance including identifying program and officiant and possibly a location other than the conference hotel. Atla staff will follow up in the Fall to discuss logistics and feasibility.
- ▶ **Excursion** – Groups or an individual organize an excursion for conference attendees. Atla staff will follow up in the Fall to discuss logistics and feasibility.

SUBMIT PROPOSAL

Read more <<https://www.atla.com/blog/proposal-atla2020/>> about the proposal process and session types from Conference Committee Chair, Erica Durham.

BACK

THE ATLA COMMUNITY: COLLECTORS &
CONNECTORS IN RELIGION & THEOLOGY

BLOG POST

The Atla Community: Collectors & Connectors in Religion & Theology

September 05, 2019

Newsletter



The new school year has begun and Atla members are busy with a myriad of projects and people. We at Atla are busy working with our committees to prepare opportunities for collaboration and professional development. This includes preparing Atla Annual <<https://www.atla.com/blog/proposal-atla2020/>>, scheduling webinars <<https://www.atla.com/eventshome/>>, and producing resources found in Atla Open Press

<https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-open-press/> and our new Atla LibGuides <https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-libguides/>. We are also busy working on an exciting new platform where our members will be able to collaborate and connect online (more information later this fall).

Your time and resources are precious and we are grateful that you have made Atla your community where you have invested in one another and on projects, scholarship, and other resources in religion and theology.

Atla Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer emailed members the first week of September inviting you to renew your membership.

She shared a few of the ways Atla fosters collaboration and cooperation among members, as highlighted in her August 2019 Newsletter article <https://www.atla.com/blog/fromstaff-august2019/>.

Collaboration is a powerful tool.

It helps prevent duplication of effort, leverages the particular strengths of each participant, and fosters innovation. It's no wonder that libraries have been working together for over a century.

For libraries, these different levels of collaboration have manifested themselves in activities such as conferences, resource sharing, group licensing of electronic resources, shared integrated library systems, and physical delivery services.

Although we are an association, Atla at the same time is a collaborative, a group working together to achieve a shared vision. We allow members to participate at whatever level is appropriate for them, whether that's communicating through a listserv <https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/groups/>, coordinating continuing education opportunities at the conference <https://www.atla.com/eventshome/atlannual/>, cooperating on publishing open access resources <https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-open-press/>, or collaborating on the creation of a digital library <https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/digital-library/>.

These are just some of the benefits of being a part of the Atla community (and you can find more benefits elsewhere on our website <https://www.atla.com/membership/member-benefits/>). Yet, we wouldn't be Atla without you.

So, if you haven't yet renewed your membership for the 2019-2020 year, renew today. Don't miss out on the benefits <https://www.atla.com/membership/member-benefits/> and programs <https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/> available to your membership type and the opportunity to be a part of such a fantastic community of collectors and connectors.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership, feel free to contact us <https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/>.

BACK

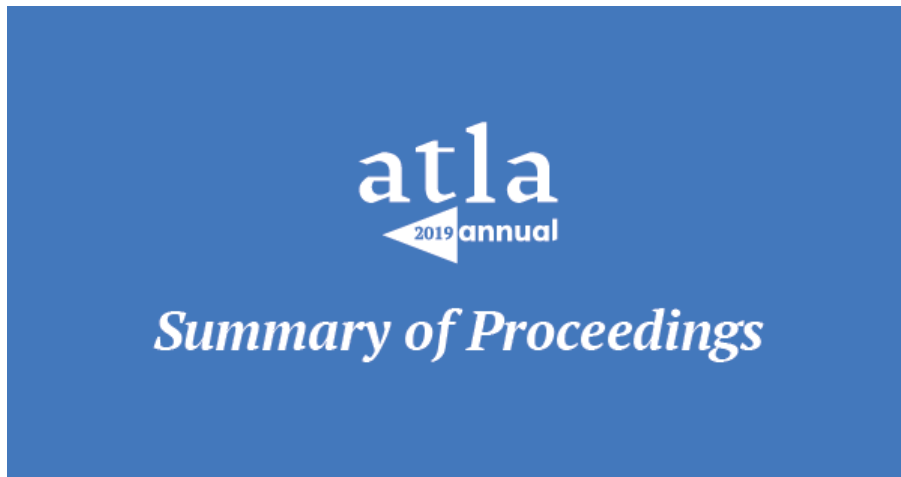
SUBMIT TO 'SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS' AND
'ANNUAL YEARBOOK' BY SEPTEMBER 27

BLOG POST

Submit to 'Summary of Proceedings' and 'Annual Yearbook' by September 27

by Miranda Bennett / September 06, 2019

Atla Annual



Dear Atla colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the call for submissions to the *Summary of Proceedings* of the Seventy-third Atla Annual, held June 12-15, in Vancouver, British Columbia. If you participated in the Conference in any of the following capacities, you are encouraged to contribute to the *Proceedings*:

- ▶ Pre-conference workshop presenter
- ▶ Paper or presentation speaker
- ▶ Panel discussion presenter
- ▶ Conversation group facilitator
- ▶ Listen and Learn speaker
- ▶ In-conference workshop presenter

- ▼ Poster presenter
- ▼ Worship leader

All *Proceedings* submissions **must** be made using the Online Journal System (OJS), the open access platform used by the Atla Open Press. Email submissions will **not** be accepted. Instructions for submitting your materials to the *Proceedings* may be found at <https://serials.atla.com/proceedings/about/submissions>.

<<https://serials.atla.com/proceedings/about/submissions>.>

A Brief Submissions Tutorial

RELATED
NOTE

Please note that you will use the same login credentials that you created for 2018 *Proceedings* submissions. Additionally, if you already have an account that was created for any other <https://serials.atla.com> <<https://serials.atla.com>> publication, you do not need to create a new login for the *Proceedings*. Instead, please email memberrep [at] atla.com to add access to the *Proceedings*. Any other login or password questions may also be directed to memberrep [at] atla.com.

Submit to Annual Yearbook

Further, Atla will also produce an *Annual Yearbook* in addition to the *Proceedings*, and some of the reports that were previously included in the *Proceedings* are now part of the *Yearbook*. The following groups will submit their annual reports to the 2019 *Yearbook* instead of the *Proceedings*:

- ▼ Denominational Groups
- ▼ Interest Groups
- ▼ Committees and Task Forces

RELATED
NOTE

For more information on who should submit to the *Yearbook* as well as for instructions on submission, please visit <https://serials.atla.com/yearbook/about/submissions> <<https://serials.atla.com/yearbook/about/submissions>>. If you previously submitted to the *Yearbook*, you will use the same login credentials that you created for prior submission.

Submit to other Publications

If you believe that your paper would be within the scope and of interest of readers of one of Atla's other publications, such as *Theological Librarianship* <<https://theolib.atla.com/theolib>>, please let me know prior to submitting your work to the *Proceedings* and we can discuss the procedure for submission to one of those other publications.

Deadlines

The deadline for submissions to the *Proceedings* as well as the *Yearbook* is **September 27, 2019**. Early submissions are encouraged.

If you have questions about the *Proceedings*, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Questions about submissions to the *Yearbook* should be directed to Atla <<https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/>>.

BACK

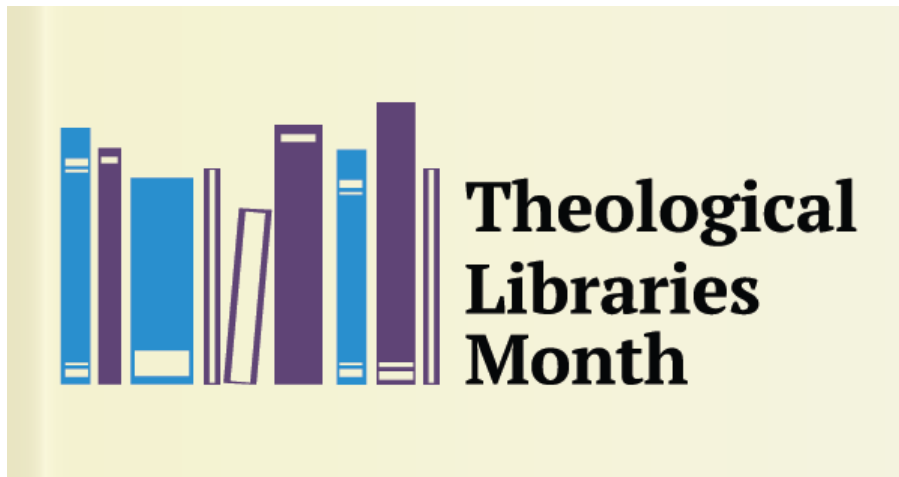
GET READY TO CELEBRATE THEOLOGICAL
LIBRARIES MONTH

BLOG POST

Get Ready to Celebrate Theological Libraries Month

September 05, 2019

Newsletter



This October we are celebrating librarians and libraries serving theology and religious studies programs during Theological Libraries Month (TLM). It's a month intended to increase awareness of the importance and value of our member libraries and the work that they do.

Why do we celebrate?

- ▶ Promote the profession
- ▶ Market the library and its services
- ▶ Connect members for networking and idea sharing related to marketing, promotion, and advocacy

Information for Participating Members

We have provided marketing materials to help you advertise your events. The artwork is available in both Word and PDF forms so that you are able to add your own text. We want you to make it your own. Whether you are hosting a lunch, creating a scavenger hunt, or inviting guest speakers, this artwork is for you. If you are in need of more materials, contact us <https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/> and we will be happy to send you more materials.

Also, we will be hosting the Theological Libraries Month (TLM) Book Spine Poetry Contest.

<https://www.atla.com/tlm-contest/> This is a fun way to get your patrons in the stacks, learning about the resources that are available to them. We encourage you to promote our contest, but feel free to make your own contest too!



<https://www.atla.com/tlm-contest/>

We encourage you to get your faculty and administration involved whether that is spotlighting your faculty's books in your library or inviting your administration to speak at an event. Write and disseminate press releases for use in campus publications and local community newspapers about the events that are happening in the month of October. Make your library the place to *be* this October.

And lastly, we invite you to share your plans with us <https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/>! What are you doing this October to celebrate TLM? We will share these ideas and plans out to the Atla community to inspire their TLM plans.

Learn more about TLM. <https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/tlm/>

Other Ways to Promote Your Library

And while we hope you will participate in TLM, it's only one month out of the year and we're excited to offer assistance and opportunities in promoting your library all year long. Contact us

<https://www.atla.com/about/contact-us/> for ideas or apply for the Library Impact Grant

<https://www.atla.com/membership/member-benefits/institutional/library-impact-grants/> or Consultation Services Grant

<https://www.atla.com/membership/member-benefits/institutional/consultation-grant/>.

BACK

SCOOP: WHEN YOUR WORDS ARE YOUR WORK,
UNDERSTANDING THE WORK FOR HIRE DOCTRINE

BLOG POST

SCOOP: When Your Words are Your Work, Understanding the Work for Hire Doctrine

by Christine Fruin / September 03, 2019

Newsletter, The SCOOP



One of the often-misunderstood provisions of the U.S. Copyright Act is the copyright status of “works made for hire.” Under ordinary application of copyright law, a creator of a work satisfying the statutory criteria of copyrightability is entitled to all rights as copyright holder. However, § 101 of the Copyright Act <<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/101>> in defining a “work made for hire” states that works created by an employee within the scope of his or her employment are owned by the employer. Further, § 201(b) of the Copyright Act <<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/201>> presumes that the employer is the copyright owner of a work made for hire *unless* there is a written agreement otherwise.

Teacher Exception

Out of customary practice that has existed since the Copyright Act of 1909 and through language in judicial dicta interpreting copyright law after enactment in 1976 of the current copyright law, a “teacher exception” to the works for hire presumption has persisted. Under this exception born of practice and not of statutory or judicial law, works created by teachers, including scholarship written by college faculty, have been generally treated as belonging to the employee even where there was institutional expectation of such scholarly productivity. Further, most colleges and universities have codified the “teacher exception” into their intellectual property policies as a means of satisfying the § 201(b) requirement of a written agreement by declaring that scholarly works and traditional teaching outputs such as lecture notes of faculty are the property of the individual faculty members who created them. However, a 1989 U.S. Supreme Court Case (*Community for Creative Non-Violence v. Reid*) that set forth a test for defining an employee as well as an evolution in the way that course materials are designed and delivered, particularly to support online education, has challenged traditional presumptions about the teacher exception.

Reconsideration of the Teacher Exception: Online Course Materials

As stated above, institutional intellectual property policies attempt to counter the works made for hire presumption by disclaiming copyright ownership in faculty scholarship. However, these same agreements usually carve out exceptions for inventions and other patentable or monetizable intellectual property, declaring these to be the property of the employing institution. And recently, these policies are also being amended to also include exceptions for materials produced to support online education, whether it be for credit-bearing online courses offered to enrolled students or Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) that are offered by the institution to a global citizen-student body. Because of the extensive institutional resources (e.g., videography studios, software, instructional designers, etc.) that are required to produce these online course materials, the college or university seeks to recoup its investment by securing a license to reuse those materials in the event the faculty member or teacher leaves the institution.

What About Sermons?

A common “works for hire” question raised by theological librarians and the communities they serve concerns the copyright status of sermons. Under the definition of “works made for hire,” sermons would be the intellectual property of the church where the writing and delivering of sermons is part of the pastor’s job description and there is not an agreement between the two parties stating otherwise. This is the case even if those sermons are composed at home or outside of “normal” working hours.

Complexities arise where the sermons are spontaneous and not written down, recorded or otherwise “fixed in a tangible medium of expression” – a requirement of copyrightability. Additional complexities arise when a pastor wishes to compose her sermons into a published book; without copyright ownership, the pastor would not be permitted to do so without the permission of their employing church.

Finally, some tax lawyers have also argued that by transferring copyright ownership to a pastor, a church risks its IRS status under § 501(c)(3) of the tax code <<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/26/501>> on account of it being an inurement of its assets, intellectual property being considered an asset. However, most colleges and universities also hold non-profit status under § 501(c)(3) and the teacher exception and intellectual property policies that have been crafted to overcome the presumption of faculty works being categorized as works for hire has never been raised as a challenge to their non-profit status on these grounds.

Further Reading

- ▶ Circular 9 from the U.S. Copyright Office details the statutory language and judicial interpretation of the “Works Made for Hire” doctrine. <https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ09.pdf>
<<https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ09.pdf>>
- ▶ Brief article with examples from the *Chronicle of Higher Education*: “What’s a Work for Hire and Why Should You Care?” <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Whats-a-Work-for-Hire-and/150333>
<<https://www.chronicle.com/article/whats-a-work-for-hire-and/150333>>
- ▶ University of Kansas library dean and copyright expert Kevin Smith reviews the work for hire doctrine in chapter 3 of his book *Owning and Using Scholarship*, available open access from ALA at http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/publications/booksanddigitalresources/digital/9780838987483_copyright_OA.pdf
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/publications/booksanddigitalresources/digital/9780838987483_copyright_oa.pdf>
>
- ▶ From *Christianity Today* (subscription required or also accessible through *AtlaSerials*[®] <<https://www.atla.com/research-tool/atlas/>>), “Who owns sermons” looks at all the legal issues impacting copyright ownership of sermons, including the impact the answer to this question has on a church’s IRS status. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/january-february/who-owns-sermon-church-pastor.html>
<<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/january-february/who-owns-sermon-church-pastor.html>>

The SCOOP, Scholarly COmmunication and Open Publishing, is a monthly column published to inform Atla members of recent developments, new resources, or interesting stories from the realm of scholarly communication and open access publishing.

BACK

REGISTER FOR UPCOMING WEBINAR: COPYRIGHT
FOR ONLINE TEACHING

BLOG POST

Register for Upcoming Webinar: Copyright for Online Teaching

September 04, 2019

Newsletter, Copyright, Webinars



When supporting instructors in the development of online course materials, librarians frequently encounter questions regarding fair use and other copyright and licensing issues surrounding the delivery of course content in an online classroom or through course management systems that support traditional face to face teaching.

We are here to help you navigate these issues. Register for our free upcoming webinar, *Copyright for Online Teaching*, on Tuesday, October 8 at 2pm CT.

This webinar will be led by Christine Fruin, Atla's Scholarly Communication and Digital Projects Manager, a librarian and lawyer with expertise in copyright law and distance learning.

Learn more <<https://www.atla.com/event/copyright-onlineteaching/>> and register today <https://zoom.us/webinar/register/wn_przbbpfsqhcvcu4svkpvng>.

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ATLA CONTENT SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH AFRICA

BLOG POST

Atla Content Spotlight: South Africa

by Annie Banfich / September 05, 2019

Product Updates, Atla Religion Database, Atlas, Atlas PLUS



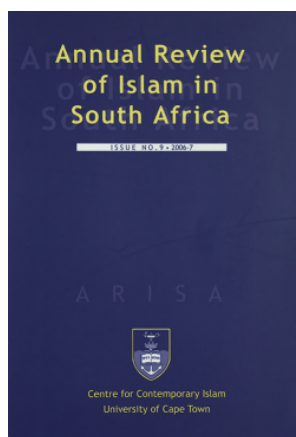
South Africa has long been a center of theological publishing. With twenty-six public universities and a growing number of seminaries, societies, and private theological colleges, it is a global hub for religion scholarship. Over the years, Atla has developed partnerships with many journals based in South Africa. Currently, twenty-five journals from twenty different publishers are indexed in the *Atla Religion Database*[®] from places such as the University of Pretoria <<https://www.up.ac.za/>>, AOSIS OpenJournals, and the Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa <[The journals cover topics from local issues to global religion scholarship, including exceptional journals in biblical studies, theology, church history, and Islamic Studies. Some journals like *In die Skriflig* have been in print for decades and joined the *Atla Religion Database* early on. New journals continue to emerge from South Africa, such as *Koers* and *Verbum et Ecclesia* which joined the *Atla Religion Database* within the past five years. Journals like *Hervormde Teologiese Studies*, *Scriptura*, and *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* are key vehicles for South African scholarship to engage the worldwide scholarly community.](http://www.findglocal.com/za/south-africa/122706611137908/association-for-the-study-of-religion-in-southern-africa-%28asrsa%29>http://www.findglocal.com/za/south-africa/122706611137908/association-for-the-study-of-religion-in-southern-africa-%28asrsa%29>>.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

A list of all twenty-five currently indexed titles in the *Atla Religion Database* from South Africa can be found here <<https://www.atla.com/research/title-lists/>>. Of those indexed titles, an increasing number are also available in the full-text products *AtlaSerials*[®] (*Atlas*[®]) and *AtlaSerials PLUS*[®] (*Atlas PLUS*[®]). More on each of our current full-text partners can be found below:

***Annual Review of Islam in Africa* (Centre for Contemporary Islam, University of Cape Town)**

ARIA is an annual journal covering Islam and related topics in all of Africa. Started in 1998, it is the only journal dedicated entirely to the study of Islam in Africa and invites contributors to write about “their impressions on developments in religion, state, foreign affairs, crime, arts, and medicine.”

Found in *Atlas PLUS* <<https://www.atla.com/research-tool/atlas-plus/>>.



***Journal for Islamic Studies* (Centre for Contemporary Islam, University of Cape Town)**

Also published by the CIC at the University of Cape Town, *JIS* is an annual journal committed to “original research on Islam as culture and civilization.” Established in 1981, *JIS* has become a leading publication in the field and seeks out interdisciplinary scholarship particularly related to history, religion, politics, culture, and law.

Found in *Atlas* <<https://www.atla.com/research-tool/atlas/>>.

***Neotestamentica* (New Testament Society of South Africa)**

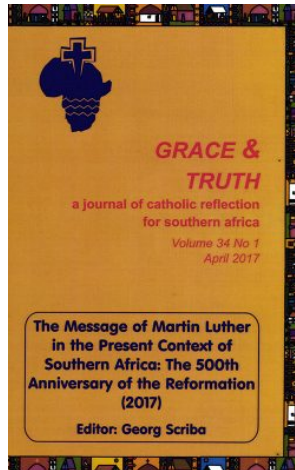
Neotestamentica has been published annually since 1967 and contains articles relating to the New Testament. The journal initially published scholarship exclusively from South African and African scholars. This is still the focus, but it now accepts international submissions as well. The journal is published in English and Afrikaans.

Found in *Atlas* <<https://www.atla.com/research-tool/atlas/>>.

***Grace & Truth* (St. Joseph's Theological Institute)**

Founded in 1990, *Grace & Truth* self-describes as “A Journal of Catholic Reflection for Southern Africa” and covers articles relating to regional Catholicism. It publishes three times per year and includes scholarship from St. Joseph's Theological Institute in Hilton, South Africa.

Found in *Atlas PLUS* <<https://www.atla.com/research-tool/atlas-plus/>>.



***Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* (University of KwaZulu-Nata)**

JTSA is a prominent and long-running journal that covers current topics relating specifically to religion in southern Africa. It purports to be a “vehicle to promote theological reflection within the social, political and cultural context of southern Africa.” *JTSA* has consistently published writings from the most prominent theologians in Africa and is committed to supporting emerging theologians from the region as well. *JTSA* has been in print continuously since 1972 and publishes three times per year.

Found in *Atlas* <<https://www.atla.com/research-tool/atlas/>>.

Learn how to access these journals. <<https://www.atla.com/research/how-to-access/>>

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ANNOUNCING ADDITIONS TO ATLA PRODUCTS –
SUMMER 2019

BLOG POST

Announcing Additions to Atla Products – Summer 2019

August 30, 2019

Press Release, Product Title List, Atla Religion Database, Atlas, Atlas PLUS



Chicago, IL, August 30, 2019 — Atla is pleased to announce the addition of titles now available in the *Atla Religion Database*® (*Atla RDB*®), *AtlaSerials*® (*Atlas*®), and *AtlaSerials PLUS*® (*Atlas PLUS*®).

New indexing titles in *Atla Religion Database*

- ▶ *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* by Boston University School of Theology and Hebrew College
- ▶ *Religiovedenie* by Amurskii gosudarstvennyi universitet
- ▶ *Studia z Prawa Wyznaniowego* by Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
- ▶ *Наукові записки Українського католицького університету* by Ukrainian Catholic University
- ▶ *Estudios Marianos* by Sociedad Mariológica Española
- ▶ *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* by Taylor & Francis

New full-text titles in *Atlas*

- ▼ *Anglican and Episcopal History* by The Historical Society of the Episcopal Church

New full-text titles in *Atlas PLUS**

- ▼ *Revista Bíblica* by Asociación Bíblica Argentina

**Atlas PLUS* includes all of the titles in Atla's original full-text product, *Atlas* and 150+ additional full-text titles.

To view Atla's title lists click here: <https://www.atla.com/research/title-lists/> <<https://www.atla.com/research/title-lists/>>

About Atla

Established in 1946 as the American Theological Library Association, Atla is a membership association of librarians and information professionals, and a producer of research tools, committed to advancing the study of religion and theology. Atla's membership includes more than 800 individuals and libraries at academic institutions from diverse religious traditions and backgrounds. As a community of collectors and connectors, Atla works to promote worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers.

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