

Newsletter



Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Plymouth, Minnesota

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From the President By Our Groups They Shall Know Us: The Nature of Voluntary Associations

In the eight months since I began serving as ATLA President, I have been thinking a lot about the nature of associations. Paul Meyer (a consultant with Tecker International who has been working with our Board) and others have defined

an association as “a group of people who voluntarily come together to solve common problems, meet common needs and accomplish goals.” In my December column, I talked about the metaphor of an association’s DNA as a “triple helix” whereby members of associations are the owners, the customers, and the workforce of the organization. This month, I would like to explore in more detail the notion of members as the workforce of ATLA.

Our Association started as a volunteer association, a group of people who came together to solve common problems, meet common needs, and accomplish shared goals. *Index to Religious Periodical Literature*, *Religion Index One: Periodicals*, and *Religion Index Two: Multi-Author Works* are some of the fruits of our forebears’ labors. We are very grateful for the volunteers who created these tools. While ATLA now employs professional staff, volunteers continue to be essential to its workforce. Leaders of our interest, denominational, and regional groups; members of our committees; and the Board of Directors are all volunteers. Our association is better because of everyone who volunteers. Thank you!

We serve the Association with no expectation of financial payment. What would motivate someone to do such a thing?! Many of us would say that we do get something in return for our efforts. For example, I love learning and working with great people, and my work on committees, interest groups, and the Board has provided me with many opportunities for learning and working with great people. I also value being part of something larger than myself such as an association that shares some of my values, such as collaboration in problem solving. These are intangible, but important rewards for my work. I suspect most of our members who have volunteered for ATLA have received some kind of similar reward for their work.

Continued on page 2

Letter from the President Continued

Our Association always needs new volunteers. We need to keep a vital member workforce. The Board asks you to consider how you might volunteer to serve the Association. Will you volunteer to serve on a committee of the Association? Will you volunteer to lead an interest, denominational, or regional group? Will you write for *Theological Librarianship*, ATLA's journal? Will you consider running for the Board of Directors? It is part of our culture to be asked to serve, but we are asking you to discern how you might best serve our Association and step forward on your own accord. Contact ATLA staff, contact your interest, denominational or regional group, the editorial board of *TL*, and volunteer. You do not have to wait to be asked.

As I mentioned above, I have been reflecting a lot on associations lately, perhaps too much for my own good. My reflections led me to reread excerpts from James Luther Adams, a twentieth-century professor, minister, and influential theologian. Voluntary associations were very important to Adams: "The voluntary association at its best offers an institutional framework within which the give and take of discussion may be promoted, an institutional framework within which a given consensus or practice may be brought under criticism and be subjected to change. It offers a means for bringing a variety of perspectives into interplay. It offers the means of breaking through old social structures in order to meet new needs" (Beach, 185).

Drawing on Matthew 7:16 ("By their fruits you shall know them"), Adams goes on to say, "by their groups shall you know them" (194). While the context for Adams' remarks may differ from ours, I think they are still relevant. Won't you join me in being known by an important voluntary association - ATLA? [I welcome your thoughts](#) on this and other newsletter columns.

Beth Bidlack
President

Beach, G.K. (Ed.). (1998). *The Essential James Luther Adams*. Boston, MA: Skinner House Books.

Help ATLA Prepare Recommendations for Revisions to ATS Library Form

Are you interested in seeing the ATS Library Form revised to include relevant questions about collections, services, and staffing? Would you be interested in participating in a webinar to discuss your concerns and to consider some of the elements that will influence a revision to the ATS Library Form? Are you willing to serve on a member taskforce to help ATLA finalize recommendations for revisions to the ATS Library Form?

Each year The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) collaborate to collect and share library statistics from ATS member institutions and ATLA member libraries. Recently, ATLA members have expressed concerns over the usefulness of questions on the ATS Library Form and asked for a means of revising the questions.

On Thursday, April 3 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (CST), ATLA staff will host a webinar for members to discuss their concerns about the current form and consider some of the elements that will influence a revision (the future of NCES's Academic Library Survey, time and cost considerations). The webinar will include opportunities for

Board Members Elected for 2014-2017

ATLA members elected the following candidates to serve a three-year term (2014-2017) on the ATLA Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the membership of the Board Secretary's report at the 2014 Annual Conference:

- Beth Bidlack
- Kelly Campbell
- Matthew Ostercamp
- Jennifer Bartholomew

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

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). 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 April 1, 2014, to [Armin Siedlecki](#), [Carrie M. Hackney](#), or [Eileen Crawford](#).

members to share their insights and to respond to instant polls. Those interested in attending the webinar may e-mail memberrep@atla.com to receive instructions for participating. Individuals unable to attend the webinar but interested in contributing may e-mail memberrep@atla.com to share their feedback and offer any insights they may have.

Following the webinar, ATLA staff would welcome volunteers to serve on a taskforce to finalize recommendations for a revision to the ATS Library Form. The taskforce will prepare recommendations for delivery to ATS by June 1, 2014. With the recommendations received, ATS can provide a timeline for implementing the changes and making them part of future ATS Data Collections.

ATLA appreciates the willingness of members to support this effort and the cooperation of ATS in providing guidance on this revision effort.

2014 Annual Conference News

Lanyrd.com

Browse the Conference Schedule

The 2014 ATLA Annual Conference is on Lanyrd. Lanyrd helps people get more out of conferences, meeting the right people while there and catching up on slides, notes, and video afterwards. [Feel free to browse the conference schedule and learn more about Lanyrd.](#)



Reserve Your Room Today!

Discounted room rates are available at The InterContinental New Orleans for \$165 a night. [Reserve your room today.](#)



Conference FAQ

Questions about this year's conference? Be sure to check out the [FAQ page.](#)



ATLA Member Product Loyalty Program

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®)*.

This year a maximum of \$200 per eligible site is available to be re-invested into ATLA Member Programs. Redeemable loyalty benefits include:

- A total of \$200 toward ATLA conference registration (may be divided across a maximum of two registration fees)
- A \$200 gift to the Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund

[The online Member Product Loyalty Form is available now at the ATLA web site.](#) Members will need their member log-in to complete the form.

For those who participate in this program, as a reminder please wait to receive your loyalty confirmation code via e-mail before registering for the ATLA Annual Conference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact memberrep@atla.com.

ATLA Travel Grants Available

ATLA is pleased to offer grants of up to \$600 each to support attendance at the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 18-21. Any ATLA Student or Individual Member (as of January 1, 2014) who receives no financial assistance from their institution to attend the conference is eligible to apply. You may apply for a travel grant until May 1, 2014.

[Fill out the Annual Conference Travel Grant Request form to apply.](#) Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis and approved recipients will be notified on or before Friday, May 9, 2014. There are a limited number of grants offered. Recipients must register for the conference before May 16, 2014, and will be required to stay at the conference hotel.

Board of Directors Meet in Chicago

The ATLA Board began its winter meeting on Thursday, February 20, with an afternoon session facilitated by Paul Meyer, a consultant for association leadership and strategic planning. Paul guided the Board's consideration of its responsibilities, the core values of ATLA, and the future of the Association in a changing environment. The Board will continue this work with Paul at its June meeting.

Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer addressed questions that remained from her January 2014 monitoring report. The Board made minor adjustments to enhance the process for routinely monitoring the Executive Director's performance based on the ATLA's Organizational Ends and executive limitations.

Last fall, the Board decided to propose an increase in individual member dues. The rationale for the dues increase will be presented to the membership during the spring and at the Annual Conference. The ATLA staff will create a website with information and opportunities for member comment. The Board is planning to put the issue of an individual dues increase on the January 2015 e-mail ballot with the increase taking effect in September 2015.

The Board accepted the FY2013 audit completed by McGladrey and noted several adjustments made in the first year of this firm's service to ATLA. Four proposals from the Governance Committee to improve the accuracy and organization of the ATLA Board Policy Manual were all approved unanimously.

The Board continued its effort to articulate the skills and personal qualities of an effective member with the goal of producing a job description. The ATLA Nominating Committee (Armin Siedlecki, Carrie Hackney, and Eileen Crawford) has received a description of board tasks and responsibilities to be used in identifying and inviting members to be candidates. These documents are linked on the [Nominating Committee page](#) of the ATLA website.

The minutes of the February 20 - 22, 2014, meeting will be posted in ATLA SharePoint Communities by the end of March.

Eileen K. Saner, ATLA Secretary

Recruiting Theological Librarians

Are you interested in recruiting the next generation of Theological Librarians? ATLA has recently provided [a new recruitment page](#) on the ATLA site to bring together brochures and materials of interest to new and potential theological and religious studies librarians.

Materials include the ATLA Individual and Student Membership brochure, ATLA Student and Individual Membership application form, a new Diversity and Theological Librarianship brochure, and links to the Theological Librarianship course page, the Scholarships to Promote Diversity in Theological Librarianship page, and the Job Openings page.

Brochures and forms can be downloaded for use at your library or at career fairs or other venues where the next generation of theological librarians might be recruited.

Special thanks to the ATLA Diversity Committee for their encouragement of this new resource for the association.

ATLA Accepting Applications for Scholarships to Promote Diversity in Theological Librarianship

ATLA is pleased to offer two scholarships to help promote diversity in Theological Librarianship.

Scholarship for a Theological Librarianship Course

The American Theological Library Association will provide one scholarship for \$1,200 to a student from an underrepresented population to attend a Theological Librarianship course at any ALA-accredited master's program in library and information studies, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's LEEP course, Theological Librarianship (LIS 590TL).

- Applicant must be from an underrepresented population (religious, racial, ethnic, and gender).
- Applicant must be an ATLA member in good standing.

ATLA Diversity Scholarship

The American Theological Library Association will provide one scholarship for \$2,400 to a student from an underrepresented population enrolled in an ALA-accredited master's program in library and information studies.

- Applicant must be from an underrepresented population (religious, racial, ethnic, and gender).
- Applicant must be an ATLA member in good standing.
- Applicant must secure a letter of recommendation from the director of an ATLA Institutional Member library.
- Applicant must enroll and complete at least 6 credit hours in the 12 months following notification.

Applications for both scholarships must be received by May 1 of each year. Applicants will be notified of results by July 1.

Scholarship funds are supplied by generous ATLA members who donate to the Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund. For more information and to support this fund, please visit [the ATLA Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund web page](#).

Special thanks to the ATLA Diversity Committee for their support of this scholarship program.

In Good Faith Project Prepares Preservation Survey for Small Theological and Religious Studies Libraries

Through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) and project partners the Catholic Library Association (CLA) and the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) are preparing a preservation survey for small theological and religious studies libraries, archives, and cultural institutions. The survey is the centerpiece of an IMLS National Leadership Grants for Libraries Planning Grant for the project, "In Good Faith: Collection Care, Preservation, and Access in Small Theological and Religious Studies Libraries."

The survey will help the project partners gain a better understanding of collection care, preservation, and access practices in small theological and religious studies libraries, archives, and cultural institutions and begin to identify valuable and vulnerable collections held in these institutions. The partners will use the results of the survey to explore collaborative initiatives to respond to identified long-term collection care, preservation, and access needs.

The survey is expected to be available March 12, 2014 through April 14, 2014. Participants should be part of a formal or established institution; have a library, archive, or other research collection which includes religious and/or theological materials; have religious and/or theological historical or rare materials as part of the library, archive, or research collection; and have at least one contact person (volunteer or salaried, full-time or part-time) responsible for the care/management of the research collection that can serve as the contact for the survey.

The partners will promote the project through their memberships as well as through discussion lists and forums that include religious and theological libraries, archives, and cultural institutions. Institutions interested in participating in the survey and organizations interested in helping to promote the survey may contact memberrep@atla.com to receive notice of the survey's availability.

National Leadership Grants for Libraries support projects that address challenges faced by the museum, library, and/or archive fields and that have the potential to advance practices in those fields. IMLS offers grants to help make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.

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

New Issue of *Theology Catalog Bulletin* Published

The February 2014 issue of the *Theology Cataloging Bulletin*, a benefit of membership, is now available. [Please click here to access this issue](#) in the member restricted section of the ATLA website.

While you are there, be sure to take advantage of opportunities to network with your fellow ATLA members through announcements, calendars, interest groups, denominational groups, and shared member publications.

Scholarly Communication Virtual Conversation Recordings and Materials Available

ATLA Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer recently introduced a new series of virtual conversations focused on scholarly communication in theological and religious studies librarianship.

[Recordings and materials from these conversations are available from the ATLA web site](#) for members and other interested librarians to access and review. Additional virtual conversations will be announced and promoted from this page.

Member Offer: ACLS Humanities E-Book Discount Offer

The American Theological Library Association is pleased to offer a special discount from [ACLS Humanities E-Book \(HEB\)](#) to provide accessible pricing to ATLA Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate Member libraries.

ACLS Humanities E-Book (HEB) is an online collection of nearly 4,000 cross-searchable books in the humanities selected by scholars for their continuing importance for research and teaching. These titles are offered by the American Council of Learned Societies in collaboration with over twenty-five learned societies, over 100 contributing publishers, and the MPublishing Division of the University of Michigan Library. The collection features unlimited multi-user access and free, downloadable MARC records. HEB is available 24/7 on- and off-campus through standard web browsers.

"As a school with a broad set of degree programs and research foci, the ACLS Humanities E-Book collection is a stellar resource." - Evan Boyd, The Chicago Theological Seminary

For pricing and participation information, please visit [the ACLS Humanities EBook Consortium page](#).

Final Reminder: The Future of Libraries in Theological Education: A Conversation with Chief Academic Officers, Information Technology Officers, and Library Directors

Deadline for applications is March 15, 2014.

ATLA and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) are planning to convene a conversation of academic leaders, information technology officers, and librarians to be held as a one-day pre-conference event on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, ahead of the 2014 ATS/COA Biennial Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

This conversation will be a first step toward understanding the roles of libraries and librarians in theological education as perceived by diverse constituents, including academic leaders, information technology officers, and librarians. Participants will share their perceptions and create a shared vision for the future theological library - including its contribution to curriculum and to scholarly research - in the changing world of theological education. The results of the conversation will be reported out to a broader audience in a session held the following day during the COA Biennial Meeting as well as through official ATLA publication channels.

The conversation will seek to engage up to ten participating institutions, each contributing a team of three administration members - a library director, an information technology officer, and a chief academic officer. Based on the success of this initial conversation, ATLA and ATS may convene future conversations.

Additional information, including an application form, is available at the [initiative's web page](#). ATLA will cover travel expenses for librarians and other participants who would not otherwise be planning to attend the ATS/COA Biennial Meeting in Pittsburgh.

New Member Offer: British Online Archives

The American Theological Library Association is pleased to offer a special discount from British Online Archives to provide accessible pricing to ATLA Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate Member libraries.

British Online Archives consists of eleven thematic series, each containing individual collections of archival contents. New collections are uploaded to each series as they become available.

ATLA Institutional, Affiliate, and International Institutional Members have access to valuable savings on two series from British Online Archives.

Methodist Periodicals, consisting of Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist periodicals (*The Arminian*, *The Methodist*, *The Wesleyan-Methodist*, *The Primitive*, and *The Aldersgate* magazines) along with several other Methodist-related archives.

Missionary Archives, consisting of materials from eleven collections covering missionary activity from around the world.

Annual, five-year, and perpetual licenses are available. ATLA member institutions are entitled to an automatic 10% discount with additional discount incentives available based on participation.

Free 30-day trials are available to interested member libraries either by IP address range or via User ID and Password. All trials must be requested no later than March 30, 2014.

For pricing and participation information, please visit [the British Online Archives Page](#).

Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Program - Deadline Extended

The American Theological Library Association is pleased to announce the second offering of the [Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Program](#), a leadership development program for mid-career theological and religious studies librarians interested in becoming library directors and/or leaders in the theological library community.

This second iteration will build on the first program offered in 2012. The Program is conducted in a collegial and confidential atmosphere, with most sessions occurring virtually and with in-person gatherings at the ATLA Annual Conference. Participants will attend up to two web meetings per month for instruction and group discussion; engage in monthly conversations with an assigned mentor from the theological library community; participate in group projects; and attend two in-person meetings at the 2014 and 2015 ATLA Annual Conferences. The program will launch at the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference in

New Orleans and will conclude at the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference in Denver.

Instruction will focus on:

- How to Lead
- How to Manage Financial Resources
- How to Manage People Resources
- How to Plan
- How to Communicate
- How to Manage Politics

Application materials will be available at the [program's web page](#) with an extended deadline of March 14. Special thanks to the ATLA Professional Development Committee for their development of the program. The Professional Development Committee will review applications and make selections by March 31.

Member News

In Memoriam - Daniel J. Harrington, S.J. Noted Scholar and Longtime Editor of *New Testament Abstracts*

The American Theological Library Association remembers the life of Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., professor of New Testament at Boston College (and the Weston Jesuit School of Theology), and longtime editor of *New Testament Abstracts*. Fr. Harrington died on Friday, February 7, 2014.

Fr. Harrington received his BA in classics and philosophy in 1964 and an MA in philosophy in 1965 from Weston College/Boston College. He received his PhD in Near Eastern languages and literatures from Harvard University in 1970. His BD/MDiv is from Weston Jesuit School of Theology/Boston College, granted in 1971. After teaching for a year at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL, in 1971-1972, he spent the remainder of his academic career as Professor of New Testament at Weston Jesuit School of Theology, which was re-affiliated with Boston College in 2008 as part of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. After briefly serving as Assistant Editor of *New Testament Abstracts* he became the general editor of the journal in 1972, and remained in that capacity until he was no longer able to continue in October 2013. *New Testament Abstracts* Online is produced by ATLA in partnership with Boston College.

He was the author of nearly 60 books, some 225 articles and essays, more than 250 book reviews, and over 150 essays on Sunday Scripture texts for America magazine (2005-2008), as well as the editor of (and contributor to) the Sacra Pagina commentary series on the New Testament (1988-2007), and, while doing all of this, also writing 50,000 abstracts and 25,000 book notices for *New Testament Abstracts*.

[Adapted from a tribute by Chris Matthews available [here](#)].

Job Openings

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

Positions posted this month:

- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, is looking for an [Electronic Services Librarian/Information Technology Liaison](#).
- Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA, is looking for a [Library Co-Director and Public Services Librarian](#).
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Part-Time Research Assistant](#).
- Drew University Library, Madison, NJ, is looking for a [Theological Librarian](#).
- Milligan College, Johnson City, TN, is looking for an [Information Resources Librarian and College Archivist](#).
- Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, MS, is looking for a [Half-time Library and Half-Time Teaching Faculty](#).

Paul Stuehrenberg Retires

Paul Stuehrenberg will retire on June 30 after 32 years at the Yale Divinity Library, including 21 as the Director. During his tenure, Paul oversaw the complete renovation of the Divinity Library, which provided new space for instruction and patrons (with less space for books). As part of this process, Paul sent 100,000 books to Yale's Library Shelving Facility (high-density shelving) and 100,000 to the Seeley Mudd Library, moving the Divinity Library into permanent collection management mode. Paul also established the Kenneth Scott Latourette Initiative for the Documentation of World Christianity, which microfilmed and/or digitized collections in Edinburgh, Geneva, Uganda, India, Australia, Lesotho, and Cuba.

Paul was active in the ATLA, serving three terms on its Board of Directors and one term as President. He served on the Steering Committee of the Collection Development Interest Group, helped to found the World Christianity Interest Group, and served on the International Collaboration Committee.

He was also active in the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, and the Pacific History Association. He contributed scholarly articles to numerous journals. In addition to serving as Divinity Librarian, Paul also held an appointment as Associate Professor (Adjunct) of Theological Literature at Yale Divinity School. He served for many years as the Director of the Lutheran Studies Program and the Visiting Fellows Program at Yale Divinity School.

William Badke Published Textbook

William Badke, Associated Canadian Theological Schools, has published the 5th edition of his textbook: *Research Strategies: Finding your Way through the Information Fog* (Bloomington, IN: iUniverse.com, 2014). 978-1491722336. For more information, go to: <http://acts.twu.ca/library/textbook.htm>.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, April 7, and Monday, May 5. 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.

Staff News

Bailey-Hainer Joins NFAIS Board

ATLA Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer was recently elected to the Board of Directors of NFAIS (National Federation of Advanced Information Services), effective February 25, 2014. She will be serving a one-year term ending in 2015, filling a seat that was vacated due to an early resignation. NFAIS is a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to advance scholarly, scientific, and professional research by enabling members to examine issues of content, technology, and business models integral to their future success.

Shultz Published Review

ATLA Indexer Analyst Nina Shultz's review of *The Eastern Church in the Spiritual Marketplace: American Conversions to Orthodox Christianity* by Amy Slagle was published in the January 2014 issue of *Review of Religious Research*.

Handy Presents at Midwest Conference

Lowell C. Handy, Indexer Analyst at ATLA, recently participated in the 2014 Joint Regional Meeting of the Midwest Region Society of Biblical Literature, the Middle West Branch of the American Oriental Society, and the American Schools of Oriental Research-Midwest, held at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, February 7-9, 2014. He presented a paper, *Nothing of Any Importance: A Dozen Commentaries (or so) on the Daughters and Wife of Job*, and served on the SBL Book Review Panel for Philip C. Schmitz's *The Phoenician Diaspora: Epigraphic and Historical Studies* (Eisenbrauns, 2012).

ATLA Calendar

March

- 12 - Virtual Conversation Webinar: E-books - Have Theological Libraries Reached the Tipping Point?
- 14 - ATLA Product Member Loyalty Form Due
- 14 - Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Application Due
- 15 - The Future of Libraries in Theological Education Application Due

April

- 3 - Virtual Conversation: Recommendations for Revisions to the ATS Library Form
- 3-5 - ABTAPL (Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries), Salisbury, England - Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 7 - Routine Maintenance Performed on ATLA Systems
- 8 - VThB (Vereniging voor het Theologisch Bibliothecariaat), Leiden, Netherlands - Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 14 - ATLA Annual Conference Registration Opens
- 21 - Virtual Conversation: Force 11 and it's Potential for Transforming Scholarly Communication in Religion and Theology.
- 27-30 - ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia), Portland, OR - Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending

May

- 1 - Travel Grants Application Due
- 1 - Scholarships in Diversity Applications Due
- 16 - Early Bird Registration Deadline for ATLA Annual Conference
- 16 - Housing Deadline for ATLA Annual Conference



From the Executive Director Force 11: A Grassroots Effort to Transform Scholarly Communication

The traditional system of scholarly communication is increasingly described as being in a state of crisis. The rising cost of journal subscriptions coupled with the declining buying power of library budgets, lack of affordable public access to published scholarship, and publishers holding restrictive rights preventing authors from freely disseminating their work are all factors that contribute to the problem. Technology and widespread availability of the Internet have further complicated the situation by creating new and low cost methods of disseminating research, which has disrupted the traditional business model for scholarly publishing for both commercial and nonprofit publishers. Scholarly communication is a complex issue involving many players and there is no simple solution. However, one organization is actively working to create change.

[Force 11](#) is a nonprofit community open to anyone who has a stake in scholarly communication, including stakeholders associated with emerging technologies, policies, funding mechanisms, and business models. This grass roots effort crosses the boundaries of all disciplines and aspires to accelerate the pace and nature of scholarly communication and e-scholarship through technology, education, and community.

[The Force 11 Manifesto](#) outlines the basic tenets of the initiative. They categorize the problems and potential solutions into two groups, each containing three principal themes: Themes 1-3 concern the format and technologies of scholarly publication:

- how scholarly data, information, and knowledge are (or could be) represented
- how readers, users, authors, editors, and computers can interact with these representations

- how different knowledge representations could be combined, queried, stored, and otherwise treated.

Themes 4-6 concern the enterprise of scholarly publishing, including business models and the attribution of credit, how scholarship is evaluated, accredited, and monetized:

- current and new models and modes of assigning copyright and intellectual property rights
- financial aspects of scholarly publishing
- mechanisms for assessing the quality and value of researchers and their research outputs, and of attributing credit and worth to them.

Some of the solutions Force 11 proposes are to rethink the form and unit of the scholarly publication, develop new tools and technologies that better support the scholarly lifecycle, create new financially sustainable models of open access, and derive new methods for evaluating the quality and impact of research.

I encourage you to review the Force 11 site and read their *Manifesto*. Does this resonate with you? Can their initiative assist ATLA in our efforts to transform scholarly communication? On Monday, April 21 at 11 a.m. CDT, I will be [convening a virtual conversation about Force 11 and its potential for transforming scholarly communication in religion and theology](#). I hope you'll join me and share your thoughts.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer
Executive Director

Contact Information

We welcome your submission of news, photos, and other items of interest for the *ATLA Newsletter*. All submissions are due on the first business day of the month preceding publication.

Contact newsletter@atla.com with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

Stay Connected

