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# ATLA NEWSLETTER

Volume 65  
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August 2018



# Lightning Bugs and Transitions

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ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/president-august/

August 15, 2018

## Submitted by Jennifer Bartholomew, ATLA President

August is my favorite month. I love the heat, local gardens and markets, and evenings full of lightning bugs, planets, and stars. I glory in the time I can spend out of doors walking in our nearby park and botanical garden. Recently I've found great comfort and retreat from the chaos of national and global issues in these beautiful spaces.



At work, I think our whole staff appreciates the break from meetings and the rhythms of the school year. As August flies by, you'll see us begin our transition into the academic year, finishing up summer projects, tweaking our orientation process to welcome new students, and meeting with faculty to fine tune our academic support services. We know what's coming.

The ATLA Board has continued its work over the summer via email and phone calls. Our new Board members — Shanee' Yvette Murrain, Armin Siedlecki, and Matthew Thiesen — are beginning to read some of the supplementary materials that will guide them in their terms on the Board. Early next month they will gather in Chicago for training on the Carver method of policy governance. Together with Governance Committee members Jennifer Ulrich (chair), and Ellen Frost (Board Secretary, elected for a second term this year), and Stephen Sweeney (Vice President), they will go over the basics and examine ATLA-specific issues. It takes time to learn a new process and we appreciate their talent and their commitment.

Whatever the next few weeks hold for you, whether you are "searching for stars on an island in Maine" (this is the title of a great little book by the physicist Alan Lightman that I discovered through Krista Tippett's On Being podcast) or hard at work in your job, I wish you a good August with time to rest, relax, and recharge. See you in September!

# Balancing Mission and Sustainability: A Look at ATLA's 2018 Finances

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ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/executivedirector-august/

August 15, 2018

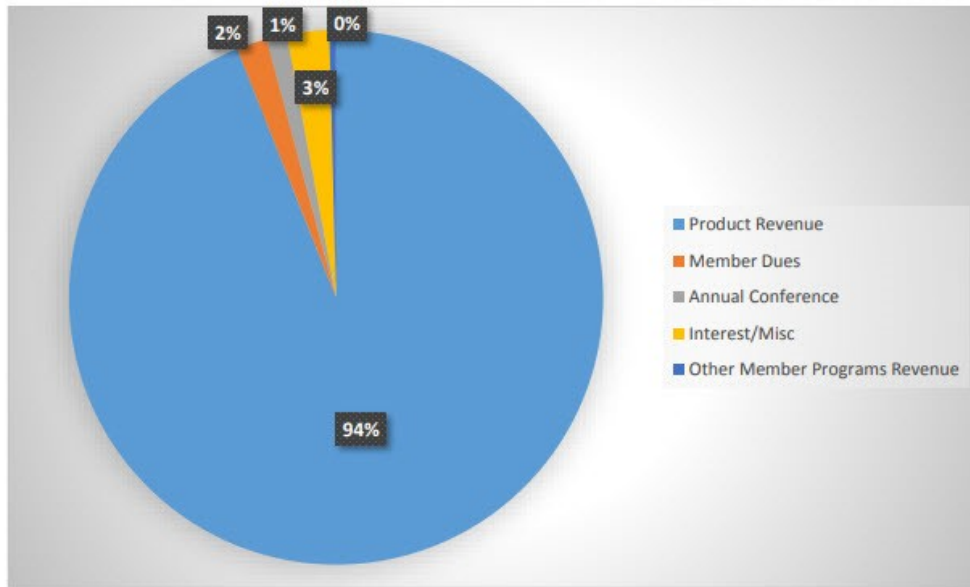
## Submitted by Brenda Bailey-Hainer, ATLA Executive Director

As librarians, we're often squeamish about talking finance. None of us attended library school with the goal of becoming a financial genius. We entered the profession to educate students and support faculty in their advancement of scholarship and to ensure that our graduates who serve congregations have the lifelong learning skills to do so. Perhaps those graduates will end up using those skills elsewhere in the nonprofit sector or to work toward the greater good in myriad other ways. But the truth of the matter is, if we don't pay attention to finances and maintain financially healthy institutions in which to base these educational services, we cannot support any of those endeavors. The best analogy that comes to mind is the airline safety instructions pronounced at the beginning of each flight: "in case of emergency, secure your own oxygen mask before helping others." As a nonprofit organization, ATLA is no different.



At the Annual Conference in Indianapolis in June, my association update covered information on the health of ATLA's finances, including the sources of ATLA's revenue and the nature of our expenditures. This information was based on the 2018 fiscal year budget (our fiscal year ends August 31). The charts below are based on ATLA's FY2018 balanced budget of \$7,829,089.

## ATLA FY18 Budgeted Revenue by Source



Membership dues for all categories of membership make up a very modest portion of the revenue: around 2%. Annual conference revenue accounts for another 1%. With better stock market performance during the past year, the interest income on our investments has been higher than in the recent past and now represents around 3% of our revenue. By far, the most significant source of revenue – 94% – is derived from royalties paid to ATLA for annual subscriptions to the databases we produce and for one-time sales of digitized historic content. These subscriptions are from libraries located throughout the world, the majority of which are not ATLA member institutions.

As a nonprofit with a mission, ATLA is committed to reinvesting its income in the Association and its members. The expense side of our budget illustrates how ATLA utilizes much of our product revenue in programs and services for our members and to support scholarship in theology and religious studies.

With the introduction of a new production system a few years ago that resulted in more efficient internal workflow processes, ATLA has decreased the overall cost per article to index materials and prepare full-text content. We've managed to do this while at the same time dramatically increasing the number of titles indexed and the amount of full-text content offered. While 94% of ATLA's revenue comes from products, only 36% of our expenses are tied to the direct cost to produce those products.

Around 25% of expense is related to administrative costs, such as accounting and IT, as well as staff whose sole purpose is to support the membership. Gradually over the last three years, we more than doubled the size of the Member Programs Department staff to nine from four. This enabled us to introduce and support new programs such as the [ATLA Digital Library](#), [open access](#) monograph publishing and other scholarly communication activities, and to

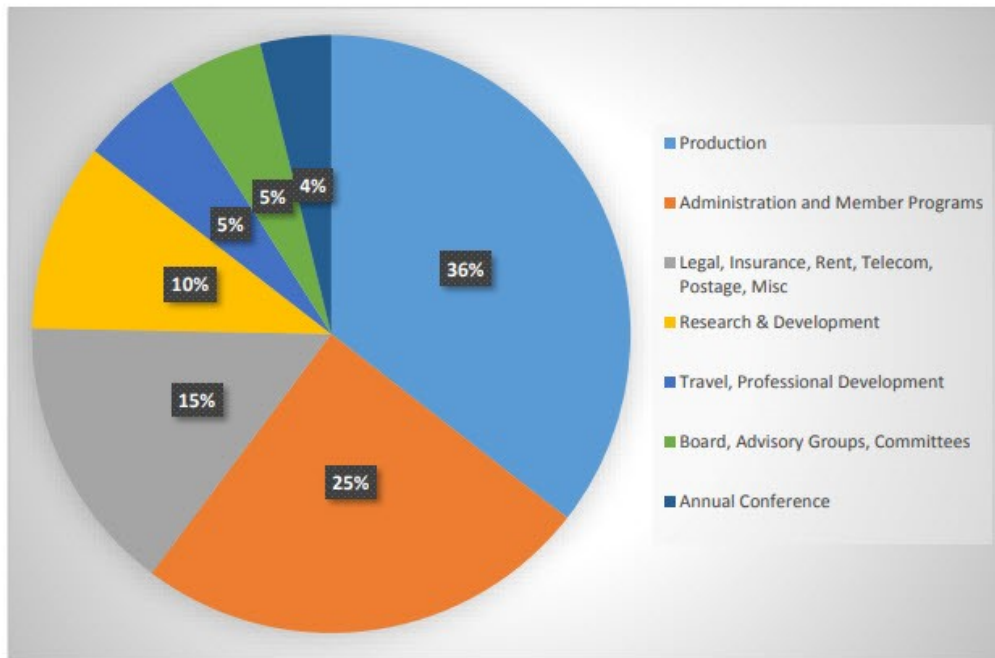
continue other ongoing programs such as the ATLA Serials Exchange, the Reciprocal Borrowing Program, consortial purchasing programs, and the publication of Theological Librarianship.

Staff also lead important initiatives like the conversion of ATLA publications to open access and conducting research needed to produce salary and demographic studies of our membership. Other important responsibilities include coordinating the work of volunteer editorial boards, committees, and task forces as well as to develop grant proposals and manage our participation in successful collaborative grant projects, and to provide project management for important infrastructure initiatives such as our conversion to new association management software and a new content management system. Our staff of forty-three from all departments is supported through an investment of 5% of our operating expense in their own professional development and training, travel to conferences, visits to member institutions and publisher partners, and meetings to explore potential collaboration opportunities with other nonprofit organizations that operate in the theology and religious studies space.

Our goal each year is to spend around 7-10% of our operating budget on research and development initiatives. This helps inform decisions about enhancing our current products, the design and release of new products like ATLAS PLUS™, and the evaluation or development of new programs and services that benefit our members in other ways.

Continuing education and professional development for our membership is a key part of our overall mission. An additional 5% of expense is used to support the work of the board and volunteer committees, including funding continuing education grants to regional groups and diversity grants to future theological librarians, webinars and other continuing education opportunities, and to nurture our ties with international colleagues. ATLA partially covers the cost of the Annual Conference to keep it affordable for attendees. This year we expected to spend 4% of our budget on the conference, not including awarding travel grants to our members.

## ATLA FY18 Budgeted Expense by Type



While ATLA is blessed right now with a significant revenue stream from its products, to be a good steward of resources, we must always set aside funds for less prosperous times. The revenue we receive makes ATLA's long-term financial sustainability possible by ensuring that we maintain reserves that represent between 3-6 months of operating cost as dictated by board policy. It has also allowed us to match – and often exceed – donor contributions to the Endowment Fund. Thanks to contributions from members and others, an end of year match from ATLA's product revenue and, of course, the stock market, as of July 31, the balance in the ATLA Endowment Fund was \$662,145, up from \$560,426 last August. We are making steady progress toward our short-term goal of reaching \$1 million.

ATLA continues to be blessed with a healthy income that can be used to benefit our members and further the profession. The use of these funds also speaks to our core purpose to promote worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers. Through wise stewardship of our resources, we intend to be here for a long time to come to ensure that we can continue to serve future generations of professionals in the field.

# Summary of June ATLA Board Meeting

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 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/board-june/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/board-june/)

August 16, 2018

## by **Stephen Sweeney, 2017-2018** **ATLA Board of Directors Secretary**

The ATLA Board of Directors met June 13 in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Hyatt Regency hotel. During this meeting, the Board reviewed 2018-2019 appointments for Board committees. The Board discussed with the Executive Director ways to structure reporting on Organizational Ends and provided feedback on interpretations.



The Moral Ownership Committee, created in February 2018, presented a report on its work and recommendations for moving forward, including the creation of a charge. The Board also heard reports and updates from the Governance Committee and considered future Board member mentoring.

The Board heard an update from the Executive Director and then went into Executive Session for the yearly evaluation of the Executive Director's performance for the period April 15, 2017, through April 16, 2018. After the Board emerged from Executive Session, it worked on setting an agenda for the coming year before adjourning.

For the full Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, visit the Member's Only Community section of the ATLA website.

# Nomination of ATLA Board Candidates by Petition: How It Works

ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/boardnomination/

August 7, 2018

## Submitted by Timothy Lincoln, Chair, Nominating Committee for Board Candidates

Because ATLA values the participation of members, the Association has created a process to nominate a member to run for the Board of Directors other than those named on the slate created by the Nominating Committee. This process is called nomination by petition.

The Nominating Committee's slate will be announced to members no later than October 15, 2018. The deadline for nominations by petition is no later than December 1, 2018. The nomination by petition process has four steps.



### Step one: Get informed agreement to run.

To nominate a member by petition, a member must approach the intended nominee and secure her or his agreement to run for the Board. The intended nominee needs to understand the qualities, competencies, and responsibilities of Board members. For instance, Board members should be able to think in terms of systems and the good of the entire Association. Additionally, persons elected to the Board may not serve in any capacity in ATLA based on an appointment from the Executive Director. These requirements are spelled out in detail in the Board Policy Manual, Appendix BP4. The manual is available on the [Community Section of the ATLA website](#).

### Step two: Get at least ten ATLA members to agree to a petition for the nominee.

After securing the informed agreement of the intended nominee, ten (10) or more voting members of the Association must sign a petition stating the clear intention to add the intended nominee's name on the ballot. The petition text should name the nominee, affirm that she or he is eligible, and has agreed to run. The petition should include the best email address and telephone number of the nominee. In addition, the petition should link to board documents specifying the qualities, competencies, and responsibilities of board members.

### Step three: Send in petitions

Everyone supporting a given petition should send it to the secretary of the ATLA Board **no later than December 1, 2018**. Petitions may be sent by fax, email, or surface mail. The secretary for 2018-2019 is Ellen Frost ([efrost@smu.edu](mailto:efrost@smu.edu)). Petitions may be sent by email



directly to Ellen. Fax and surface mail will be received by the ATLA office in Chicago and forwarded to Ellen.

#### **Step four: Verification**

After receiving the petitions, the secretary will confirm that the nominee is willing to serve and understands Board member responsibilities. Once the secretary has confirmed this, the person nominated by petition will be added to the ballot. Voting will take place in January 2019. After the votes are counted, those elected are contacted again to verify their willingness to serve.

#### **In Conclusion**

Following the steps outlined above, members not on the slate from the Nominating Committee may run for election for the ATLA Board of Directors. By now you have concluded – quite correctly! – that it is quite important for ATLA members not to be surprised by the tasks and distinctive role that go along with board service.

Come October, if you wish to nominate a member by petition and want to make sure that you follow the process properly, please contact me ([tlincoln@austinseminary.edu](mailto:tlincoln@austinseminary.edu)).

# ATLA Committees, Task Force, and Publishing Program Appointments

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 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/appointments/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/appointments/)

August 1, 2018

Much of the work accomplished toward meeting ATLA's Organizational Ends is done by Individual and Lifetime Members who serve on committees. 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**
  - Rebecca Yowler (7/2015 – 6/2018)
  - Shanee' Yvette Murrain (7/2016 – 6/2018)
  - Matthew Thiesen (7/2015 – 6/2018)
- **Professional Development Committee**
  - Wesley Custer (7/2015 – 6/2018)– served as chair 2017-2018
  - James Estes (12/2014 – 6/2018)
- **Task Force on Scholarly Communication in Religion and Theology**  
Chris Anderson\*
- **ATLA Press Coordinating Council**
  - Gary F. Daught (At Large) (1/2017 – 3/2018)
  - David Kohl, *Monographs* Interim Editor in Chief (9/2016 – 3/2018)

## ATLA Committee and Task Force Appointments, 2018-2019

The membership of each of ATLA's committees for 2018-2019, as of July 1, 2018, includes:

### Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Evan Boyd (7/2017 – 6/2020), Chair (7/2018 – 6/2019)
- Drew Baker (2/2017 – 6/2021)
- Ondrea Murphy (7/2016 – 6/2019)
- Lee Staman (3/2017 – 6/2020)
- Alice Song (7/2018 – 6/2021)
- Donna Wells (7/2016 – 6/2019)

## **Conference Committee**

- Erica Durham (7/2016 – 6/2018), Chair (7/2018 – 6/2019)
- Paul Tippey (7/2015 – 6/2019)
- Robert Burgess (7/2015 – 6/2019)
- Gerone Lockhart (7/2018 – 6/2021)
- Megan Welsh (7/2018 – 6/2021)
- Robert Roethemeyer– 2018 Local Host Committee Representative (2/2017 – 6/2019)
- Cindy Aalders– 2019 Local Host Committee Representative (9/2017 – 6/2020)
- Christopher Spilker – 2020 Local Host Committee Representative (7/2018 – 6/2021)
- Miranda Bennett –*Proceedings* Editor in Chief, ex-officio (7/2017 – 6/2020)

## **Endowment Committee**

- Sharon Taylor, Chair (7/2015 – 6/2022)
- Eric Benoy (12/2015 – 6/2022)
- Pat Graham (7/2017 – 6/2024)
- Craig Kubic (9/2017 – 6/2024)
- Dennis Swanson (7/2012 – 6/2019)

## **Professional Development Committee**

- Martha Adkins (7/2016 – 6/2019), Chair (7/2018 – 6/2019)
- Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir (7/2016 – 6/2019)
- Michael Bradford (7/2015 – 6/2020)
- Karen Clarke (7/2018 – 6/2021)
- Justin Lillard (7/2018 – 6/2021)
- Warren Watson (7/2017 – 6/2020)

## **International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force\***

- Kelly Campbell, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, U.S. – Chair
- Yasmine Abou-el-Kheir, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
- Sandy Ayer, Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 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 Sellen, South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS), Bangalore, India

## **Task Force on Scholarly Communication in Religion and Theology\***

- Andy Keck, Chair
- Clifford Anderson
- Debbie Creamer
- Michael Hemenway
- Jérémie Leblanc

## **ATLA Publishing Program Appointments**

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### **ATLA Press Coordinating Council**

- Miranda Bennett, *Proceedings* Editor in Chief (7/2017 – 6/2020)
- Matthew Collins, Monographs Editor in Chief (4/2018 – 12/2020)
- Leslie Engelson, *Theology Cataloging Bulletin* Editor in Chief (7/2016 – 6/2019)
- Melody Layton McMahon (At Large) (2/2017 – 12/2019)
- Jennifer Woodruff-Tait, *Theological Librarianship* Editor-in-Chief (1/2017 – 12/2019)

### ***Proceedings***

Editor in Chief: Miranda Bennett (7/2017 – 6/2020)

### ***Theology Cataloging Bulletin***

- Editor in Chief: Leslie Engelson (7/2016 – 6/2019)
- Contributor: Anna Appleman (7/2016 – 6/2019)
- Contributor: Ann Heinrichs (7/2016 – 6/2019)

### ***Monographs***

- Editor in Chief: Matthew Collins (4/2019 – 12/2020)
- Editor: Christopher Rogers (5/2017 – 12/2018)
- Editor: James Estes (6/2018 – 12/2019)
- Editor: Myka Kennedy Stephens (6/2018 – 12/2021)

### ***Theological Librarianship***

- Editor in Chief: Jennifer Woodruff-Tait (1/2017 – 12/2019)
- Editor: Chris Anderson (7/2018 – 6/2021)
- Editor: Richard Manly “Bo” Adams, Jr. (7/2017 – 6/2020)
- Editor: Barnaby Hughes (1/2017 – 12/2019)
- Editor: Keegan Osinski (1/2017 – 12/2019)

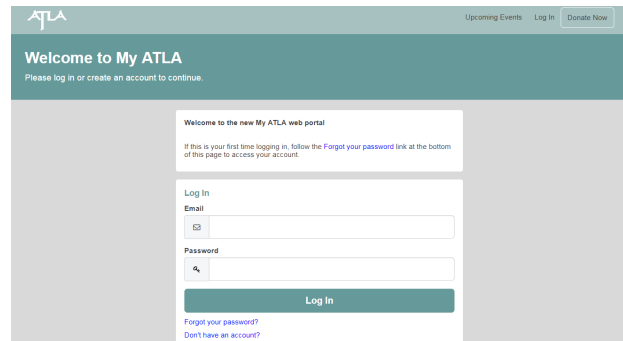
*\*The term of appointments is indefinite.*

# ATLA Improves Membership Experience with New System Upgrades

ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/systemupgrades/

August 17, 2018

ATLA staff are hard at work upgrading our systems to improve your membership experience. Many of the changes are “behind the scenes” and will help ATLA staff be more efficient in our work with members, publishers, customers, and partners. One of the first stages of these upgrades that will be visible to members is our new and improved membership web portal.



The new **My ATLA web portal** is the place where you will be able to view membership information, update contact information, track participation in member benefit programs, register for events such as the annual conference, access the membership directory, and pay any open invoices.

As part of these upgrades, we are also improving the conference proposal submission process.

Due to these upgrades, the timing of membership renewals and the conference proposal submission process will be delayed. Membership renewal letters will be sent at the end of August and the call for the 2019 ATLA Annual Conference proposals will be open in September.

More upgrades are coming soon, including a new community area for members and a new website.

Thank you in advance for your patience through this transition. We anticipate a significantly improved membership experience and hope these upgrades will be a welcome change.

If you have any questions or feedback about these changes, email us at [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

# Accessing the ATLA Community and the New My ATLA Web Portal

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 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/atlacommunityandportal/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/atlacommunityandportal/)

August 17, 2018

ATLA is in the process of a major system upgrade. In late July, current members received an email indicating that membership renewals will be through the new MyATLA web portal this year. As we work to improve your online member experience, we wanted to explain how to continue to access members-only content not included in the new My ATLA web portal during this transition period.



Over the next several months, ATLA members will have two separate login credentials.

The first credential is the username and password you have used in the past to access members-only information. For the next several months, this credential should still be used to access the ATLA Community section of the website which houses ATLA member publications (*Theology Cataloging Bulletin*, *Summary of Proceedings*, and printable copies of the *ATLA Newsletter*) as well as Board materials (meeting minutes and the Board Policy Manual). This login credential will also continue to give you access to the Members Only content on the ATLA Newsletter site. We have currently removed the “Forgot your password” link from the ATLA website as we are in the process of making these upgrades. If you require assistance logging in with these credentials, please contact [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

Your second login credential will be for the new My ATLA web portal, which is where you will be able to view membership information, update contact information, track participation in member benefit programs, register for events such as the annual conference, access the membership directory, and pay any open invoices.

The first time you access the My ATLA web portal, you will need to reset your password by selecting “Forgot your password” link. This new system follows best practices in password management, so moving forward members will be able to manage their login credentials from the portal itself without having to contact ATLA staff. The link to the new My ATLA web portal will be sent with renewals in late August.

If you have any questions or need assistance in accessing these websites, please reach out to us at [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

# Upcoming ATLA Events: August and September 2018

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 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/calendar-august/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/calendar-august/)

August 15, 2018

ATLA is around the globe this season. Check out the new [ATLA Calendar](#) for a list of events, deadlines, and meetings.

If you would like your meeting or event added to the calendar, email [memberep@atla.com](mailto:memberep@atla.com).



## Upcoming Events

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### **Submit to ATLA Newsletter**

September 1

[Submit](#)

### **ATLA Office Closed**

September 3

### **ATLA Systems Routine Maintenance**

September 10

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

### **BETH**

September 8- 12

Nürnberg (Nuremberg), Archive of the Lutheran Church in Bavaria

Staff attending:

- Maria Stanton
- Margot Lyon

### ***Proceedings Submissions Due***

September 28

[Submit](#)

### **ATLA Annual Yearbook Submissions Due**

September 28

[Submit](#)

# 2018 ATLA Annual Conference Wrap Up

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 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/atla2018-wrapup/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/atla2018-wrapup/)

August 15, 2018

## Submitted by Denise McFarlin, ATLA Meeting Specialist

The 2018 ATLA Annual Conference, Connection at the Crossroads: Creative Collaboration in a Changing Landscape, was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 13-16. Attracting 300 members, exhibitors, and international guests the conference was a tremendous success. With the help of the Local Host Committee, Robert Roethemeyer and Ken Boyd, we were able to capture all the best that Indianapolis had to offer. They showcased the downtown area and provided us with various options for exploration, which only complimented the great programming, speakers, and exhibitors during our stay. Our Local Hosts did a wonderful job on all the ideas and events that were implemented for our conference attendees.



## In the Heart of Indianapolis

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The conference was hosted at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis in the heart of downtown. This metropolitan area had it all: restaurants galore, cultural sights, sports arenas, and museums, with everything merely a few blocks away. We were able to embrace “going green” as well as “getting our steps” in for the day by walking to local attractions.

The venue itself was an open atrium space that allowed you to see from the sky to the ground floor. No matter where you were in the hotel you were always in sight and still a part of the conference vibe. The proximity of the meeting space, exhibits, and general sessions generated excellent opportunities for quality “hall time” with your fellow colleagues.





## ATLA Programming: Something for Everyone

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We had a record number of attendees for the stellar pre-conference sessions which provided additional learning opportunities. Sessions were presented by PALNI OCLC, the Stone-Campbell Denominational Group, the Wabash Center, ATLA Publishing Program, and the Special Collections Interest Group. New this year was a THATCamp – which held “unconference sessions” that were decided by the participants.

The excursions were a historical tour of the downtown area and of course, no ATLA conference is complete without baseball! Our new tradition from last year of the Opening Reception with the exhibitors continued and allowed everyone to begin making their connections early on in the conference. Worship services were held each morning in the Disciples of Christ, Mennonite, and Lutheran traditions.

ATLA continued to host Breakfast with the Exhibitors each day, sponsored by OCLC and ATLA Products. Our opening keynote speakers began with Timothy Beal, Florence Harkness Professor of Religion and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Case Western Reserve University on Thursday; followed on Friday by Stephanie Crumpton, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, McCormick Theological Seminary; and closing with David C. Lewis, Dean of the IUPUI University Library on Saturday.

With over one hundred additional papers, conversation groups, workshops, interest groups, panels, listen and learns, poster sessions, exhibitor showcases, denominational meetings, diverse worship services, and committee/regional group lunches, it is safe to once again say that the 2018 ATLA Annual Conference provided something for everyone.

## re:loom Returns

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As you may recall, last year we provided tote bags from [re:loom](#). We continued the environmentally-conscious tradition by eliminating tote bags this year. Instead, we did a social media contest of who could show us the most tote bags that had been collected from ATLA Conferences through the years and it proved to be an extremely popular activity ([read more about it](#)).

## Thank You and See you in 2019!

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Finally, I would like to offer a huge thank you to everyone that contributed to the overall success of our conference: The Conference Committee members, the Board of Directors, our speakers, presiders, regional, denominational, and interest group members, ATLA staff, and all the ATLA members who make me feel extremely proud to be a part of this great association. I feel extremely fortunate, privileged, and grateful.

And as always, we are already planning our next ATLA conference. Get your passports ready to join us in Vancouver, BC, Canada, at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, June 12-15, 2019. The Conference Committee will launch the proposal form in September, [so stay tuned for further details](#) and other future communications.



Denise McFarlin (CMP) is the Meetings Specialist of ATLA.

# ATLA Exhibits at Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting

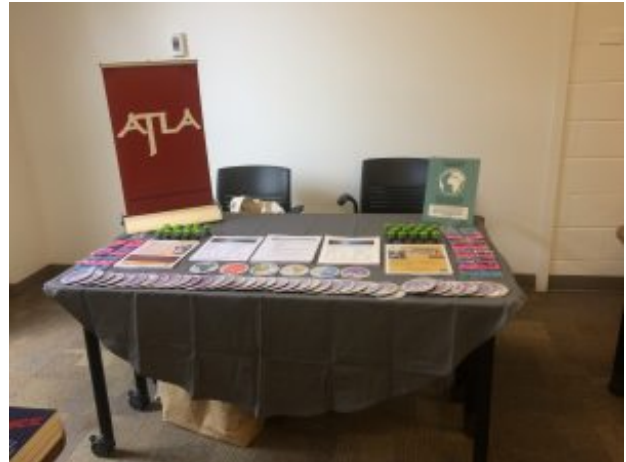
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 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/cba/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/cba/)

August 14, 2018

ATLA Licensing and Business Development Specialist Annie Banfich attended this year's Catholic Biblical Association (CBA) Meeting held July 28-31 at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

ATLA and CBA are long-time partners and work together to produce the electronic version of Old Testament Abstracts (OTA). It was a bustling four days with great panels, presentations, reports, and speakers throughout.



We are grateful to CBA for their hospitality and are already looking forward to next year's conference.

# A Quick Tour of Some Libraries in South Africa

newsletter.atla.com/2018/south-africa-libraries/

July 24, 2018

## Submitted by Barnaby Hughes, *CPLI* Metadata Analyst

After dropping my bags off at the hotel, I ventured out to see the sights of Cape Town. First stop: the National Library of South Africa (NLSA). Google Maps pointed me toward a beautiful, domed Edwardian building (formerly belonging to the University of Good Hope). When I arrived, a model was being photographed on one side of the double staircase leading to the entrance. I soon discovered, however, that this was not the main building of the NLSA, but the Centre for the Book.



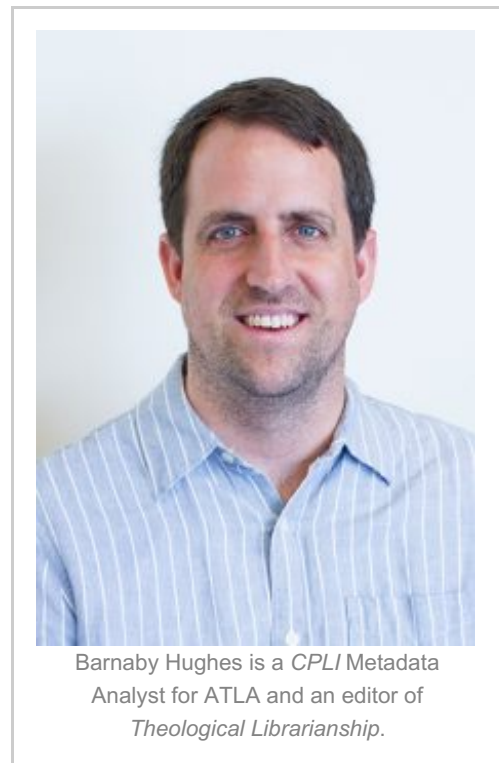
No matter, I wandered inside and took in the ceremonial hall, which hosts concerts, weddings, and other events. Unfortunately, I never did seek out the main library in Cape Town, which I later learned was a gorgeous neoclassical building dating from the early nineteenth century.



My second library visit in South Africa occurred entirely by chance during a township tour in Knysna, located a few hundred miles east of Cape Town. The most remarkable thing about the Masifunde Public Library was how unremarkable it was (and I mean this in an entirely complimentary way). Apart from the books in Afrikaans and other South African languages, I could have been in an American public library. It was clean, well-organized and well-stocked; and uniformed high school students were surfing the Internet and writing essays.

While visiting an old friend on the last day of my trip, I passed by the main building of the Port Elizabeth Public Library, which was closed for renovation. Opened in 1902, it is a splendid example of late Victorian Gothic architecture. It is also said to be the oldest continuously operating public library building in South Africa.

For more information about the NLSA, visit <http://www.nlsa.ac.za/index.php>



Barnaby Hughes is a CPLI Metadata Analyst for ATLA and an editor of *Theological Librarianship*.

# As Seen on Twitter: July 2018

ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/twitter-july/

August 13, 2018

The ATLA Twitter feed is filled with news on ATLA events and product updates as well as stories that have relevance to the work of libraries and librarians.

Here are some highlights from last month's @YourATLA Twitter feed:

## As Seen on Twitter

- Books didn't have title pages until the 15th and 16th centuries. Before that time, different methods were used to announce the author(s), title, edition, place of publication, printer, publisher and publication date. via @Europeanaeu <http://blog.europeana.eu/2018/07/text-announcement-in-manuscripts-and-early-printed-books/#publishing>

Books didn't have title pages until the 15th and 16th centuries. Before that time, different methods were used to announce the author(s), title, edition, place of publication, printer, publisher and publication date. via @Europeanaeu <https://t.co/N8f5OaYo88> #publishing

— ATLA (@YourATLA) [July 27, 2018](#)

- Find your next job in theological librarianship on the ATLA Job Board <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/default.aspx>

Find your next job in theological librarianship on the ATLA Job Board: <https://t.co/dIgpCp3idLpic.twitter.com/B39Cdvwwds>

— ATLA (@YourATLA) [July 27, 2018](#)

- A place to study, a place to pray: Supporting student spiritual needs in academic libraries via @ALA\_ACRL <https://crln.acrl.org/index.php/crlnews/article/view/17010/18758>

A place to study, a place to pray: Supporting student spiritual needs in academic libraries via @ALA\_ACRL <https://t.co/ERAMp5w0vL>

— ATLA (@YourATLA) [July 16, 2018](#)

- Interesting new article on impact of #OER on student success. Study of over 20k students reveals OER not only saves students \$ but also improves grades and reduces course

withdrawals. From Int'l J of Teaching & Learning in Higher Ed  
<http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/abstract.cfm?mid=3386>

Interesting new article on impact of #OER on student success. Study of over 20k students reveals OER not only saves students \$ but also improves grades and reduces course withdrawals. From Int'l J of Teaching & Learning in Higher Ed <https://t.co/Q7wA22oNx9>

— ATLA (@YourATLA) [July 25, 2018](#)

- Searching for Dead People: Using Genealogy Tools for Name Authority Work  
<https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/testimony-genealogy/>

Searching for Dead People: Using Genealogy Tools for Name Authority Work  
<https://t.co/tMivhDcKwk>

— ATLA (@YourATLA) [July 12, 2018](#)

- Archeologists in Cologne are sure they have found what looks like the foundations of the oldest verifiable library in Germany. It was built by the Romans about 1,800 years ago.  
<https://www.dw.com/en/sensational-archaeological-find-is-likely-germanys-oldest-library/a-44830262> #oldlibraries #libraries

Archeologists in Cologne are sure they have found what looks like the foundations of the oldest verifiable library in Germany. It was built by the Romans about 1,800 years ago.  
<https://t.co/d4VDnwBII3> #oldlibraries #libraries

— ATLA (@YourATLA) [July 27, 2018](#)

# Jacques Ellul and the Bible

newsletter.atla.com/2018/jacques-ellul-and-the-bible/

August 13, 2018

## Submitted by Ginny Landgraf, ATLA Indexer-Analyst

At the end of June, I attended the 2018 conference of the International Jacques Ellul Society, “Jacques Ellul and the Bible,” at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. Jacques Ellul (1912-1994) was a polymath. His official job was as a professor of law and the history of institutions at the University of Bordeaux, and he was an active lay theologian in the French Reformed Church.



Although his textbooks on the history of institutions went through several editions in France, he is better known outside France for his pessimistic-sounding social critiques such as *The Technological Society* (French 1954, English 1964), which claim that the search for the most efficient means to a given end is crowding out the ends themselves.

In theological circles, he is known for his ethics and his biblical commentaries. More of his biblical material has come to light since his death as recordings of classes he gave for church groups have been transcribed. This was the fourth in a series of conferences that started in 2012 with Jacques Ellul’s centennial. The previous themes were “Prophet in the Technological Wilderness: A Centenary Celebration” (Wheaton, Illinois, 2012); “Communicating Humanly in an Age of Technology and Spin” (Ottawa, Canada, 2014); and “Politics without Illusion, Revolution without Violence” (Berkeley, California, 2016).

Walter Brueggemann had been scheduled to give the opening address but was advised by his doctors not to travel, so his paper was read by his son, sociologist John Brueggemann. He designed it as a counterpoint to Ellul’s commentary on Second Kings, *The Politics of God and the Politics of Man*. Whereas Ellul’s focus was on divine action – how God’s action is different from that of earthly rulers, giving time for the other to respond rather than dominating the other – Brueggemann focused on the contrast between the royal chronicle and the common people’s activities. He contrasts ordinary people’s ingenuity with the inability of the kings to lift people out of poverty, heal from disease, make peace, or provide food.

Brueggemann used the work of the anthropologist James C. Scott, whose description of the state in *Seeing like a State* has a lot in common with Ellul’s criticism of states and most other institutions in a technically-oriented society as focused on abstractions rather than persons and using these abstractions to manipulate them.



## Bernard Charbonneau and Ellul

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Christian Roy, who has recently finished translating Ellul's posthumously published book *Theology and Technique*, presented on Bernard Charbonneau's reading of how creation and nature are portrayed in the Bible. Charbonneau (1910-1996) and Ellul became friends in their early teens and had a fruitful intellectual relationship all their lives. Ellul came from a mixed-confession family and became a fervent Protestant; Charbonneau came from a Protestant family and became what conference speakers called a "reverent agnostic": not claiming to believe in God, but retaining certain pious habits (such as praying the Lord's Prayer every day) and intellectual emphases (such as the concept of incarnation).

Ellul claimed that some of his insights into the autonomous nature of technology in today's society originated with Charbonneau. But few of Charbonneau's works have been translated into English, and even in France, they were not well known. Roy and other Charbonneau scholars think that he will be better appreciated after his death than during his lifetime. They have found that young intellectuals who have little connection to Christianity have discovered Ellul through Charbonneau rather than the other way around.

Another of Roy's recent translations is Charbonneau's *The Green Light: A Self-Critique of the Ecological Movement*. In this book, Charbonneau interprets the creation story (contrary to some contrasts of Abrahamic religions with paganism or pantheism) as meaning that human beings do not have the right to destroy God's handiwork and that human transcendence over nature is not absolute. It is sin, not human beings' creation in the image of God, that leads to rapacious domination over nature.

### *Oratorio: The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*

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Albert Moritz's paper discussed Ellul's work *Oratorio: The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. This book-length poem can be seen as a complement to Ellul's prose commentary on Revelation, *Apocalypse: Architecture in Movement*.

The image of the Word of God breaking into reality – which in the prose commentary is his interpretation of the white horse, which contrasts with the red horse (war), the black horse (economic necessities), and the pale green horse (death) – is present in the poem in the image of the beggar (the Word of God in the world, acting not by power but by love) and the idea of the end in the beginning, which is also reflected in the structure of the poem.

### Ellul on the Ten Commandments

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I presented on Ellul's thought and the Ten Commandments. In his theological work, following Karl Barth, Ellul interprets the commandments as promises: in the relationship with the God who gives the commandments, one will not have to kill, covet, worship idols or false gods, etc. Therefore, the Prologue to the commandments – "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt..." – is an integral part of the commandments.

The commandments define, in various ways, the space in which life is possible. This interpretation of the commandments combines with the distinction between the orders of “truth” and “reality” in Ellul’s thought to illuminate the relationship between Ellul’s theological and sociological work. Ellul sees the order of “truth” as having to do with values and the ultimate destiny of human beings; it is communicated by the word of a committed person. The order of “reality” has to do with things that can be seen and extended in space or existing conditions; it can be communicated by visualizable abstract data.

While writing my dissertation, I discovered that each of the Ten Commandments could be expressed as a call to keep reality open to truth. Ellul’s theological work is oriented around being receptive to the Word of God who brings something from outside existing realities. But as a sociological writer, Ellul intended to make conclusions that could be assessed by anyone, regardless of their stance on the biblical God or Jesus Christ.

There are places in Ellul’s sociological work where he talks about conditions within which life is possible. These sociological descriptions, too, can be expressed in terms of the Ten Commandments seen through the lens of the distinction between truth and reality. Life is sustainable only when one does not trust in reality as a replacement for truth, reduce truth to reality, use language in an empty way so that it no longer bears truth, and so forth.

But – and here’s the great contrast with his theological work – in Ellul’s sociological work there is no Guarantor that it will be possible to keep reality open to truth. Hence his sociological work is filled with depictions of vicious circles, such as how technology is becoming an end in itself, politics is not guided by human ends but ruled by technical efficiency, and propaganda is crowding out attention to values or even concrete facts.

### *The Meaning of the City*

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Naomi Stafford put Ellul’s book *The Meaning of the City*, which sets forth his interpretation of the biblical view of large cities, in conversation with the United Nations’ New Urban Agenda. Ellul sees the city as the epitome of human beings’ rebellion against God – building an environment entirely of our own making instead of accepting the environment God gives us – and for that reason, it is under a curse. Yet God does not stop there but accepts human beings’ desire to build cities, and the eschatological consummation of history is not supposed to be a simple return to the Garden of Eden but a city, the New Jerusalem.

Ellul’s own life was not one of fleeing from cities (except his time in the French Resistance during World War II) but of involvement with them. There is a constant tension between the “already” and the “not yet.” Bringing these issues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Stafford asked, “Can Ellul’s city be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable?” (the four characteristics of the city called for by the United Nations). She drew on Hebrews 11-13, which Ellul did not comment on, to say that Christians should keep faith and live in the city in the face of its shame. But she did not believe that urban renewal would achieve its goals without God.

While the thrust of Stafford’s paper was evangelical, the Ellul Society is not a mono-religious organization but open to scholars of whatever persuasion. In one of the discussion sections

near the end of the conference, Daniel C  rezuelle, who had presented a paper on the concept of incarnation in Bernard Charbonneau's thought, mentioned that he is not a [Christian or theist] believer, and in the course of the discussion, one of the Christian participants expressed how refreshing it was to have people talking about the Bible and thinkers without the pressure of having to check off theological boxes before entering the discussion.

Limitations of space preclude commenting on every paper. The full text of many of the papers is at <http://ellul.org/2018-conference-papers/>.

Photo credit: By Jan van Boeckel, ReRun Productions [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)], from Wikimedia Commons



Ginny Landgraf (PhD) has been an Indexer-Analyst at ATLA since 2004. She wrote her dissertation on Jacques Ellul and is a board member of the International Jacques Ellul Society.

# The SCOOP: The Continuing Conundrum of Copyright and Course Reserves

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ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/scoop-copyright/

August 14, 2018

**Submitted by Christine Fruin, ATLA Member Programs and Scholarly Communication Manager**

As the fall semester dawns and faculty prepare for classes, libraries return to questions of policy and legality as they process incoming course reserve requests. Copyright issues related to the provision of materials in an educational setting, whether

via interlibrary loan, coursepacks, electronic course reserves or course management systems, have been contentious for libraries for decades resulting in the development of overly restrictive guidelines and policies fueled by confusion and anxiety. Much of the confusion and anxiety that exists today is the product of the continuing litigation against Georgia State University, who was sued in 2008 by three academic publishers claiming copyright infringement resulting from the posting of book chapter scans in the University electronic course reserve system.



## Georgia State Case – A Timeline

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2008 – three scholarly publishers file suit against officials at Georgia State University alleging the library’s scanning and posting of chapters from their published books infringed upon their copyright. Georgia State asserts that their actions fell within the statutory exception of fair use.

2012 – after four years of discovery, rulings on summary judgment motions, and a trial, the federal district court issues its ruling largely in favor of Georgia State. In analyzing the four factors of fair use, the district court rejects the publishers’ argument analogizing electronic course reserves to the coursepack cases of the 1990s wherein copy shops were found liable for copyright infringement for copying, without permission, and selling duplicated course readings. The district court further rejects the 1976 “classroom guidelines” yet constructs another numeric formula for addressing the third factor of fair use. Publishers appeal the decision.

2014 – the federal appellate court for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit remands the case back to the district court for a rehearing consistent with its ruling, which affirmed the district court’s rejection of the commercial coursepack analogy but disagreed with the district court’s determination that all

scholarly works were informational and its construction of a new numerical guideline. The appellate court further instructs the district court to give greater attention to the question of economic harm to the publishers.

2016 – the district court renders its second judgment in the case, again overwhelmingly in favor of Georgia State, in an opinion that employed more of a case by case analysis of the works that had been scanned and posted. The district court’s analysis focuses extensively on the third and fourth factors of fair use. Specifically, the district court evaluates each scan as to whether the quantity selected was pedagogically appropriate for the course. The district court conducts extensive financial analysis for each book scanned to determine the potential for any market harm to the publishers by Georgia State’s use of the works. Again, the publishers appeal.

2017 – in oral arguments before the appellate court, the parties respond to questions that are largely targeted toward market harm and the availability of licensing.

2018 – more than a year after oral arguments were heard in the appellate court, we are still waiting for an opinion.

## What Can (and Should) Libraries Do

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- **Education.** Librarians should not only educate themselves about fair use but should also undertake to educate the faculty, staff, and students they serve. There are numerous learning opportunities available for librarians ([including this fair use webinar offered by ATLA](#)) to understand the four factors of fair use and how libraries can maximize their use of fair use to enable the legal use of copyrighted works in the classroom, in creative projects, and in digital collection development. In return, librarians should create learning opportunities for or share [existing tools](#) with their faculty and students to aid them in their own fair use analyses.
- **Honor License Agreement Restrictions (or negotiate to remove them!)** Most electronic resource licenses contain provisions regarding the use of material found therein in library course reserve or course management systems. Typically, licenses restrict libraries from downloading content and reposting in their own system, instead of requiring the use of a persistent or stable link to the database version. Libraries should always be aware of and honor these terms or else run the risk of a claim of breach of contract and loss of access. If the license agreement terms overly restrict fair use or other legitimate uses of content, including content that would otherwise be in the public domain, libraries should [negotiate the terms of the license agreement](#) so as to not unnecessarily restrict the rights they and their users have under copyright law.
- **Act in Good Faith.** Fair use is a powerful right that all users of copyrighted material should thoughtfully and thoroughly exercise. Irritation with litigious publishers or frustration with onerous license terms should not lead libraries to act with disregard to statutory or contract provisions. When libraries act in good faith in their fair use application, they are [protected from the assessment of certain classes](#) of damages should a lawsuit be filed.

- **Seek Out and Encourage the Use of Open Resources** – in the June SCOOP Column, we offered a list of strategies and resources libraries can use to locate open content. Librarians should, as part of the educational efforts described above, share these strategies and tools with faculty and others who assist with course development. Further, libraries should consider partnering with faculty to develop open educational resources that can be used in place of restrictively licensed content or expensive textbooks.

## Further Reading

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- Although the data in this article represent policies and practices at ARL libraries, the issues raised and conclusions drawn are relevant to libraries of all sizes and types. “Copyright Policy and Practice in Electronic Reserves among ARL Libraries” <https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/16279>
- In “Transforming the Conversation: Rethinking Fair Use in Academic Course Reserves,” the author reflects upon the guidance offered in the ARL Best Practices in Fair Use for Libraries as to how libraries can employ fair use in delivering course materials in an online environment. A preprint of the article is available in the author’s institutional repository. [https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=libraries\\_facpub](https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=libraries_facpub)
- Listen to copyright expert Brandon Butler discuss the Georgia State University course reserves case in this 2016 webinar hosted by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. <https://vimeo.com/162858085>
- Want to dive more into the copyright issues facing librarians? Consider the free 5-week online course offered through Coursera taught by some of the leading experts in copyright issues facing libraries in higher education. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/copyright-for-education>

*The SCOOP, **S**cholarly **C**ommunication and **O**pen **P**ublishing, 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.*

# Southeast Asia: Part 1 – Singapore

ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/southeast-asia-part-1-singapore/

August 15, 2018

## Submitted by Maria Stanton, ATLA Director of Production

Dr. Kelly Campbell, Associate Dean and Director of the John Bulow Campbell Library, Columbia Theological Seminary, and I had the honor of representing ATLA at the 2018 Forum for Asian Theological Librarians (ForATL) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Considering the distance Kelly and I would travel to attend the conference, we decided to include visits to academic libraries in the region, eventually settling in Singapore as the focus. In this report, I will highlight key takeaways from various meetings.



The island-nation of Singapore strives for harmony. You could modify “harmony” with ethnic and religious; Singapore strives for a peaceful environment overall. According to a 2014 Pew Research study, Singapore scored the highest on the Religious Diversity Index. The constitution of Singapore recognizes the freedom of religion and religious practice. To ensure the stability of the country, Singapore has regulations to ensure that the individuals do not engage in behavior that undermines public order, health, or morality. During our visit, the ways in which this influences daily life in Singapore became clearer each day.

## Trinity Theological College

As I arrived in Singapore before Kelly, I visited Dr. Michael C. Mukunthan, Chief Librarian at Trinity Theological College (TTC), on my own. TTC, established in 1948, is the oldest seminary in Singapore. TTC was founded by missionaries who had been interned in Changi prison by the Japanese during WWII. TTC is governed by representatives of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran Churches.



Dr. Mukunthan, who received his Doctor of Theology from TTC, also has a Master of Science in Information Studies. He has been the librarian at TTC for more than fifteen years.

TTC attracts many students from China and they offer courses in both English and Mandarin. As a result, TTC’s library has an extensive collection of Chinese language materials. Dr.

Mukunthan showed me one of the library's treasures, a Chinese translation of the Bible, published in 1832.

Dr. Mukunthan also explained a cultural difference of Singapore. Students studying at seminary are definitely planning to work at a church or in some ministerial role. Seminary degrees are not viewed as academic humanities degrees for employment in the government or private sector. There is a clear delineation between the study of religion in a seminary setting and an academic setting, which Kelly and I found when we visited the National University of Singapore.

## National University of Singapore

Kelly and I met with several representatives of the library at the National University of Singapore (NUS), who were very generous with their time explaining the study of religion at an academic university setting in Singapore. Given the culture and norms, NUS does not offer advanced degrees in religion. However, students have a real opportunity to study religion extensively within various other disciplines (e.g., law, history, anthropology).



Left to Right: Ms. Raven Sim Wan Chin, Dr. Kelly Campbell, Mr. Tim Yap Fuan, Ms. Nur Diyana Binte Abdul Kader, Ms. Maria Stanton

Various searches within the NUS institutional repository illustrate the range of research. Keyword searches (at the time this was written): Religion (986 results), Christianity (1,420 results), and Islam (1,061 results). Also, NUS supports digital humanities projects, including one on places of worship in Singapore:

The staff at NUS shared the story of Lou Engle and the concern about alleged statements he made regarding the Muslim community during the Kingdom Invasion Conference in March 2018. The pastors who organized the conference apologized to the Muslim community for Engle's remarks. The police in Singapore have asked Engel to return for an interview.



## Evangelical Theological College of Asia

From there, Kelly and I visited Andrew Reid, Principal and Founder, and Joy Kwan, Administrator, at Evangelical Theological College of Asia (ETCAsia). Dr. Reid is from Australia and he came to Singapore to found the school. ETCAsia was founded a year ago which means that they are still too new for accreditation in Singapore. They are in a set of rooms in a shopping mall, but they feel they fill a gap that is missing in Singapore. They are committed to the Reformed Evangelical distinctions as found in the Confessional Statement of the Gospel Coalition. Biblical studies are core to the curriculum.

## Singapore Bible College and Biblical Graduate School of Theology

On our final day in Singapore, Kelly and I visited Singapore Bible College (SBC) and the Biblical Graduate School of Theology (BGST).

At SBC, we met with Dr. Jerry Hwang, Associate Professor of Old Testament, and Dr.

Cynthia Chang, Library Director and Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies. SBC is an evangelical seminary founded in 1952. The school offers extensive programs in both English and Chinese.

The school of Theology in Chinese, for example, offers six courses of study resulting in either a degree or diploma. The school has over 500 full-time students, and the library has over 75,000 volumes as well as access to extensive electronic collections.

Drs. Hwang and Chang reinforced the cultural context in which the students are working and studying in Singapore, especially for Chinese students. They supported the stories we had heard regarding religious harmony in Singapore.



Left to right: Ms. Joy Kwan, Dr Kelly Campbell, Ms. Maria Stanton, and Dr. Andrew Reid.



Left to right: Dr. Kelly Campbell, Dr. Cynthia Chang, Ms. Maria Stanton

Finally, Kelly and I met with Daisy Sim, Assistant Library and Bookshop Manager at BGST. Founded in 1989, BGST exclusively offers graduate-level degrees. BGST trains lay people to help them live their Christian faith and to increase the number of properly trained lay people who can help their pastors or church leadership. The library is very tightly curated and specifically targeted to that mission.

The visits left me with much to consider. Many of the institutions in Singapore support students for whom Chinese is their first, and possibly still only, language. They need more electronic resources. We also have students in the US who could benefit from Chinese-language resources. I want to look at this need more closely to understand what is needed and where, what is available, what is feasible, and how it would fit in ATLA's offerings. I was also struck by the fact that researchers at some academic universities such as NUS would probably be publishing in journals that ATLA does not typically cover because of the rarity of articles related to religion (e.g., history, law, social sciences, political science). I would like to explore how we could check for these and include them when appropriate.

Next month, I will share my experience attending ForATL.



Left to right: Ms. Maria Stanton, Ms. Daisy Sim, and Dr. Kelly Campbell.



Maria Stanton is the Director of Production for ATLA. Maria has been with ATLA since 2014, and she has dedicated her career to supporting libraries.

# Catholic News at your Fingertips

ALA newsletter.atla.com/2018/craa-catholic/

August 15, 2018

**Submitted by Jennifer Younger,  
Executive Director, Catholic  
Research Resources Alliance and  
Director of the Hesburgh Libraries  
Emerita, University of Notre Dame**

Digitization has made a vast body of historical newspapers instantly accessible to scholars and students on their desktops, laptops, tablets, and phones. Yet, religious

newspapers of all stripes are conspicuously under-represented in the familiar online newspaper full-text databases, which are comprised largely of municipal and trade newspapers. Publicly available digital collections of historic newspapers, such as [Chronicling America](#) and those in several states, as well as commercial subscription-based databases, contain but a smattering of religious papers, despite the fact that religious thinkers and places of worship have significantly influenced every aspect of American culture, for good and bad.

The Catholic News Archive is filling one part of the gap by making Catholic newspapers freely available online to all users. We invite you to search topics, people, or events of which you want to get more information. [Let us know](#) about your experience.



A page from the Pittsburgh Catholic April 28, 1969 on the adoption of streamlined garb.

## Religious Newspapers and Scholarship

Religious newspapers have long been a primary source in bringing religious voices into scholarship. Dr. Paula Kane, Marous Chair in Contemporary Catholic Studies, University of Pittsburgh, explained the use of Catholic papers in student research projects. Students might explore the editorial outlook on specific issues or how major issues such as the Homestead Strike of 1892, the Great Depression, and the assassination of John Kennedy were reported in Catholic papers. “Students,” she said, “love to click to their sources, rather than going through hard-bound newspaper issues in the stacks....” She goes on to say, “one student who was researching the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh, was able to locate information in digitized Irish newspapers as well as in the local Pittsburgh Catholic (digitized).”

Ensuring the continuing use of religious newspapers in today’s digital world means making them available online. In a recent blog, Darren Poley, Associate Director of Research Services and Scholarly Engagement, Villanova University, described finding the full text of the “Address of the Catholic Laity of Philadelphia” in the Catholic News Archive. The address was to answer the accusations of a Grand Jury which blamed Catholics for the conflagration resulting from the Anti-Catholic/Anti-Immigrant fervor whipped up by reactionary agitators called Nativists. The full text as reported in the press at the time was easily discovered by searching “Catholic Laity of Philadelphia,” and found in The Catholic Telegraph, 6 July 1844, p. 2 (Cincinnati, Ohio). A similar search in Chronicling America did not result in finding the full text of the Address, which was likely published in full only in a Catholic paper, although it did find one mention of the Bishop’s approbation of the Address in the New York Daily Tribune, June 25, 1844.

The screenshot shows the Catholic News Archive website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Search', 'Titles', 'Dates', 'Dioceses', 'Tags', and 'Help'. Below this is a search bar with the query 'Catholic laity of Philadelphia' entered. The search results section shows one result: 'Page 2 [PAGE] The Catholic Telegraph 6 January 1844'. The snippet of the article text is visible: '... Philadelphia 95 cry from Ireland 114 d dress of the Catholic Laity of Philadelphia 210 Disappointment 213 Colloquy! 214 Voice ...'. The left sidebar contains filters for 'Publication' (The Catholic Telegraph (1)), 'Category' (PAGE (1)), 'Decade' (1840-1849 (1)), and 'Word count' (>= 1001 (1)).

## Turning Disparate Papers into a Narrative

From among the over 1,100 users per month of the Catholic News Archive (CNS) in 2018, one fascinating story comes from Mary Brown, Archivist, Center for Migration Studies, New York City. She tells how the story of turning a folder of disparate papers into a story of refugee rescue.

She and an intern were looking among the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) Bureau of Immigration records when Mary noticed the Bureau's Czechoslovakia file seemed thicker than the usual folder. "To our astonishment, we found documents from the 1930s describing the Czech Catholic immigrant aid agency's efforts on behalf of refugees from the Nazis." Using the clues from the documents, they found press releases from the NCWC newsfeeds "about 'political changes' in Czechoslovakia (and) described Czech Catholic efforts to aid co-religionists whose Jewish ancestry left them vulnerable to the Nuremberg laws recently imposed on their country." Matching names, dates and activity reports, Mary and her colleague were able to tell the story that the documents in the archive alone could not.

"Journalism has been called the first rough draft of history. Looking beyond the main headlines of old newspapers, at minor stories and even advertising, gives us a sense of the culture of a time, and helps us place past and current events in historical perspective. For Catholics who wish to look back on the revolutionary changes that took place in the Church in the 1960s, the Catholic News Archive offers compelling reading." — K. E. Colombini, author of *Tracing Church History through Old Newspapers*, published in *First Things*, May 18, 2017.

## Developing a Freely Available Catholic Newspaper Collection

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The Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRRA) is a nonprofit membership alliance with deep connections in the Catholic community. Its members and partners include academic, diocesan and religious congregation libraries and archives, allowing easy connections with diocesan bishops, archives and newspaper editors. With generous financial support from 25 Founders and two grants from the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, CRRRA established [thecatholicnewsarchive.org](http://thecatholicnewsarchive.org). Early content includes 10,971 issues from nine diocesan papers (Cincinnati, Hartford, Miami, New Orleans, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and St. Louis), the *Catholic News Service* historic newsfeeds to extend through 1986, the *National Catholic Reporter* and the *Catholic Worker* (forthcoming). We continue to add more years of current titles as well as adding new titles. We are grateful to these bishops and papers for their permission to include their content for freely available access via the Internet.

There is a long way to go in building a digital collection that includes diocesan and lay papers known to exist. Yet, it is rewarding even at this early stage as David E. Cassens, Dean of Libraries, Saint Louis University, describes: "The goal of the Catholic Newspaper Program is to provide concurrent access to primary source materials that in most cases have been available only to a limited number of scholars and students. This important project will result in a wholesale transformation of how Catholic newspapers are read and studied by scholars, students, and the public, enhancing humanities scholarship in a significant way."

## Going Forward

It isn't just about Catholic newspapers. As valuable as Catholic journalism is for the Catholic view on events and Catholic views about other religions (searches in the [Catholic News Archive](#) on Islam, Judaism, Protestant, Mormon, and Baha'i result in hundreds of hits), this fact simply underscores the need for digitizing many more religious papers.

Our own initiative is inspired by scholars as well as by other programs such as the [Florida Jewish Newspapers](#) in the [Florida Digital Newspaper Library](#). Within the library community, there is broad recognition of the need to digitize diverse voices with interest in religious papers growing at the state level. It needs to be easy for scholars to find religious newspapers and mine the richness of significant religious voices therein. Dr. Timothy Meagher, Associate Professor of History, Curator of American Catholic History Collection and University Archivist, The Catholic University of America, speaks about the Catholic voice but his words apply to all religious voices. We can understand "religious" in his words: "But think how much more significant it would be if all Catholic newspapers were online, ensuring the Catholic tradition, experiences, and views of Catholics continue to be part of the American dialog. Absent from the 'net', Catholics may well soon be invisible in history."

We hope you find the Catholic News Archive a useful resource for scholarly inquiries at your institution. We welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions. Write to us at [jyounger@catholicresearch.org](mailto:jyounger@catholicresearch.org).

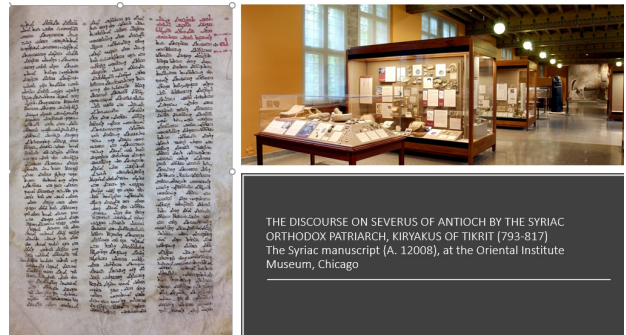
# Shedding Light on the Syriac Manuscript Collection of the Oriental Institute-Chicago at the 54th Annual Convention of the Syriac Orthodox Church

✠ newsletter.atla.com/2018/syriac-convention/

August 15, 2018

## Submitted by Iskandar Bcheiry, ATLA Metadata Analyst

On July 28, 2018, I had the honor of being one of the keynote speakers at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Syriac Orthodox Church in North America held in Tampa, Florida. I delivered a lecture about the Syriac manuscripts collection in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, with



THE DISCOURSE ON SEVERUS OF ANTIOCH BY THE SYRIAC ORTHODOX PATRIARCH, KIRYAKUS OF TIKRIT (793-817)  
The Syriac manuscript (A. 12008), at the Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago

focus on some unpublished historical fragments and documents which shed light on the history of Syriac Christianity. The Syriac Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II with a group of archbishops from North America, Middle East, and Europe was present at the annual convention and in attendance of the lecture.

## Syriac Community in North America

The presence of the Syriac Orthodox community in America dates to the late nineteenth century when religious persecution forced immigration from Ottoman Turkey to the United States and Canada. The early immigrants, who were silks weavers by trade, came from Diyarbakir, Turkey, and settled in New Jersey, a major area of the silk industry. Syriac families from Kharput, Turkey, came to Massachusetts while other families came from the region of Tur<sup>c</sup>Abdin and settled in Rhode Island as workers in the local mills. During the same period, Syriacs came from Mardin, Turkey, and settled in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. Syriac Orthodox families from the city of Homs and the surrounding area in Syria came and settled in Detroit, Michigan.

On May 20, 1907, a Syriac priest was ordained in Jerusalem to serve the Syriac Orthodox community in the United States. Another priest-monk arrived in Quebec for a visit of six months and served the spiritual needs of the local Syriac people. In 1922, a priest named Nahum Gawriye came to join his brother, priest Hanna Gawriye, in America. In April 1927, Archbishop Severus Ephrem Barsoum, then of Syria and Lebanon, consecrated a church in New Jersey in the name of the Virgin Mary. During the same period, two parish churches were built in Worcester, Massachusetts, and Central Falls, Rhode Island.

In 1949, an archbishop named Athanasius Yeshu<sup>c</sup> Samuel came to the United States from Jerusalem and served the Syriac Orthodox community in North America. In 1952, Archbishop

Athanasius was appointed Patriarchal Vicar to the United States and Canada by Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem I, and on November 15, 1957, Patriarch Ignatius Yacoub III confirmed officially the establishment of the Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada.

From the 1960's through the 1980s, new Syrian Orthodox parishes were established in California; Southfield, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; West Roxbury, Massachusetts; Portland, Oregon; and Long Island, New York, as well as in Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario, together with congregations in the Washington, DC area and in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Following the death of Archbishop Samuel in 1995, the Holy Synod of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch divided the North American Archdiocese into three separate Patriarchal Vicariates: the Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese for the Eastern United States, the Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Environs, and the Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada.<sup>1</sup>

## The Annual Convention of the Syriac Orthodox Church in North America

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Every year since 1964 an annual convention takes place for the Syriac people in North America that brings together clergy, delegates, and parishioners from different places in the United States and Canada. The Syriac Orthodox convention contains religious, social, and cultural events which strengthen the relationship between the members of the community and their relationship with the Middle East and Europe.

## Celebrating 1500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Severus of Antioch Expulsion into Exile in 518

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Among the historical documents found in the Oriental Institute Museum-Chicago and discussed in my lecture is the historical biography of Severus, Patriarch of Antioch (538), widely known as the “Crown of the Syrians,” who has been hailed as one of the greatest fathers of the early church. Severus of Antioch spent most of his life defending the anti-Chalcedonian doctrine and because of it, he endured difficulties and exile until his death in Egypt in 538.

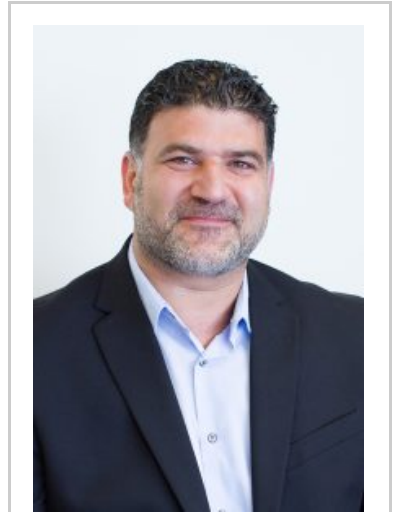
With the 1500th anniversary of his expulsion in 518, the name of Patriarch Severus of Antioch is remembered by the Non-Chalcedonian Orthodox Churches. At the same time, his life, deeds, and writings are being discussed in several conferences with the aim to draw attention to the significant role Severus played in Syriac Christianity. Severus's life events were narrated in a collection of



Dr. Iskandar Bcheiry speaking at the 54th Annual Convention of the Syriac Orthodox Church in North America.



biographies composed by different authors which were all edited and translated. I also shed light in this lecture about the life of Severus of Antioch through the biography written by the Syriac Orthodox Patriarch, Kyriacos of Tikrit (817), which I have recently translated and edited.



Dr. Iskandar Bcheiry is a Metadata Analyst for ATLA. He is also a historical researcher in the field of Syriac Studies and Christian-Muslim relationship.

# ATLA Job Board Postings, August 2018

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 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/jobboard-2018/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/jobboard-2018/)

August 15, 2018

Member and non-member institutions are invited to post and view job openings on the [ATLA Job Board](#). Here is a list of the current job openings:



- ATLA, Chicago, IL, is looking for an [Editorial Manager, Digital Products](#)
- Azusa Pacific University, Azusa Campus, Azusa, CA, is looking for a [University Librarian](#)
- Barry University, Miami Shores, FL, is looking for a [Director of Library Services](#)
- Cardinal Stafford Library, Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver, CO, is looking for a [Cardinal Stafford Library Assistant: Cataloging, Serials, Interlibrary Loan](#)
- Fresno Pacific University, Hiebert Library, Fresno, CA, is looking for an [Instructional Librarian](#)
- John Bulow Campbell Library, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, is looking for a [Public Services Archivist](#)
- Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, MO, is looking for an [Electronic Resources Librarian](#)
- Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA, is looking for a [Community Engagement Librarian](#)
- Lapp Learning Commons, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Library Assistant](#)
- Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, is looking for a [Systems and Digital Scholarship Librarian](#)

Want to post a job opening? Visit the [Submissions Guidelines](#) page for more information.

# Welcome New Members: Agnes Scott College, Bloomfield College, Georgia State University, and Luther Rice College & Seminary

newsletter.atla.com/2018/newmembers-georgia/

August 7, 2018

Please join us in welcoming our new members who joined in recent months. We would like to take this opportunity to help you get to know these institutions better.



## Institutional Member Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia

Agnes Scott College, founded in 1889, is an independent liberal arts college for women affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The college was named in honor of Agnes Irvine Scott, a Scots-Irish immigrant to the United States. Her son George Washington Scott was the college's primary benefactor and the Rev. Frank Henry Gaines, minister of Decatur Presbyterian Church, was the founding president. In 1906, Agnes Scott College was the first institution of higher education in Georgia to receive regional accreditation.

The McCain Library supports the educational programs of Agnes Scott College, contributing to graduating students capable of finding, evaluating, and synthesizing information. The Special Collections and Archives contain material related to the history of the college, its founder, students, faculty, notable visitors, and campus life over the years.

## Institutional Member Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Bloomfield College was originally located on the grounds of First German Presbyterian Church in Newark, New Jersey. The school moved to the former Bloomfield Academy on Franklin Street in Bloomfield in 1872, which was renamed Seibert Hall in honor of the school's first president, Rev. George Seibert. Today, more than half of Bloomfield's students identify themselves as first-generation and are the first in their families to enroll in college.



Bloomfield College Library

In addition to subscriptions to print journals and databases, the Bloomfield College Library houses a collection of 58,000 volumes which contains unique items such as the Larry Qualls Collection of theater and film monographs and studies, multicultural studies, and Native American comics. The Library also exhibits artworks and creative works of students enrolled in the Creative Arts and Technology Division and provides a popular meeting space for student, faculty, and the Bloomfield community.

## Institutional Member Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia State University (GSU) is a public research university with its main campus in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. GSU has over 51,000 students from every county in Georgia, every state in the U.S. and 170 countries.

The University Library contains more than 1.4 million volumes. The library also acts as a Federal Document Depository, holding more than 820,000 government documents with electronic access to many additional titles; hosts several digital collections; and houses extensive special collections, many of which consist of records of organizations or papers of individuals documenting the twentieth and twenty-first century American South.



## Institutional Member Luther Rice College & Seminary, Lithonia, Georgia

Luther Rice College & Seminary was founded in 1962 with the mission to provide biblical education for Christian ministers and leaders. The institution was named after Baptist leader Luther Rice (1783-1836), known for his missionary endeavors and efforts to educate ministers in the Baptist faith tradition.

The Smith Library offers over 60,000 physical volumes and nearly 500,000 digital resources. Luther Rice has offered online education for over 16 years and the library offers many electronic resources and services for distance students.



# Call for Submissions: 2018 ATLA Summary of Proceedings

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ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/2018-proceedings/

July 31, 2018

## Submitted by Miranda Bennett, Editor-in-Chief, ATLA *Summary of Proceedings*

I am pleased to announce the call for submissions to the *Summary of Proceedings* of the Seventy-second Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association, held June 13-16, in Indianapolis. 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

A very important change to the *Proceedings* this year is that all submissions **must** be made using the Online Journal System (OJS), the platform ATLA now uses to publish the *Proceedings*. 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>. We have also prepared a brief video tutorial on how to submit your paper to the *Proceedings* at <https://vimeo.com/270745239>.

## *Annual Yearbook*

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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* will now be part of the *Yearbook*. The following groups will submit their annual reports to the 2018 *Yearbook* now instead of the *Proceedings*:

- Denominational Groups
- Interest Groups
- Committees and Task Forces

For more information on who should submit to the *Yearbook* as well as instructions on submission, please visit <https://serials.atla.com/yearbook/about/submissions>.

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*, 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.

## Publications Deadline

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The deadline for submissions to the *Proceedings* as well as the new *Yearbook* is **September 28, 2018**. 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 [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

# New Titles Added to ATLAS, ATLAS PLUS, and ATLA RDB in July

 [newsletter.atla.com/2018/atlas-july/](https://newsletter.atla.com/2018/atlas-july/)

July 20, 2018

We are pleased to announce the addition of titles now available in the *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®), *ATLASerials PLUS*™ (*ATLAS PLUS*™), and *ATLA Religion Database*® (*ATLA RDB*®).



## New full-text titles in *ATLAS*

*Approaching Religion* by The Donner Institute

## New full-text titles in *ATLAS PLUS*

- *Familia* by Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca: Instituto Superior de Ciencias de la Familia
- *Revista Española de Derecho Canónico* by Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca

## New indexing titles in *ATLA RDB*

- *Encounter (Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica)* by Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica
- *Journal of the Pali Text Society* by Pali Text Society
- *Revue Mabillon* by Brepols
- *Koers* by Scriber Editorial Systems

[Read the full press release](#)

# International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Helsinki, Finland

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ATLA newsletter.atla.com/2018/sbl-helsinki/

August 15, 2018

Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development, recently attended the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Helsinki, Finland from July 29-August 2. As a sponsor and exhibitor, ATLA offered a workshop featuring ATLA's database products. With more than 1,000 attendees, the international meeting offered a great venue to meet scholars, end-users, and publishers from all parts of the world.



In addition to the academic sessions, a highlight of the trip was a walking tour called "Holy Helsinki" where participants discovered some of the lesser-known sanctuaries of downtown Helsinki. An enthusiastic theologian, Emil Anton, guided the tour of churches in the city, including visits to the places of worship in the Finnish Muslim and Jewish communities.

Margot also visited the University of Helsinki Library to learn about religion/theology resources and to meet with librarians. She met with Matti Myllykoski (Chief Information Specialist) and Pälvi Kaiponen (Head of Research Services) [pictured above].