

## Newsletter



Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA, celebrates the Christmas Holiday with a festive tree using our favorite items!

*Want to be showcased in the next newsletter?  
Post a photo of your library with #ATLALibrary.*

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### From the President

#LoveInAction  
@UnionSeminary

At the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year, the Student Senate at Union Theological Seminary established a theme and hashtag for their work during the year: #LoveInAction. Throughout the year, students have demonstrated in Ferguson, MO, at Fort Benning in Georgia (where the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the US Army School of the Americas, is located), and in New York City. Staff at the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary saw an opportunity to support the students. We issued a call for donations to the Union archives and encouraged students to document their activities in order to empower them as they process their experiences. Over the coming months, we will be working with a small group of students to create a physical and online exhibit on activism at Union so that students can reflect on their roles within the history of activism at the seminary. Through donations of time, food, and money, we are also supporting Union’s “protest headquarters” located on campus. The library’s efforts have been welcomed by Union’s faculty, students, and staff.

Our library is fortunate to have staff that understood the importance of the events unfolding before us and seized the educational opportunities that have presented themselves. If you have been reluctant to use social media to reach out to students, I urge you to reconsider. Using social media has been one of the best ways for the Burke Library to engage students this semester. I invite you to follow us on Twitter ([@BurkeLibraryUTS](#)), Instagram ([BurkeLibraryUTS](#)), or Facebook ([The Burke Library - Columbia University](#)). I also invite you to talk about how you can engage your users via social media.

Beth Bidlack  
President

## Additional Candidate for ATLA Board of Directors



A valid petition to add David Stewart to the slate of candidates running for the 2015 ATLA Board of Directors election was received prior to the December 1, 2014 deadline.

### David Stewart

Current Position: Director of Libraries, Bethel University

Other Positions:

- Assistant (later Associate) Librarian, Regent-Carey Library, Regent College, Vancouver
- Electronic Services Librarian, Princeton Theological Seminary Library
- Associate Director, Research Services, Princeton Theological Seminary Library
- Director of Library Services, Luther Seminary

Leadership Positions:

- Member, Professional Development Committee, ATLA (2000-05)
- Chair, Professional Development Committee, ATLA (2003-05)
- Steering Committee, Judaica Interest Group, ATLA (1997-2000)
- Member, Board of Directors, ATLA (2005-10)
- Vice-President, Board of Directors, ATLA (2007-08)
- President, Board of Directors, ATLA (2008-2010)
- Managing Editor, *Theological Librarianship: an Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association* (2007-)
- Member, Board of Directors, Cooperating Libraries in Consortium/CLIC (Mpls-St. Paul, 2010 -)
- President, Board of Directors, Cooperating Libraries in Consortium/CLIC (Mpls-St. Paul, 2013-14)

## 2015 Board of Directors Candidate Statements

During the past two years, the ATLA Board of Directors has been giving significant attention to the skills, knowledge, experience and abilities needed for effective board service. Rather than writing a general statement about why they are seeking election, the candidates have been asked to provide a brief statement that addresses the following questions which have been identified by the ATLA Board as providing an important window into their perspectives on Carver Policy Governance. Their answers are provided in the same order that the candidates will appear on the ballot.

Questions:

**1. The board, operating as a whole, recognizes its primary accountability to ATLA. Consequently, the board seeks to understand and bring the values of the broad ownership into the board's decisions.**

- a. What do you see as the challenges of understanding the broad and diverse views of our organization's ownership?
- b. What are your thoughts and/or experiences with regard to understanding the perspectives of an audience such as our ownership?

**2. The board's job is to govern. As such it has chosen to use a system of governance in which it clearly determines results the organization is to produce, for whom, and at what worth (Ends) and delegates their achievement to the CEO while authorizing him/her, within pre-stated limits, to choose the means of achievement. This frees the board to be proactive rather than reactive; primarily focused on the future, rather than the past or present; and emphasizing strategic leadership, rather than administrative detail.**

- a. What has been your experience in determining what future-based outcomes should be for an organization?
- b. What are the strengths you would bring to that process?

**3. As noted above, the board's governance system does not prescribe means to achieve the Ends. Consequently, assuring that the organization achieves what it should and avoids what is unacceptable, is neither about the board approving programs and activities nor about checking to see that such activities were done. Instead, the board applies a high level of rigor in monitoring achievement of Ends and ensuring that the CEO has complied with the board-stated limitations.**

- a. Have you had any comparable monitoring experience?
- b. What would you bring to the process?

**4. The board speaks with one voice. Translated this means that the board makes decisions and has authority as a whole group, not as individuals. In practice, this means that board members are expected to deliberate openly and candidly, seeking to understand diverse viewpoints. Yet when a decision is made by majority rule, all board members respect the decision when speaking externally.**

- a. What has been your experience in deliberating in a diverse group?
- b. If others were to describe how you operate in groups, what would they say?

Used with the permission of *The RealBoard Advisor*, The Governance Coach, January 2014 issue, v. 19, no. 1, p. 9.

## 2015-2016 Board of Directors Candidates



### Tracy Powell Iwaskow

The American Theological Library Association serves a diverse membership constituting individuals and libraries of different sizes, different theological and religious orientations, and different organizational structures. We share a commitment to serve the students, faculty, staff, and alumni served by our libraries and our institutions. The Board of ATLA must work on behalf of these varied perspectives and needs, and the organization benefits most when both Board members and the broader ATLA membership encourage free and open conversations about matters of mutual interest with the understanding that final conclusions represent the best understanding of the organizational leadership at that time. My work at Emory's Pitts Theology Library has given me experience operating in a decentralized library environment; libraries within the university serve different constituencies and operate within different reporting structures while working together on projects of common interest. Over the past seven years, such work has included revision of circulation policies, usability studies of our library discovery layer, and a move toward a new integrated library system. Much of this work correlates well with the tasks charged to the Board of ATLA as it seeks to address the needs and concerns of current members while also planning for the future of theological librarianship.

Further experiences have increased my capacity to plan actively for near- and long-term needs; I am fortunate to have worked at Pitts as we made a long-planned move to a new library building over the past year. The process offered valuable experience: planning for the current and future research support needs of our institution's students and faculty; maintaining services in the midst of change; and making additional experiments and adjustments as we live into this space with faculty and students who have increased their usage of library services, spaces, and collections. I favor an evidence-based approach in libraries that uses strategically collected information to inform decision-making while not regarding current data as a limit to possibilities. As a group member, I seek to listen to others, to fairly represent the viewpoints of those I am working with and for, and to cultivate conversations among those who may see topics from different angles in the belief that open discussions lead to better overall outcomes for the group. I believe that as librarians, we must read and discuss widely in order to maintain a broader knowledge of the trends that impact our work and the lives of our clients. I have valued my membership in ATLA from the time I joined as a graduate student pursuing my degree in library science and I would welcome the opportunity if elected to serve ATLA's members on the Board as we work for the present and future of theological research and librarianship.

Continued on page 4



### **David Stewart (petition candidate)**

The ATLA community comprises a wide variety of individual members and of institutions, many with their own ideas of what membership in ATLA is. This is healthy, and presents the Board with an opportunity to articulate and/or represent the value of membership to diverse constituents. Much of this challenge can be met through networking (i.e. board members knowing the association's membership as well as possible) and through compelling and timely communication.

Boards work best when there is a clear delineation of responsibilities, and when energy and attention are focused on the objectives and outcomes that define the health of the Association. As a Board member in the past, I've placed a high value on all members being well informed, and on ensuring that every voice is heard. Board colleagues have described me as thoughtful, a good facilitator, clear-headed, and as one who solicits honest communication.

### **Timothy Lincoln (incumbent)**

The ATLA board will continue to be challenged to understand the variety of views held by members. I predict that this challenge will become greater if ATLA succeeds in attracting more members of color and institutional members outside of its historic mainline Protestant constituency. I have found ATLA board deliberations to be exciting just because other directors think differently than me -- and often, what they think is better for ATLA.

I worry about the future all the time. In my day job at Austin Seminary, I am the lead staff member for planning and evaluation processes. The school recently completed a two year process of thinking about possible futures for the school and writing an institutional plan. The process involved professors, staff, students, and board members. The flip side of planning is evaluation, which Carver governance calls monitoring. I work with evaluation processes for units of my school, student learning at the programmatic level, and the school's institutional plan. The focus is on outcomes, not methods used to achieve outcomes. I think that this meshes well with ATLA's governance system.

### **Ellen Frost**

To me, ATLA is an organization of similarly minded librarians serving theological and religious institutions. For many of us, our profession serves as a calling to ministry: we are called to further the work of our churches through training and educating our future religious leaders. In this role, it is our responsibility to ensure that our faculty, staff, and students have access to information in their continued studies. There is a wide range of individual ability to do this within ATLA, given our various sizes and financial means, but together we have unlimited means to access information.

As the Acquisitions Librarian at Bridwell Library, part of my responsibility is to monitor the budget and expenditures for our library; in my small struggling congregation, I look at our budget on a monthly basis. The contrast between these two parts of my life is similar to the differences between our small and large libraries in ATLA - how do we work with what we have? How do we share what we have with others so that we all have access to what we need? I believe my experience working with and examining budgets will help to enable responsible future planning for our ATLA organization. As we move forward in this rapidly changing environment of open access versus the rising cost of subscriptions and databases, it is important to keep in mind our ultimate goal - the ministry or future ministry of our students, faculty, and staff.

## Craig Churchill

I have been both encouraged and blessed by my membership in ATLA for twenty years now and have appreciated the richness of associations nurtured through various conferences, workshops, and committees. ATLA's core commitments of providing support and resources for theological education resonate strongly with me, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with others on the board to help strengthen those commitments. To that end, I would like to help grow ATLA's influence as an information provider of theological resources attuned to new markets but faithful to its constituency. I would hope to help us attend faithfully to our theological identity while being hospitable to other traditions. That task involves working sensitively, collaboratively, and faithfully with members of diverse perspectives, and I believe I have the requisite qualities of character.

My work at ACU as theological librarian and, more recently, as head of Collection Services, has proven instrumental in equipping me for service on the ATLA Board. In those roles, I have enjoyed opportunities to mentor and teach students and faculty from diverse backgrounds including gender, ethnicity, and ideology and have worked with my college regarding accreditation. I have had a leading role in helping to develop the library's strategic plan and implementation. I have been involved in planning the future of the library and local churches. I have served both as a deacon and as a minister in ecclesial contexts and have managed initiatives for outreach to diverse populations including youth groups, the elderly, and the incarcerated. These service opportunities have required that I work well within groups of differing perspectives and that I function as a 'team player.' My co-workers would affirm my ability to speak both candidly, compassionately, and with sensitivity to the perspectives of others. I would consider it an honor and a privilege to serve on the ATLA Board if selected.

## Dennis Swanson

In working on a board it is vital that the distinction between “governance” and “operation” is remembered. The Carver Model is designed with this in mind. Like any other model there are internal weaknesses that can be counterproductive to an organization. It think it is vital that board members are active and knowledgeable participants in the organization not only ensuring accountability in terms of their fiduciary responsibility; but also ensuring that the executive director and their staff has all the resources and full range of operational options available to them to ensure that the mission statement is fulfilled with excellence.

Working with multiple boards and multiple committees over the last 25 years I know what it takes to bring cohesion and focus to the task. I also am well aware of the warning signs of dysfunction and how to avoid them. I think my other main strength is looking ahead. It is vital for leaders to not only see what may occur next month, but what may occur in five years. It is also important to be able to know an organization to understand how “turning a knob” in one place will affect other “knobs” and settings throughout an organization.

## Chris Benda

ATLA represents the interests of a variety of institutions, ranging from standalone seminaries to university-affiliated divinity schools, located across the (currently mostly Christian) theological spectrum, staffed by different types and generations of library workers with sometimes varying notions of what libraries are supposed to be doing in a changing religious, scholarly, and information context. I believe that the vitality of ATLA will depend on its continuing to embrace religious traditions other than the Christian traditions that strongly inform the organization's identity, as well as increasing outreach to individuals and institutions engaged in non-theological approaches to religion. Such development, while welcome, will no doubt lead to even more challenges as the views of the ownership broaden. My education at a denominationally affiliated seminary and a university-affiliated divinity school and my employment at a library associated with that divinity school give me some perspective on the interests and concerns of the varying groups represented by ATLA.

The governing process of the ATLA board — a process bound up in determining ends, with means left to a CEO whose achievement of those ends is monitored by the board — is not one with which I have had experience. However, I have been part of strategic planning and library committee projects that have provided me with some insight into how to participate with others in formulating goals and objectives. In my view, careful gathering of data, weighing of priorities, and clarity of articulation are necessary in both decision-making and governing. My tendency is to listen with respect, share my views as I gain more knowledge of the issues under discussion, and advocate for the participation of interested parties in the decision-making process.



## ATLA Annual Conference News

### Call for Posters: 2015 ATLA Annual Conference

ATLA aims to offer many avenues for members to share interesting and creative projects. Therefore, ATLA invites proposals for poster sessions at the 2015 Annual Conference, June 17-20, Denver, Colorado.

Scheduled in a 60-minute time slot, poster sessions are informal. The presenter(s) develops a poster and handouts which deliver useful information to the theological library community.

At the conference, ATLA will provide each poster presenter with a three-panel poster board, double-sided tape, push pins, and glue for their presentation.

Posters may address a potentially wide range of topics of interest to theological librarians, such as:

- Outreach initiatives
- Building digital collections
- Assessment
- Information literacy
- New library services
- Creative marketing
- New collaborative models
- Cooperative collection development
- Redesigned library space
- Professional development

This is an opportunity to try out new ideas and receive instant feedback from your ATLA colleagues. We sincerely hope you will consider [submitting a poster proposal](#) by Friday, January 30, 2015.

### ATLA Opens Call for Exhibitors at 2015 Annual Conference

The 2015 ATLA Annual Conference is up and running and we are calling for exhibitors and sponsors for the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference.

The exhibit hall is an important part of the ATLA Annual Conference, providing opportunities for attendees to learn about the new products and services available to theological libraries.

Members are invited to share the [Exhibitor Prospectus](#) with vendors and partners that may be interested in attending the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference. Interested exhibitors can also contact [exhibits@atla.com](mailto:exhibits@atla.com) to receive additional information.

 A graphic titled "ATLA 2015 Annual Conference Exhibitor & Sponsor Prospectus". It features the ATLA logo and the text "Build valuable relationships with hundreds of theological librarians!". Below this, there are several statistics and key dates:
 

- 91.3%** of attendees visit the exhibit hall two or more times.
- 80.4%** of attendees report that they make or have input on purchasing decisions for their library.

 A section titled "2015 Key Dates" lists:
 

- April 10** conference program advertising due
- April 17** Exhibit applications / contract due
- April 24** Exhibitor confirmation work, including initial meeting list, and shipping and housing information.
- June 18-19** exhibits open

 An "Exhibit Package Includes" section lists:
 

- Free conference registration and exhibit badges for one exhibit representative.
- One 30-foot table with two chairs.
- Listing in the Annual Conference Program Book, Summary of Proceedings, and the ATLA Annual Report.
- Discount on advertising in the Annual Conference Program Book.
- Complete mailing list of individual and institutional members for promotional purposes in anticipation of the Annual Conference.
- Free mailing list of conference attendees for follow-up purposes.
- Opportunity to participate in conference programming.

 An "Exhibit Rates" table is shown:
 

Affiliate Member	Nonmember
\$550 per table	\$600 per table

 At the bottom, it says "VISIT US: [WWW.ATLA.COM/MEMBERS/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.ATLA.COM/MEMBERS/CONFERENCE)" and includes the ATLA logo.

## Thank you to the 2014 Nominating Committee

On behalf of the ATLA Board of Directors, I would like to thank the 2014 Nominating Committee: Armin Siedlecki (chair), Carrie Hackney, and Eileen Crawford. A special thank you to Armin for chairing the committee this year and completing his term (2012-14). Please be sure to vote when you receive your ballot via e-mail in January.

Carrie Hackney, current board member, will chair the committee in 2015, which will include Eileen Crawford (2014-2016), and Tammy Johnson (2015-17). As per our bylaws (3.3, 3.8), the Board appoints a new member to the committee annually. In early 2015, the [Nominating Committee](#) will issue a call for nominees for the 2016 ballot. Each year the Board needs members to run for election to the Board so that we can continue our work on behalf of the association.

Please contact Carrie, Eileen, or Tammy if you would like to learn more about the work of the Board or if you would like to nominate someone to run for election in 2016.

*Submitted by Beth Bidlack, President*

## Donate to the Endowment Fund and Invest in the Future

December is a time when we often look back and reflect on the people and organizations that we hold dear.

The past year has been a good one in many ways for ATLA. We continue to be the home of professional activities related to theological librarianship. The annual conference in New Orleans provided a place for learning and sharing with colleagues, greeting old friends, and making new ones. The current Creating Leaders of Tomorrow program is helping to nurture a new generation of leaders. The successful IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant allowed us to gather the information that is needed to plan programs that will support preservation and access in small theological and religious studies libraries and archives.

All of us can work together to make sure these and other opportunities are available to future theological librarians and that ATLA remains a strong and vibrant association. Whether it's in honor of a retirement, in memory of a cherished colleague whom we recently lost, or simply because ATLA is an important part of your professional life, please consider making a donation to ATLA's Endowment Fund. This year's gifts up to \$10,000 will be matched by ATLA, thereby doubling the impact of your contribution and setting a faster course to our short term goal of a \$1 million Endowment Fund. Donate today and invest in the future of theological libraries and librarianship.

[Contribute online now](#) or mail a check to:

ATLA Endowment Fund  
300 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100  
Chicago, IL 60606

## Volunteer with an ATLA Committee

Our members make our association great. We invite you to volunteer with one of the many committees of our association, including: Conference, Diversity, Endowment, and Professional Development Committees.

Per the ATLA Bylaws, Committees of the Association are created and overseen by the Executive Director. ATLA Individual and Lifetime Members are eligible for appointment to an ATLA Committee.

Committee appointments are made in the Spring of each year for terms beginning the following June. Individuals interested in volunteering for appointment in June 2015 should submit a volunteer form before March 1.

To submit your name for consideration, please visit the [Committee Volunteer form](#). A member username and password are required to access the [Form](#). Please contact [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com) if you have any questions.



## ATLA Member of the Week



Each week ATLA is spotlighting our members through [Member Profile of the Week](#). We want to give a face and personality to what makes ATLA unique -- you!

Meet November's Members of the Week!

[Meet Matt Ostercamp](#)

[Meet Kerrie Stevens](#)

[Meet Chris Anderson](#)

Learn more about the people that make up your community, and share your own story by [filling out this form](#) and sending your photo to [newsletter@atla.com](mailto:newsletter@atla.com). Your profile will be [featured on our website](#) and linked on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

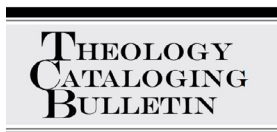
### The "In Good" Faith Project Webinar Available

Consultants Liz Bishoff of the Bishoff Group and Tom Claeson of Lyrasis offered a free webinar reporting on the survey results from the "In Good Faith" Project. You can view the recording on our [website for free](#).

Learn more about the ["In Good Faith" project](#).

## New Issue of *Theology Cataloging Bulletin* Published

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



Section one of each issue lists new and changed subject headings and section two lists new and changed classification. Both are selected and compiled by Ann Heinrichs (Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois). Section three includes the general information and is edited by Leslie Engelson (Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky).

Thank you to the [Technical Services Interest Group \(TSIG\)](#) for their work on this publication.

## ATLA at the AAR & SBL Annual Meetings



ATLA Products - Hands-On User-Session

The American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meetings were held in San Diego, November 22-25. ATLA staff hosted an exhibit booth to engage attendees regarding our products, initiatives and membership options. We also offered two hands-on user-sessions, which provided personal instruction on searching ATLA databases using various functions and features. As in previous years, ATLA also hosted two receptions, including an evening soiree at the Hard Rock Hotel and a breakfast as Buster's Beach House on the marina.

This annual event attracts over 10,000 attendees and is one of the most important exhibiting events for ATLA each year. AAR & SBL provides opportunities to meet with current and potential publishers and partners, as well as interact with faculty, students, scholars, and members who use our online products. This year we were especially encouraged by the diversity of the people we met, the questions we were asked, and the new relationships and partnerships we fostered.

## 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:

- Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN, is looking for [Library Director](#).
- Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Technical Services Head Librarian](#).
- Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, is looking for a [Curator of Archives and Manuscripts](#).
- Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL, is looking for an [Electronic Resources Librarian](#).
- Yale University Library, New Haven, CT, is looking for a [Director](#).



## Member News

### SEPTLA Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

[The Southeastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association \(SEPTLA\)](#) celebrates its Golden Anniversary in 2014. A celebratory lunch was enjoyed at the fall meeting at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown. Joined by several founding and early SEPTLA members, the past was recalled and the future was contemplated.

According to Donald Matthews, SEPTLA member in 1989 (at the 25th anniversary), the founding motivation for SEPTLA was the question, "What can we do cooperatively that we could not do individually?" That remains our reason for being today, although how we help each other has changed over the years.

The librarians of four Philadelphia theological seminaries (Westminster, Philadelphia Lutheran, Eastern Baptist, and St. Charles) began meeting semi-annually in afternoon business sessions in 1964. By 1968, the group had officers and was compiling a checklist of the libraries' combined periodical subscriptions to identify gaps in local holdings. The first recorded agreement was for each library to commit \$300 from its regular budget to purchase periodicals not held by another participating library. Soon, the members agreed to use \$200 of each library's regular budget to fill in gaps in monographic series.



SEPTLA Anniversary Luncheon: Karl Krueger, Cait Kokolus, James Humble, Terry Heisey, Harold Scanlin, Myka Kennedy Stephens



SEPTLA Anniversary Luncheon: Julie Dawson, Chris Schwartz, Bonnie Falla, Virginia Dearborn

Beginning in 1970, additional libraries outside of Philadelphia were added to the membership and a newsletter was published. Several early projects including the Union List of Serials, co-operative purchase of all titles included in Scholar's Choice bibliographies and Religion Index Two, union card catalogs, and the Expensive Purchases Clearinghouse were instituted. Reciprocal borrowing agreements were formalized in 1973. SEPTLA became the first regional affiliate of ATLA in 1977.

Quoting Matthews, "It seems to me that two factors have contributed to the success of this enterprise we call SEPTLA. The first is a willingness to expose ignorance. Many have come to meetings with questions and problems. There has consistently been an openness, a sense of trust, an absence of defensiveness. Anyone can safely ask a question here. And the remarkable thing is that there has been an enormous reservoir of information available in this group. ... A second factor is a devotion to the church catholic. There is a wide spectrum of theology, denominational affiliation, religious practice embodied in this group. Yet one of the cohesive elements is a dedication to libraries, to theological education, and to our Lord."

*Submitted by Terry Heisey*

### Theology Cataloging Bulletin Looking for New Editor

The *Theology Cataloging Bulletin* (TCB) is looking to fill the role of editor.

Lynn Berg who has been the editor since 2001 has played a significant role in the success and value of *TCB*. While editor she also created bibliographies, culling through the library literature to find articles of interest. When the role of editor transitioned to Tammy Johnson in 2010 and then to me in 2012, Lynn continued to contribute bibliographies each quarter. I'd like to express my appreciation for the time and effort she put in to making the *TCB* the valuable resource it is.

If you are interested in filling that role, please contact Leslie at [leslie.engelson@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.engelson@gmail.com).

*Submitted by Leslie Engelsen*

## CATLA's Fall Meeting



**Dr. Christopher Cantwell,  
Plenary Speaker at the  
CATLA Fall Meeting.**

Twenty-six attendees from sixteen institutions were present at the CATLA (Chicago Area Theological Library Association) fall meeting "Digitizing Religious Collections," which was hosted by Catholic Theological Union in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood on October 24, 2014.

The meeting began with normal CATLA business: minutes, treasurer and membership reports, and a scholarship report by recipient Ann Heinrichs. Two new items of business followed: a proposed amendment to the bylaws that the membership would vote online using a Google form set up for that purpose; and the call for a host institution, meeting topic and presenters for our 50th Anniversary meeting this coming spring. At this meeting, we hope to feature speakers from CATLA libraries, who will discuss how their institutions have historically contributed to theological education in the city and its surroundings.

After our business meeting came Dr. Christopher Cantwell's plenary talk: "Digital Projects for Religious Sources." Those involved in the study of religion have not been as attentive to digital humanities as other fields, Cantwell believes, in part because of the disciplinary emphasis on institutions and authorities (e.g., famous theologians' papers, seminaries, etc.). However, a new emphasis on "lived religion" is helping to overcome this gap. Dr. Cantwell then highlighted a number of projects and described the processes behind them. The plenary speaker plans on posting these slides and other links to the [CATLA Commons](#) or listserv. Dr. Cantwell's appearance was funded by a Grant for Continuing Education Programs from ATLA.

After breaking for lunch, the meeting turned to its roundtables, which were offered in two sessions, including such topics as: Grant Writing, Digital Humanities, Preserving Born Digital items, etc.

The meeting ended with an optional tour of CTU given by Lisa Gonzalez.

The CATLA Spring Meeting will be announced on the [website](#).

*Submitted by Amy Koehler, CATLA President 2014-2015*

## ATLA Calendar

### December

- 11 - ATLA offices closed at 11 a.m. in observance of Holiday Luncheon
- 24-26 - ATLA offices closed in observance of Christmas Holiday

### January

- 1 - ATLA offices closed in observance of New Year Holiday
- 2-5 - Academy of Preachers - 2015 National Festival of Young Preachers, Dallas, TX -- Margot Lyon attending
- 5 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA systems
- 19 - ATLA offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 30 - Posters Deadline for the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference
- 30 - Feb. 3 - ALA Midwinter Meeting and Exhibit, Chicago, IL -- ATLA Staff attending

### February

- 2 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA Systems
- 22-25 - NFAIS 2015 Annual Conference, Arlington, VA - Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Margot Lyon, Maria Stanton attending



## From the Executive Director 'Tis the Season of Giving

A call first went out in 1946 to the librarians of the 100 member institutions of the American Association of Theological Schools (AATS) to gather, leading to the first theological librarians conference in 1947 held at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. The central concerns of those 50 librarians in attendance still resonate after more than 65 years:

- *Recognition* of libraries' roles in theological education
- *Promotion* of theological librarianship as a profession
- *Recruitment and Training* of present and future theological librarians
- *Preservation and Organization* of religious and theological literature

Endowment Committee Chair Dennis Swanson provided an eloquent overview at the June 2014 ATLA Annual Conference of the services that ATLA continues to provide to its members. From networking and collaboration to continuing education and professional publications, ATLA provides a wealth of opportunities that help both its organizational and personal members develop in ways that better support their constituencies.

Professional associations need three streams of revenue in order to remain strong: member dues, products and services for a fee, and donations. Currently, ATLA relies almost exclusively on the revenue from its products to pay for services to members. While we hope that scholars and students at seminaries, divinity schools, and universities continue to find ATLA products essential to their research, that may not always be the case. The Board has proposed a member dues increase that will be voted on this spring. The third stream of revenue — income from an endowment fund — must also be robust if ATLA is to continue its strong support of theological and religious studies librarianship into the future.

As of early December, the Endowment Fund had a balance of \$422,400, an increase of over \$154,000 just since May 2011. Reaching our short term goal of \$1 million will provide ATLA with access to better investment plans with greater return while still carefully preserving the principal. Attainment of a long term goal of an effectual Fund valued at \$13.5 million would qualify for conservative low risk investment vehicles that currently yield 5% interest and would generate \$675,000 annually, enough to cover the current gap between membership revenues and the cost of the services provided.

ATLA recognizes that donations from members are not enough. For the last several years, all of the income from the Fund has been rolled back into it to help increase its value more rapidly. In addition, income from ATLA products has been used to match donations up to \$10,000 for the last two years.

Please help us ensure that the benefits of membership that you enjoy now will continue to be available to future generations of theological and religious studies libraries and librarians. Contribute online now or mail a check to:

ATLA Endowment Fund  
300 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100  
Chicago, IL 60606

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](mailto:newsletter@atla.com) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

## Stay Connected



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