

Newsletter



BETH 43rd General Assembly, Wroclaw, Poland. Photo by Mr. Grzegorz Zurek. Read more about BETH in the Executive Director's column.

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

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From the President Report on September's Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Thank you to the eight members who participated in the virtual town hall meeting on September 11 to discuss the proposed increase to Student and Individual membership dues. Also, thank you

to those who have offered feedback by e-mail or phone and in person. The Board will be discussing your questions, concerns, and suggestions during our meeting later this month. Most members have affirmed the need for an increase. There will be a proposal to increase individual and student dues on the January 2015 ballot, and your Board encourages you to vote yes on this increase.

During the town hall meeting, Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer shared some information that may be of interest to all members. About a third of individual members are either Lifetime Members (paying no dues) or Student Members (paying dues at the lowest level). In addition, there are some institutional representatives that are not also Individual Members. Please note that individual membership has added benefits, including the opportunity to develop leadership skills by serving the Association on its committees, interest group steering committees, and Board of Directors. Brenda noted that approximately two-thirds of the cost of member programs is covered by product revenue. While ATLA is developing new member programs in scholarly communications and reciprocal borrowing and enhancing ATLA's products, the value of our membership continues to increase. ATLA is also studying changing research habits in theology and religion and, at a future date, will make these findings available to members.

Overall, participants in the town hall meeting expressed appreciation for ATLA and are willing to pay increased dues for the benefits they receive.

Here is a summary of the feedback the Board has heard regarding the proposed dues increase:

- Student dues: Some members say the proposed \$35 is too high; others say \$35 is a fair amount.
- Lifetime membership dues: One lifetime member said lifetime members should pay dues. During the virtual town hall meeting most participants

Continued on page 2

ATLA 2015 Board of Directors Candidates

The Nominating Committee has named a slate of candidates for the four director positions to be filled on the Board for the term 2015-2018.

The candidates are (in order drawn by lot):

- Dennis Swanson, The Masters Seminary, Sun Valley, CA
- Chris Benda, Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN
- Timothy Lincoln, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX (incumbent)
- Ellen Frost, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
- Craig Churchill, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX
- Tracy Powell Iwaskow, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
-

Nominations for additional candidates other than those submitted by the Nominating Committee may be made by petition (10 signatures required) and submitted to the Secretary by December 1. Petitions may be sent to the Secretary as an e-mail attachment, by fax, or by mail.

Steve Perisho
Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors
Theology and Philosophy Librarian
Seattle Pacific University Library
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Seattle, WA 98119-1957
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Petition candidates must agree to be nominated and must be ATLA Individual Members in good standing for the 2014-2015 ATLA membership year.

The election will be conducted via electronic ballot from January 15 through March 1, 2015. Information about the candidates will be made available via the November and December 2014 ATLA Newsletters, on the ATLA website, and on the ballot itself.

The Nominating Committee members are: Armin Siedlecki (Chair), Carrie Hackney (Board Representative), and Eileen Crawford. The Secretary of the Association is Steve Perisho.

ATLA Member Renewals

ATLA Membership renewal season is upon us! Renewal notices were sent to all current members — Institutional, Affiliate, International Institutional, Individual, and Student. The ATLA membership year runs from September 1 through August 31.

The final renewal e-mail was sent Wednesday, October 1. All individual and student members and member representatives of Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate members should have received this e-mail notice regarding membership renewals. If you did not receive a renewal notice, please contact memberrep@atla.com. Memberships will expire November 1.

Thanks to those members who have already renewed their memberships online. If you have questions or concerns regarding your 2014-2015 ATLA membership renewal, please e-mail memberrep@atla.com.

Letter from the President Continued

said no, but that lifetime members should be encouraged to contribute to the Endowment Fund.

- The number of tiers/income levels in the member dues scale: Some members say there are too many levels; others say there are not enough or that there are too many at the lower end of the scale, but not enough at the higher end.
- At least one member encouraged the Board to discuss dues on a regular basis.
- Another member noted that there is a need for greater clarity regarding how to find one's correct tier/income level on the proposed scale (i.e., what counts as income?).

Participants in the town hall meeting also offered feedback on lifetime memberships, noting that other organizations require more than ten years of paying dues in exchange for free lifetime membership. This is an issue that the Bylaws Committee will pick up in the near future. During the meeting, we also discussed ways that ATLA could further support members (e.g., a scholarship fund for individuals whose institutions do not pay for association memberships). Brenda noted that the upcoming ATLA salary survey will include a question on whether one's institution covers the cost of professional memberships. We also briefly discussed how ATLA might retain student members who sometimes become members to attend annual conference at a reduced rate, but then do not secure jobs in theological libraries.

Overall, the Board is very impressed with the thoughtful feedback we have received to date. Again, thank you! Please keep it coming. [Your Board needs to hear from you.](#)

Beth Bidlack
President

Preservation Survey Results Released by ATLA

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) and its partners the Catholic Library Association (CLA) and the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) a National Leadership Grant for the project "In Good Faith: Collection Care, Preservation, and Access in Small Theological and Religious Studies Libraries." A report on the project's main activity, a survey on preservation and collections care issues at small libraries and archives based at theological and religious studies organizations, has just been published and is [available to download](#).

Key findings of the survey included:

- A lack of policies for preservation and digitization, although the number of organizations which include preservation in their mission statements and those with collection policies was high;
- The need to develop disaster plans, digital collection plans and policies, and environmental monitoring and control procedures;
- A need to conduct preservation needs assessment surveys of collections, policies, and buildings;
- A strong need to improve overall financial and staff support for preservation at institutions with budgets below \$100,000;
- Expanding capacity for collection processing, cataloging and finding aid development to increase discoverability of collections and their usage is also a strong need.

ATLA Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer noted, "This collaborative effort reached a wide array of library and archival institutions in theological and religious studies communities, and we were able to learn about preservation needs from many of the smaller organizations in the field. ATLA, CLA, and AJL will continue to work together to provide information, education, and support to help these organizations build preservation programs that address the identified needs."

The Spring 2014 survey was targeted to organizations with staff sizes of less than five full time equivalent, and budgets under \$500,000. In addition to ATLA, CLA, and AJL members, the project partners reached out to other religious libraries and archives. The resulting 235 responses represented one of the largest surveys on preservation and digital practices in theological and religious organizations which has ever been completed. Responses were received from a wide variety of organizations, including those which are part of educational institutions, organizations affiliated with churches, synagogues, or other houses of worship, independent libraries and archives, and various other types of theological and religious based collecting organizations.

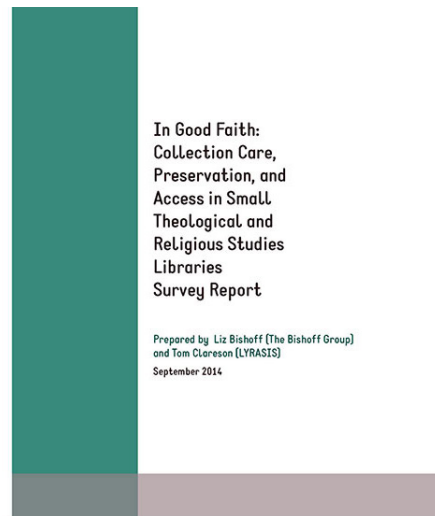
The partner organizations defined the target audiences as cultural heritage organizations which are part of a formal or established organization, have a library, archive, or other research collection which includes religious and/or theological materials, have religious and/or theological historical or rare materials as part of the library, archive, or research collection, and have at least one contact person (volunteer or salaried, full-time or part-time) responsible for the care/management of the research collection that could serve as the contact for the survey.

The partner organizations will be addressing the findings of the survey in communications with their membership, and will explore other collaborative preservation and digitization initiatives in the future.

IMLS National Leadership Grants for Libraries support projects that address challenges faced by the museum, library,

and/or archive fields and that have the potential to advance practice in those fields. IMLS offers grants to help make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.

[Read the full press release.](#)



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Collection Care in Small Religious Studies Collections: the Survey Results from the "In Good" Faith Project Webinar

Consultants Liz Bishoff and Tom Clareson will offer free webinars reporting on the survey results from the project. Send a message to memberrep@atla.com to RSVP for one of the two dates below:

- October 20 - 1:30 - 2:30 Central
- November 14 - 11 - Noon Central

Expanded Affordability for Institutions in Eligible Developing Countries

ATLA announces the ATLA/EBSCO Developing Countries Initiative. As a not-for-profit association of theological libraries and librarians, ATLA understands the importance of supporting theological education throughout the world. Historically ATLA has worked to make its products affordable for libraries in eligible countries designated "developing" by the World Bank, along with other related criteria. Effective September 2014, ATLA and EBSCO have agreed to offer *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®), an online full-text collection of 290+ major religion and theology journals, to eligible sites, without requiring a concurrent subscription to *ATLA Religion Database*®. In addition, ATLA member institutions can sponsor eligible sites that need assistance to gain access.

How do eligible sites sign up for access?

How can ATLA member institutions sponsor eligible sites?

Interested sites, groups, and individuals are encouraged to contact Rick Rybak, ATLA Senior Business Development Representative, at products@atla.com or +1.312.775.9435 for personal assistance in pricing and setting up access, either to set up a direct purchasing arrangement or to inquire about sponsorship. Rick will be a liaison with EBSCO, and many ATLA members know him as a liaison with EBSCO on the *ATLAS for ALUM* grant program.

Note that access sponsorship is not limited to *ATLASerials*. Any institution may purchase any ATLA product on behalf of any accessing site around the world. For example, a library in an eligible developing country could sign a license agreement for ATLA's products as the "accessing site" and the bill-to address could be another institution as the sponsor, known as the "purchasing site." This arrangement is not limited to sites in developing countries and could also be used for any sponsoring relationship. For example, a seminary in the United States could sponsor access for another institution anywhere in the world. For specific prerequisites and other information, visit [Product Access Options and Guidance](#).

More information about the ATLA/EBSCO Developing Countries Program is available through the following links, which can also be found on the [FAQs page on the ATLA website](#).

- [How does ATLA determine eligible countries, sites and locations?](#)
- How do eligible sites [sign up for access?](#) How can ATLA member institutions [sponsor eligible sites?](#)
- How is ["sponsorship" defined?](#)
- What are the [price ranges?](#)
- What are some additional access options for ATLA [subscription databases?](#)

ATLA Partnering with SCEL C on New York Times "Academic Pass" Offer

Through its relationship with SCEL C, ATLA is able to participate in an inter-consortial offer that allows ATLA member libraries to provide an "academic pass" to the New York Times web edition. The "academic pass" access to the New York Times is identical to that provided by an individual subscription.

Subscriptions will run from January 5, 2015 - January 3, 2016. There is a limited time frame during which subscribers will be accepted for this subscription term - you must complete the application process with SCEL C by December 5, 2014.

Through this offer, most ATLA member libraries are able to subscribe for about \$1.66 per FTE student enrollment plus faculty headcount. A SCEL C transaction fee of 5% up to \$50 will also apply. For example, if an institution has 1,000 FTE, then its annual subscription cost would be \$1.66 x 1,000, or \$1,660 + \$50 (since 5% would be \$83) for a total of \$1,710.

To view the complete details of the offer, you will need to have registered on the [SCEL C website](#). If you decide to take advantage of this offer, your institution must be an ATLA member and also must become a SCEL C Affiliate Member. There is no charge to become a SCEL C Affiliate Member - [simply fill out the form](#).

More details on this offer are available on the [SCEL C website](#) or contact Jason Price at SCEL C: jason@scelc.org.

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!

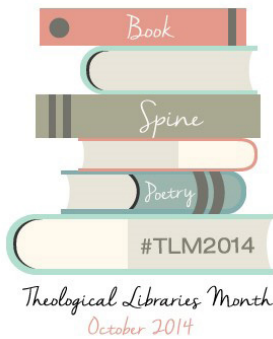


We have introduced our first Member Profile of the Week this week.

[Meet Steve Perisho](#), the Member Profile of the Week, for October 13.

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. Your profile will be [featured on our website](#) and linked on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

October is Theological Libraries Month



Theological Libraries Month is in full swing and we have several ways to help you to continue the fun all throughout the month of October.

New! ATLA Advocacy Innovation Grants

This year ATLA is offering a new competitive grant program designed to help achieve Organizational End 1.2.1: Librarians are effective advocates for their libraries and the profession.

ATLA Advocacy Innovation Grants of \$1,000 are available for ATLA Institutional Members for an advocacy project. The purpose of this grant program is to support the development and implementation of innovative activities for advocating for the role of libraries and librarians in theological and religious studies education.

Grants may be given to projects related to Theological Libraries Month or other projects conducted throughout the year. Up to six Advocacy Innovation Grants will be awarded between September 2014 and March 2015. In order to be eligible, applicant institutions must be ATLA Institutional Members that have paid their FY15 membership dues in full.

Please note that the ATLA Advocacy Innovation Grants program replaces the TLM Mini-grant program that was offered in the past.

For information on how to apply, [please see the application instructions at the Advocacy Innovation Grants page](#).

Book Spine Poetry

Join us for the second annual Book Spine Poetry contest. This is a great way to celebrate Theological Libraries Month with your students at your library.

The Contest

Encourage students and/or patrons to create poetry using the titles of books from the library and snap a photo. Post the photo to Twitter or Facebook using #TLM2014. Be sure to tag @yourATLA on [Twitter](#) or our [Facebook](#) so you can be entered into the contest.

We will be reposting our favorite photos throughout the month of October. Three winners will be chosen and showcased in the ATLA Newsletter and receive a \$25 gift card.

All photos must be posted by midnight on October 31. Winners will be announced in the November Newsletter.

The Goodies

TLM posters, social media logos and icons, and bookmarks are [available for download](#). Please use them liberally and let's celebrate TLM together!

Theological Libraries Month was established to advance the importance and value of theological libraries and library services to targeted faculty, administrators, staff, and students.

ATLA Receptions at AAR & SBL Annual Meetings in San Diego



ATLA will host two receptions during the Concurrent Annual Meetings 2014 of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) in San Diego. You are invited to join us and bring a colleague or two. Please RSVP to rrybak@atla.com by November 13 with your name, the name of your guest(s), and the event(s) you will attend.

Both venues are a short walk from the Convention Center. More information and a map are [available here](#).

Evening Reception

Saturday, November 22, 2014

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Hard Rock Hotel

207 5th Avenue, San Diego

Revolution Rm. 1

Morning Reception

Monday, November 24, 2014

7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Buster's Beach House and Longboard Bar

807 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego

Also, please stop by the ATLA exhibit booth #945. Exhibit hall hours are November 22-24 (Saturday-Monday), 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; November 25 (Tuesday), 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. We look forward to seeing you there.

Beth Bidlack Presents at NFAIS

ATLA Board of Directors President Beth Bidlack spoke at the 2014 NFAIS (the National Federation of Advanced Information Services) Humanities Roundtable in New York City on September 29, 2014.

Beth, Director of the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, spoke about Libraries: Acquisition and Selection Practices.

This annual workshop brings publishers, aggregators, scholarly societies, and libraries together to discuss the humanities. The event was hosted by RILM at the CUNY Graduate Center and is sponsored in part by ATLA. Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Maria Stanton, and Margot Lyon attended the event, and Margot Lyon also serves as chair of the NFAIS Humanities Roundtable Planning Committee.

[Read more about this event.](#)



ATLA Annual Conference News

Call for the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference Proposals - Extended

The Conference Committee cordially invites members and friends of the American Theological Library Association [to submit proposals for:](#)

- Pre-conference Workshops
- In-conference Workshops
- Papers
- Panel Presentations
- Listen & Learn Sessions
- Interest Group Presentations
- Conversation Groups
- Posters or Other Special Sessions

The conference will be held in Denver, Colorado, June 17-20, 2015.

The Committee will consider proposals addressing theological librarianship, the academic disciplines of theology, and/or general librarianship. [The deadline for submissions have been extended to Friday, October 17.](#)

We look forward to seeing you in Denver, June 17 - 20, where you will be "Mining the Information Landscape," hosted by the Theological Librarians and Libraries of Denver/Rocky Mountain Region.

Section Editor for Bibliographic Essays - *Theological Librarianship*: an Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association

Theological Librarianship's Editorial Board is seeking a new Section Editor for Critical Bibliographic Essays, for appointment in March 2015.

About the position

The Journal's bylaws (2011) describe this position as follows:

Section Editor, Bibliographic Essays

The section editor for Bibliographic Essays is responsible for soliciting contributions and for managing the editorial process for Bibliographic Essays. The journal publishes Bibliographic Essays that survey and assess the literature on various topics related to the study of theology and religion, and thus facilitate theological education, research in religion, and informational reading.

A small stipend is paid to the editor with the publication of each issue.

Further information

The Bibliographic Essays Editor serves with four other members (section editors and a managing editor) on the journal's Editorial Board. For all Editorial Board members, the bulk of the work is a combination of responsibility for the individual sections and for the overall health of the journal.

TL is published semi-annually (in March and October). Typically the Editorial Board convenes about once a month online. Editorial Board members may be asked to participate in up to two in-person meetings per year. ATLA provides support for transportation and accommodations for these meetings.

- At some points in the year most of the Board's energy is absorbed with getting the upcoming issue ready for publication, while at other times there is more emphasis on long-term strategy, improving the health, and extending the reach of the journal, etc.
- A commitment of 3 years (renewable) to the position is strongly desired. All of *TL's* editors are required to be Individual Members of ATLA.
- Further questions about this opportunity may be addressed to *TL's* Managing Editor, David Stewart (Phone: 651/638-6225; E-mail: d-stewart@bethel.edu).

Desired qualifications

- Basic experience in editing.
- Capacity to work collegially with authors and editors.
- Proven ability to meet deadlines.
- Familiarity with *TL*, and of its function within and beyond the ATLA community.

Other information

To ensure a healthy transition, the successful applicant will be appointed three months prior to the current Bibliographic Essays Editor's departure. It is expected that this overlap will provide the appointee with ample opportunity to become familiarized with the routines and processes of securing content and working with the author(s) at each stage of publication.

To apply

Please send (by October 27, 2014) via e-mail a current CV, cover letter, and contact information for three professional references to:

Tawny Burgess

Communications Coordinator

American Theological Library Association

E-mail: tburgess@atla.com

Member News

The Professional Development Committee Meets in Denver



The fall committee meetings are underway for ATLA. The Professional Development Committee met Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Executive Director, and Denise McFarlin, Meetings Specialist, in Denver on October 9-10.

The committee discussed some exciting and innovative projects that they will be working on this membership year. Along with the new developments, the committee appointed new officers. Members of the committee are:

- Nicholas Weiss, Chair
- Jennifer Ulrich, Vice Chair
- Megan Welsh, Secretary
- Martha Adkins
- Denise McFarlin, Staff Liaison

More information on the committee's upcoming projects will be published in future newsletters. Learn more about this committee on the [ATLA website](#).

The Local Host Committee Meets



The 2015 ATLA Annual Conference preparation is in full swing. Denise McFarlin, Meetings Specialist, and Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Executive Director, met with the 2015 Local Host Committee in Denver on October 9 to discuss next year's conference.

The Local Host Committee is comprised of: Stephen Sweeney, Lisa Grover, Nicholas Weiss, Megan Welsh, Gayle Gunderson, Laura Harris, and Peggy Keeran (not pictured).

For more information on the 2015 ATLA conference, [please see our website](#).

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:

- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Digitization Specialist](#).
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Director of Member Programs](#).
- Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX, is looking for a [Learning Technologies Librarian](#).
- Columbia International University, Columbia, SC, is looking for a [Public Services Librarian](#).
- Eastern Mennonite University, Sadie A. Hartzler Library, Harrisonburg, VA, is looking for [Director of the Hartzler Library](#).
- Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO, is looking for a [Library Director](#).
- Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN, is looking for [Library Director](#).
- Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Technical Services Head Librarian](#).
- Moravian Theological Seminary Library, Bethlehem, PA, is looking for a [Research Instruction Librarian and Seminary Liaison](#).
- The Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Philadelphia, PA, is looking for an [Executive Director](#).
- Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH, is looking for an [Archivist](#).
- Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, Orange Park, FL, is looking for a [Library Director](#).
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX, is looking for an [Archivist and Special Collections Librarians](#).
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX, is looking for an [Acquisitions Librarian](#).
- Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL, is looking for an [Electronic Resources Librarian](#).
- Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, is looking for a [Library and OFINE Director](#).

Staff News



Roger Morales Joins ATLA

Roger Morales joins ATLA as a new *ATLA RDB*® Metadata Analyst.

Roger recently completed his MLIS from the University of Illinois. He also received his masters from Naropa University with a concentration in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with Sanskrit language. He completed his undergraduate studies at Florida International University with a concentration in early Christianity.

Roger is also an active volunteer, which includes volunteering as a youth basketball coach and at the Shambhala Meditation Center. He is also fluent in Spanish.

Please join us in welcoming Roger to the ATLA team.



Megan McCarthy Promoted to Production Coordinator

Megan McCarthy has been promoted to Production Coordinator, beginning October 20. Megan has worked as the Digitization Specialist beginning in May 2013. According to Jennifer Butler, Production Manager, "She has demonstrated herself in that role, handling changing workflows and procedures with efficiency and diligence."

While working for ATLA, Megan has also worked as Archive Manager and Internship Coordinator at the Busy Beaver Button Museum, where she hired and trained interns, and oversaw the processing (research, description, cataloging, and digitizing) of the museum's collection. She has an MLIS from Drexel University, and has had a long interest in digital libraries.

Join us in congratulating Megan.

ATLA Calendar

October

- 17 - 2015 ATLA Annual Conference Proposals Deadline
- 17-18 - ATLA Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 20 - Webinar: Collection Care in Small Religious Studies Collections: the Survey Results from the "In Good Faith" Project. Join consultants Liz Bishoff and Tom Claeson for a free webinar reporting on the survey results from the "In Good Faith" Project. Send a message to MemberRep@ATLA.com to register. Webinar is from 1:30 - 2:30 central time.
- 28-29 - *Theological Librarianship* Editorial Board Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 31 - Deadline for Book Spine Poetry contest in honor of Theological Libraries Month

November

- 3 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA systems
- 4-8 - Charleston Conference, Charleston, SC - Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Margot Lyon, and Maria Stanton attending
- 11 - Diversity Committee Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 13-15 - Conference Committee Meeting, Denver, CO - Denise McFarlin and Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 14 - Webinar: Collection Care in Small Religious Studies Collections: the Survey Results from the "In Good Faith" Project. Join consultants Liz Bishoff and Tom Claeson for a free webinar reporting on the survey results from the "In Good Faith" Project. Send a message to MemberRep@ATLA.com to register. Webinar is from 11 - noon central time.
- 22-25 - AAR & SBL Annual Meetings 2014, San Diego, CA - ATLA staff attending
- 27-28 - ATLA offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 1 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA systems
- 24-25 - ATLA offices closed in observance of Christmas Holiday



From the Executive Director Shared Concerns: the 2014 BETH General Assembly

The 43rd BETH (Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie) General Assembly was held in Wroclaw, Poland, September 6-10, at the [Pontifical Faculty of Theology](#). The theme of the meeting was “Conserving and Protecting Library Collections for the Future: The Experience of Central and Eastern Europe”.

Marcin Werla from the Digital Libraries Team of Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC) spoke about the national digital library infrastructure created through Poland’s PIONIER network. This impressive project brings together virtually over 2 million digital objects from 325 institutions throughout the country. [FIDES](#) (The Federation of the Church Libraries) is a consortium in Poland with over 80 members. Several members described various FIDES projects. Prof. István Pásztori-Kupán, a faculty member from the Protestant Theological Institute of Cluj in Romania, humorously described the lengths to which he will go to obtain access to materials needed for his research.

A portion of the meeting was devoted to discussion of online resources in theology and religious studies. Chris VendenBorre from Brepols talked about coverage and searching functionality in Index Religiosus. Some planned changes to *Index Theologicus (IxTheo)* were presented by Martin Faßnacht (University of Tübingen). Gregg Taylor, ATLA’s Licensing Manager, provided updates on ATLA products and announced a change for *ATLAS®* subscribers in developing countries, an option that was well-received by BETH attendees.

The BETH General Assembly was sponsored by OCLC, De Gruyter, and Schult’z, each of whom gave a presentation. The Schult’z presentation was particularly intriguing. Their Technical Director, Prof. Luigi Pastorelli, focused on the development of voluntary standards for risk assessment in libraries.

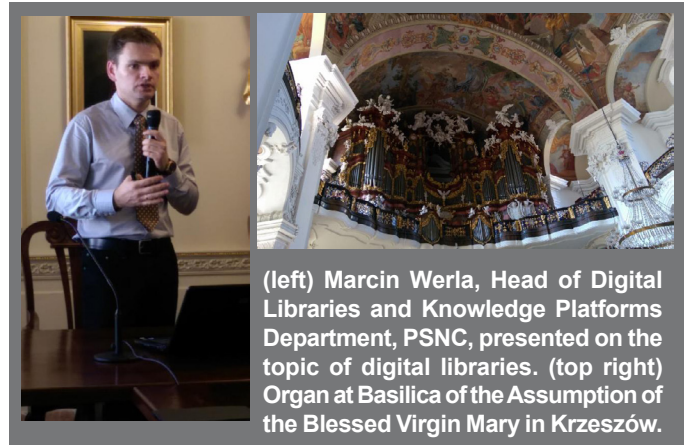
No BETH meeting would be complete without visits to local libraries and churches. This year’s event featured a bus trip to magnificent churches in Krzeszów and Swidnica as well as a tour of the Ossolineum Library in Wroclaw.

As always, it was a pleasure to attend and learn more about the activities of ATLA’s European counterparts. It was especially good to see new participants from places like the Czech Republic and Croatia which are not usually represented at BETH. The array of presentations aptly illustrated that while there is great need among theological libraries in this part of Europe, libraries are still forging ahead with a number of initiatives. Just as in North America, collaboration between libraries brings greater success.

Two options for collaboration between ATLA and BETH are currently under discussion. One is the potential to build on the current ILATL OCLC group catalog to build a worldwide database of holdings from theological and religious studies libraries. The second is an effort to provide options for basic and continuing education for theological and religious studies librarians throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. If you are interested in participating in either of these initiatives, [please contact me](#).

Copies of the papers and presentations from the 43rd General Assembly can be found on the [BETH website](#).

Brenda Bailey-Hainer
Executive Director



(left) Marcin Werla, Head of Digital Libraries and Knowledge Platforms Department, PSNC, presented on the topic of digital libraries. (top right) Organ at Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Krzeszów.

Contact Information

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

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

Stay Connected

