

Newsletter



New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary reading room.

From the President Aligning the Work of the Association with Its Organizational Ends (Part 2): The “Triple Helix”



As I mentioned in last month’s column, in October some interest group chairs and members of ATLA’s committees, staff, and board met with Paul D. Meyer, a consultant

from Tecker International. Paul has years of experience consulting with associations of varying sizes and missions. He offered many insights about associations and how to align the work of associations with their missions and ends. During our session with him, Paul proposed this definition of an association: “a group of people who voluntarily come together to solve common problems, meet common needs, and accomplish common goals.” This certainly describes ATLA! Throughout our history, we have come together to solve common problems, meet common needs, and accomplish common goals. Volunteers who came together to fill a need for an index of theological journal literature compiled the first edition of *Religion Index*. We have been busy solving common problems ever since.

In addition to this definition, Paul proposed the metaphor of a triple helix as a means of understanding the DNA of associations. Within associations, members play three interrelated roles - we are owners, customers, and workers. These interrelated roles are part of who we are, part of our DNA. First, we are owners who make decisions. ATLA is our association. Each year we make decisions by voting on who will represent us on the Board, which is accountable for the Association and to its owners. The Board needs to continue listening to you, the Association’s owners. As customers, we get something from the Association. In the case of ATLA, we get products such as the *ATLA Religion Database*® and services such as professional development tools and opportunities. Are we getting the products and services that we want? In associations like ATLA, members are also workers. We volunteer our time on behalf of the Association in many ways (e.g., serving on committees). I have rarely seen an organization with so many people willing to volunteer.

Sometimes there can be a disconnect between the expectations of these three roles of association members.

From the President	1
Endowment Fund.....	2
Call for Research/Publication Grant.....	2
ATLA Committee Volunteer Form Available	2
Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Program	3
The Future of Libraries in Theological Education	3
ATLA Board of Directors Election.....	3
2014 ATLA Annual Conference	4
AAR & SBL Concurrent Meetings Summary.....	5
Project Update: In Good Faith	5
Preservation Workshops.....	6
Member News.....	7
Job Openings.....	7
Calendar	7
Staff News.....	8
From the Executive Director	9

Continued on page 2

ATLA Opens Call for Research/ Publication Grant

The ATLA Publications Committee will award up to \$4,000 in grants to support one or more recipients in the development of a scholarly work that advances some aspect of theological librarianship. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2014. Please visit the [Publication Grant web page](#) for more information.

The purpose of the Research/Publication Grant is to facilitate the creation and/or organization of scholarly resources and primary source materials in areas related to theological librarianship. The committee encourages new research projects, especially those that would otherwise lack adequate support.

Letter from the President Continued

As Paul was describing this triple helix, I understood more clearly some of the tensions I have occasionally felt as a member of ATLA. Sometimes I identify as an owner, sometimes as a customer, and sometimes as a worker. For example, sometimes I am a customer, and I want the best price on products, a perspective that may be in conflict with my identity as an owner who wants to continue to draw on product revenue to support member programs. What happens when there is dissonance or disconnect between these roles? This very dissonance or disconnect can be a creative tension that can challenge us in new ways. For me, it is part of what makes our association so engaging, which inspires me to continue in my role as a worker for the Association. In other words, this tension leads engagement and dialogue. In the book entitled *7 Measures of Success: What Remarkable Associations Do That Others Don't* (Washington, DC: American Society of Association Executives, 2006), the authors list "dialogue and engagement" as one of the important measures of success of an association. I would say we are a remarkable association that values sharing information and collaborating in mission-driven ways. Through the years, I have seen us tear down silos and build up new ways of looking at challenges and opportunities.

So, what should we do with this triple helix metaphor? How is it helpful in our work? For me, it helps to bring clarity regarding our multiple roles in ATLA so that we can direct questions and concerns via the best channels. For example, if I have questions about ATLA Religion Database®, I as a customer may contact staff at EBSCO or ATLA, depending on the nature of the question. If I have a suggestion about a professional development initiative for the Association, I as a customer and owner would talk with ATLA staff, who would determine the feasibility of the proposal, and with a member of the Board, which governs the Association by establishing its Organizational Ends and by monitoring the Executive Director's performance. I may even end up being a worker (via a committee, task force, or conference presentation) who helps implement my proposal. What do you think about this triple helix metaphor? How might it help you as a member of ATLA? The Board invites your feedback as owners of the Association.

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 Charlotte provided a place for learning and sharing with colleagues, greeting old friends, and making new ones. The triennial colloquy on teaching and learning, jointly offered by ATLA and the Wabash Center, helped nurture a new generation of leaders. Grants for promoting theological libraries on campus furthered our common purpose of advocating for the role of libraries in our institutions.

All of us can work together to make sure those same 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 one of our cherished colleagues whom we lost this year, 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

ATLA Committee Volunteer Form Available

ATLA has created a new Committee Volunteer form to make it easier for members to volunteer for service on ATLA 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 2014 should submit a volunteer form before March 1.

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

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

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

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

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

Additional information, including instructions for applying for participation in this event, will be available in January. ATLA will cover travel expenses for librarians and other participants who would not otherwise be planning to attend the ATS/COA Biennial Meeting in Pittsburgh.

2014 ATLA Board of Directors Election

The 2014 ATLA Board of Directors Election will open on January 15. The election will be performed via electronic ballot by Survey & Ballot Systems.

Ballots and candidates' biographical statements will be posted on a customized web site hosted by Survey & Ballot Systems. Personalized access codes to the voting site will be sent via e-mail to eligible voting members (Institutional Member representatives, Individual Members, and Lifetime Members) in good standing as of January 1, 2014. The e-mail will come from ATLA Election Coordinator and the displayed e-mail address will be noreply@directvote.net. You may wish to add this address to your address book or alert your IT staff to allow it through your institution's firewall. The election will close on Friday, March 1, 2014.

A reminder to individual members who also serve as an Institutional Member representative, you will receive two distinct ballots with different access codes in order to fulfill your voting opportunities as articulated in the ATLA Bylaws.

Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Program

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

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

Instruction will focus on:

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

Participants will also be encouraged to develop a personal professional development plan to guide them to the next stage of their career.

Application materials will be available at the [program's web page](#) in January with a deadline of February 28. Special thanks to the ATLA Professional Development Committee for their development of the program. The Professional Development Committee will review applications and make selections by March 31.

The ATLA Nominating Committee named its slate of candidates for the four director positions to be filled on the Board. The term of office is three years, 2014-2017. No petition candidates were submitted.

The candidates are (in order drawn by lot):

- Matthew Ostercamp, North Park Theological Seminary
- Jennifer Bartholomew, Luther Seminary
- Beth Bidlack, Burke Library
- Leland Deeds, Union Presbyterian Seminary
- Jennifer Ulrich, Eastern Mennonite University
- Kelly Campbell, Columbia Theological Seminary
- Tammy Johnson, Columbia Theological Seminary
- Robert Roethemeyer, Concordia Theological Seminary

For questions on voting procedures, please contact Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Executive Director, at bbailey-hainer@atla.com. For questions about your membership status, please contact a membership representative, at memberrep@atla.com.



The Conference Committee Meets in New Orleans

The ATLA Annual Conference Committee met November 7-9, 2013, at the InterContinental Hotel in New Orleans, LA, site of the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference. The meeting was chaired by Tracy Powell Iwaksow and attended by Eric Benoy, Lisa Grover, Liz Leahy, Ky St. Amant, Stephen Sweeney, Michelle Spomer, and Suzanne Estelle-Holmer.

The committee participated in a tour of the InterContinental Hotel to help begin the planning of the 2014 Conference, and then began the important work of reviewing an outstanding collection of 2014 Conference proposals. Over 65 proposals were accepted for inclusion in a very exciting program at the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference.

Finally, the Committee devoted a significant amount of time and thought to improvements in the way that committee members could work to plan future conferences.

The 2014 ATLA Annual Conference is scheduled for June 18-21, 2014, hosted by the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Please head over to our [Facebook Event 2014 ATLA Annual Conference](#) and let us know that you're attending. By indicating that you are attending, you can view up-to-date information and insider news through Facebook.

Call for Posters: 2014 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 2014 Annual Conference, June 18-21, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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 31, 2014.

5 Bookstores to Visit in New Orleans

As the Conference Committee prepares an exciting and educational schedule, we want to share a list of the must-see bookstores in the area for those who may need a quiet place to retreat or those who love collecting books!

The following are five bibliophiles' dream book stores in the French Quarter, walking distance from the conference location.

[Arcadian Books & Art Prints](#) - 714 Orleans Ave
This shop specializes in rare, out-of-print books and antique prints.

[Crescent City Books](#) - 230 Chartres St
Offering over 30,000 scholarly book and art monographs across topics of social history, philosophy, ancient history, literary criticism and letters

[Dauphine Street Books](#) - 410 Dauphine St
A jam-packed bookshop of used and rare books.

[Faulkner House Books](#) - 624 Pirates Alley
This book shop was once the home of author William Faulkner and is now known for the book shop of rare and first editions.

[Librairie Book Shop](#) - 823 Chartres St
A delightful used book seller in the shadow of the St. Louis Cathedral.

ATLA at the AAR & SBL Concurrent Meetings

The American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Concurrent Meetings were held in Baltimore, November 23-26. ATLA hosted an exhibit booth to engage attendees regarding our products and membership options. We also hosted two receptions at the National Aquarium, a few blocks from the conference center. Both our Saturday soirée and Monday breakfast were well attended. Guests enjoyed vista views of the harbor and an extraordinary four-story aquarium exhibit of myriad fishes and sea creatures, including several species of shark and Calypso, a 500-pound turtle.

The conference attracts over 10,000 attendees, and the SBL website describes it as "the largest gathering of scholars interested in the study of religion in the world." Annually, ATLA attends the event, which provides opportunities to connect with faculty, students, scholars, and members who use our online products, as well as meet with current and potential publishers and partners. Overall the event was positive and productive for ATLA, as we strengthen long-standing relationships and develop new ones.

Alt-Ac Jobs Session at AAR & SBL

Gregg Taylor, ATLA's Licensing Manager, participated on the panel "Alt-Ac Jobs: What It Means and How to Get One" at the recent AAR and SBL Concurrent Meetings in Baltimore. This standing room only session also featured Shawn Landres, Co-Founder and CEO at Jumpstart, Jason Rhody, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Katina Rogers, Modern Language Association. 'Alt-Ac' is a term recently coined to describe 'Alternative Academic' careers for Ph.D.'s, that is, non-tenure track positions in and beyond the academy. In past years ATLA has sponsored a lunch with AAR promoting just such career paths for graduate students. This year's panel, a joint undertaking of both the AAR and SBL, was an exciting step forward to address real concerns about the academic job market. The lively discussion carried past the two-and-a-half hour mark and helped to promote ATLA and the profession of theological librarianship.



ATLA booth at AAR & SBL Concurrent Meetings



(Left to right) Laura Carnevale, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Daniela Patti of Kore University of Enna, and Gregg Taylor, ATLA Licensing Manager, enjoy conversation and refreshments at ATLA's breakfast reception at the National Aquarium - Baltimore.

Project Update - In Good Faith: Collection Care, Preservation, and Access in Small Theological and Religious Studies Libraries

The American Theological Library Association in partnership with the Catholic Library Association (CLA) and the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) has begun its work on the "In Good Faith" project, supported by a 2013 National Leadership Grants for Libraries Planning Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS).

The project's Advisory Committee has been named and has begun monthly meetings. The Advisory Committee includes:

From the American Theological Library Association

- Dr. Sharon A. Taylor, Donald G. Miller Librarian and Director of the Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Michael Boddy, Director of Luhr Reading and Reference Library, Eden Theological Seminary

From the Association of Jewish Librarians

- Elizabeth F. Stabler, Librarian, Stettenheim Library, Temple Emanu-El
- Ilka Gordon, Director, Aaron Garber Library, Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

From the Catholic Library Association

- Malachy McCarthy, Archivist, Claretian Missionaries Archives USA
- Grant Gerlich, Archivist, Mercy Heritage Center

Continued on page 6

ATLA Offers Two Online Preservation Workshops

The ATLA [2012 Preservation Survey](#) revealed members' interest in educational programs that address preservation issues for libraries and archives.

ATLA is pleased to provide [two opportunities for online training](#) in preservation topics.

ATLA has worked with preservation consultants Liz Bishoff (The Bishoff Group) and Tom Clareson (LYRASIS) to develop the following webinars.

Webinars are free and open to all ATLA members, including staff of ATLA Institutional, Affiliate, and International Institutional Members. Recordings will be made available on the ATLA web page following the completion each two-part series.

The available online sessions are:

FUNDING YOUR PRESERVATION PROGRAM

This two-part webinar will explore various options for funding a preservation program including, local funding, state and federal grants, and foundation support. The sessions will also discuss the component parts of a grant, the grant review process, and grant management activities. By the end of the program, participants will be familiar with a variety of sources of funding for preservation projects, and know the components many funders are looking for in a preservation grant proposal.

Part One: Monday, December 16, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Central

Part Two: Tuesday, December 17, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Central

DIGITAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT: THE A-Z OF DIGITAL PROJECTS

This two-part webinar will address the basics of digital collection development, metadata and digital content creation, options for providing access to digital collections, promotion of digital collections, and program evaluation. Staff from organizations that are new to building digital collections, as well as those interested in the latest standards and best practices, should attend this session. By the end of the program, participants will understand the various aspects of a digital project.

Part One: Thursday, January 30, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Central

Part Two: Friday, January 31, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Central

Please RSVP for either or both of the webinars by sending your name and e-mail to memberrep@atla.com. Please include the sessions you would like to attend. Instructions for accessing the live webinars will be sent at least one week prior to each webinar.

To sign up for a reminder notification of the webinar with instructions for accessing the session, please contact memberrep@atla.com. ATLA staff will send a reminder message before each session for all members who have submitted their request.

Project Update Continued

From the Community of Scholars and Researchers

- Emily Suzanne Clark, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Religion, Florida State University
- Dr. Ida E. Jones, Assistant Curator in the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

Consultants

- Liz Bishoff, Consultant, The Bishoff Group
- Tom Clareson, Consultant, Lyrasis

Ex-Officio

- Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Executive Director, American Theological Library Association

During the grant period, the ATLA, the CLA, and the AJL will assess the collection care, preservation, and access practices of small theological and religious studies libraries and begin to identify valuable and vulnerable collections held in these institutions. The centerpiece of the project will be a survey designed for and deployed to institutions that may not have previously been included in such studies. Existing standards and practices that help libraries respond to their unique circumstances will be promoted to the targeted libraries and at the same time the partners will communicate the challenges and opportunities faced by these libraries to the larger library and research communities. Finally, the project will explore collaborative initiatives to respond to identified long-term collection care, preservation, and access needs.

To stay informed of the project's progress, please visit the [In Good Faith Project web site](#).

Member News

Member Named ACRL Member of the Week

Michelle Y. Spomer was named Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Member of the Week for December 2. [Read her interview with ACRL staff](#) and learn more about your fellow ATLA member.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, January 6 and February 3. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE, listservs, the ATLA website, and member community sections. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

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:

- Milligan College, Johnson City, TN, looking for a [Digital Resources and Web Development Librarian](#).
- The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University Libraries/Information Services, New York, NY, is looking for a [Public Services Librarian](#).
- Association of Theological Schools, Pittsburgh, PA, is looking for a [Director, Accreditation Services](#).
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, is looking for a [Technical Services Librarian/Lead Cataloger](#).
- Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, is looking for a [Resource Description Librarian](#).
- Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA, is looking for a [Reference Librarian](#).
- Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, is looking for a [Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator](#).
- Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston, MA, is looking for a [Library Director](#).

ATLA Calendar

December

- 16-17 - Funding Your Preservation Program Webinar
- 23-25 - ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday

January

- 1 - ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of New Year Holiday
- 6 - Routine Maintenance Performed on ATLA Systems
- 20 - ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 24-27 - American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, Brenda Bailey-Hainer and Margot Lyon attending
- 30-31 - Digital Project Management: The A-Z of Digital Projects Webinar

February

- 3 - Routine Maintenance Performed on ATLA Systems
- 20-22 - ATLA Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago

Staff News

Cameron J. Campbell to Retire

ATLA congratulates Cameron J. Campbell, Director of Production, on his upcoming retirement from ATLA on December 31, 2013.

Cameron joined ATLA in 2000 as Director of Indexes and became Director of Production in 2012 after the integration of the Index and Electronic Products and Services Departments. During his tenure, he was instrumental in shepherding ATLA's products safely through an era of rapid change when traditional reference sources for libraries were being transformed from print to electronic. Mostly recently, Cameron led the assessment of ATLA's production technology and set the stage for the development of a new production system, all while ensuring that ATLA continued to meet all of its commitments to provide high quality content for its products.

A Resolution Honoring Cameron J. Campbell

At their October 2013 Meeting, the ATLA Board of Directors adopted the following resolution honoring Cameron J. Campbell:

WHEREAS, Cameron J. Campbell, ATLA Director of Production, has devoted over thirteen years of unparalleled service to the American Theological Library Association and has made many significant contributions to ATLA,

WHEREAS, Cameron oversaw the migration of ATLA's products from print to CD-ROM and then to online databases,

WHEREAS, Cameron implemented the merger of the Index and EPS Departments into a single Production Department, resulting in significant improvements in cost and efficiency,

WHEREAS, Cameron oversaw the integration of the Catholic Periodical and Literature Index into ATLA's production processes and improved its content,

WHEREAS, Cameron served as Interim Director from July through December 2010,

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Cameron has overseen the addition of more than three quarters of a million records to ATLA's products,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the American Theological Library Association hereby extends its appreciation and deep gratitude to Cameron J. Campbell for his outstanding contributions to ATLA and its constituents, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes of the October Board meeting.

Cameron's expertise in religion and theology, his extensive historical knowledge about ATLA and its products, his ability to implement and manage the myriad details of production processes, and his many other talents will be missed. We wish him a long and happy retirement, replete with time to pursue his many personal interests.



Contact Information

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

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

Stay Connected



300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2100, Chicago, Illinois 60606 · 888.665.2852
© 2013 American Theological Library Association
ISSN 1946-1518



From the Executive Director Scholarly Communications in Religion and Theology: Determining ATLA's Role

As always, the joint Annual Meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) were stimulating. This is the place where those interested in scholarly communications in religion and theology gather - scholars, researchers, publishers, and librarians. While the format and topics of many sessions were very traditional, an undercurrent of change was apparent through several of my interactions there.

The first [THATCamp](#) (The Humanities and Technology) related to the study of religion was held on Friday prior to the start of the main conference. Some seventy people gathered to use an unconference format to meet like-minded colleagues for exchanging information and learning about applying technology to research in religion. Dr. David McConeghy covered the event on his [blog](#).

I had the opportunity to meet and talk with several scholars who represent a new generation of teaching and communicating. One of them was Dr. Jacob L. Wright, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He demonstrated for me a new Apple iBooks version of his book, [King David and His Reign Revisited](#), which was recently published by Cambridge University Press. The iBooks version opens with a video and is enhanced in other ways throughout.

I also talked with Emily Suzanne Clark, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religion at Florida State University who serves as Managing Editor of [Journal of Southern Religion](#). This is a peer reviewed electronic open access journal which is available via the journal website as well as in e-book format for Amazon Kindle, Apple iOS, and other e-readers and tablets. Their website includes podcasts of interviews with authors.

The exhibits included an impressive number of university presses, but change is in the air for them as well. "[Publish](#)

[or Perish: Academic Publishing Confronts Its Digital Future](#)," an article published earlier this year in *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, nicely summarizes the challenges facing purveyors of traditional scholarly communications. While there is a clear need to reinvent the way that academia talks to itself, tenure and academic career building are still "tethered" to being published. The publishing requirement is in large part what keeps the current economic model for scholarly publishing going. Open access publishing solves the pricing concerns that many librarians have, but isn't necessarily feasible for every publication that currently exists. Removing a commercial entity from the mix does not remove the need for a publishing infrastructure that includes server space, technicians, and indexers and abstracters who perform the data tasks that support findability - the people who pull journal literature together, assign keywords to articles, and control that vocabulary.

So what does all of this rambling on about scholarly communications mean for you? It's time for ATLA to step forward and determine its role in this rapidly changing environment. To that end, an ATLA Scholarly Communications in Religion and Theology Task Force will begin meeting in early 2014. It will focus on examining the changing nature of scholarly communications in religion and theology, identifying the challenges for libraries and for the discipline, exploring various options for addressing those challenges, and making recommendations on what role ATLA should play. The Task Force will be comprised of a combination of ATLA members and representatives from other organizations with an interest in this area, such as ATS, AAR, and SBL. Part of the effort will include convening a symposium with outside expert speakers that will be open to all ATLA members and to produce a white paper with recommendations.

As part of a phase of information gathering from members about their views, I will be convening a series of online conversations on various aspects of scholarly communications starting in January. Watch for the announcement of topics and dates/times in the January 2014 *Newsletter*. In the meantime, my [e-mail](#) box is open and if you have thoughts you'd like to share about scholarly communications in religion and theology, I'd love to hear from you.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer
Executive Director