



atla  **Newsletter**

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This is a PDF version of the Atla Newsletter Digest. View the  
Atla blog at [atla.com](http://atla.com) for the latest Atla news.

# Happy New Year!

by Stephen Sweeney, President 2019-2020 / January 14, 2020

From the President



When was the last time you thought about the importance of mission to Atla? For us, “The mission of Atla is to foster the study of theology and religion by enhancing the development of theological and religious studies libraries and librarianship.” Two questions grow from that as I am reflecting:

1. How does Atla embody the mission to you, the member
2. How do you embody the mission as a member?

Atla has a mission and a vision (and they’re both very discoverable on our website <<https://www.atla.com/about/>>), but the primary benchmark of success for the association is our Organizational Ends <<https://www.atla.com/about/mission/>>. Ends are a Policy Governance way of thinking about the long-term of the health of the association because they outline the results that we are designed to accomplish while defining the recipients and beneficiaries of the Ends.

The Atla Board has the opportunity over the course of its regular year to consider the Ends before each meeting, keeping them fresh in the minds of currently serving Board members. January is the time of elections for Atla; please vote if you have not already done so <<https://www.atla.com/blog/submit-your-vote-for-the-2020-atla-board-of-directors-election/>>! The reason I bring up elections in my reflection on the Ends and the future of Atla is because eight candidates have committed themselves to understanding the Ends and helping Atla continue to grow into them as time continues.

Thank you for voting and ensuring the future of Atla's Board leadership; thank you for continuing to be invested in the Policy Governance Model that presents the opportunity to work with Organizational Ends; and thank you for being a part of growing into the desired future via the Ends.

BACK

WHERE IS MY BLACK  
TURTLENECK?

BLOG POST

# Where is my black turtleneck?

by Gillian Harrison Cain / January 13, 2020

From Staff Leadership



Time is on my mind.

Or maybe it's Georgia. I'm sitting here in Atlanta with members of the Atla Open Press Advisory Council <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/press-coordinating-council/>> at their annual in-person meeting and my awareness of the passage of time is even more heightened.

In early December 2019, I celebrated my five-year anniversary with Atla. I can hardly believe I've been living a split existence between Chicago and Denver for that long. What once was strange –trying to plan out where I'd be when so

I could make theater plans in Chicago, or doctor appointments in Denver, or remember what city my black turtleneck was in — is all old hat now.

Five years ago, there were four of us on the Member Programs team. With the addition of a new position [<https://www.atla.com/job/036/>](https://www.atla.com/job/036/), our team will be at a total of ten shortly. The original three that greeted me to my role are still around, doing what they did before and even more... Denise greeting you at Atla Annual and helping plan committee, board, and other events; Zhongwen keeping our (new! -ish) association management systems running smoothly; and Tawny overseeing our (new!) brand come to life in all our marketing materials and communications.

But now Ana [<https://www.atla.com/blog/ana-cackley-communications-assistant/>](https://www.atla.com/blog/ana-cackley-communications-assistant/) is working with Tawny to keep our communications clear and as well as answer your questions and Charlotte is making sure our systems are easy for members to use, welcoming new members, and administering member benefit programs [<https://www.atla.com/membership/member-benefits/>](https://www.atla.com/membership/member-benefits/) including reciprocal borrowing [<https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/reciprocal-borrowing/>](https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/reciprocal-borrowing/) and consortia purchasing.

Christine, Christy [<https://www.atla.com/blog/christy-karpinski-promoted-to-atla-member-programs-digital-projects-coordinator/>](https://www.atla.com/blog/christy-karpinski-promoted-to-atla-member-programs-digital-projects-coordinator/), and Race [<https://www.atla.com/blog/race-mochridhe/>](https://www.atla.com/blog/race-mochridhe/) are working at the intersection of content and technology, making content that promotes worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology easily discoverable through a variety of projects and programs including Atla Open Press [<https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-open-press/>](https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-open-press/), Atla Digital Library [<https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/digital-library/>](https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/digital-library/), Atla LibGuides [<https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-libguides/>](https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-libguides/), *RIM* [<https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/rim/>](https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/member-projects-and-programs/rim/), and other scholarly communication and digital projects related efforts.

All that, and I still have a to-do list a mile long! The first few years of my tenure at Atla were about getting the lay of the land, making sure those things that were core to the membership kept running smoothly, and assessing what we needed to continue to provide a high level of value to our members in this rapidly changing environment. The past couple of years have been about laying the foundation and building the infrastructure to grow and scale. With new systems, a new brand, and new(ish) staff... it's a new year, a new decade (or is it? <<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/611490/when-does-a-new-decade-begin>>) and the Member Programs team is poised to start putting all these pieces together and deliver even more opportunities for members to collaborate, learn, and grow.

In the coming year (the variety of "years" in Atla is mind-boggling... calendar year, fiscal year, committee year, conference year... ack!) we're going to work internally and with our dedicated volunteer groups to learn more about your professional development needs <<https://www.atla.com/blog/profdev-survey/>>, launch new systems to allow you to more easily communicate and collaborate with other members (Atla Communities... coming soon!), gather for some excellent programming and networking at Atla Annual <<https://www.atla.com/eventshome/atlannual/>> in Detroit, streamline and improve existing services (ASE anyone? <<https://www.atla.com/blog/ase-newsite/>>), and introduce new programs such as a Shared Print collaboration with SCELIC <<https://www.atla.com/event/scelc-sharedprintedprogram/>> and more that haven't even been dreamt of yet.

The past five years have flown by... like I've now flown from Atlanta to Chicago, and back to Denver since I started this article. It's been a joy to work with all of you, I've learned so much about religious studies and theological libraries and librarianship and I'm excited for the knowledge and challenges that lie ahead. And I've bought a second black turtleneck, so there's one in Chicago and one in Denver. I'm ready, bring on the new year!

BACK

SUBMIT YOUR VOTE FOR THE  
2020 ATLA BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS ELECTION

BLOG POST

# Submit Your Vote for the 2020 Atla Board of Directors Election

January 02, 2020

Association News



The 2020 Atla Board of Directors Election opened on Thursday, January 2, 2020, and will close on Thursday, January 30, 2020. The election will be performed via electronic ballot by Survey & Ballot Systems.

Ballots including candidates' biographical information and statements are posted on a customized website hosted by Survey & Ballot Systems.

Candidate information can also be found on the Atla Blog

<https://www.atla.com/blog/2020-statements/>.

Personalized access codes to the voting site were sent via e-mail to eligible voting members (Institutional Member Representatives, Individual Members, and Retired Members) in good standing as of January 1, 2020. The e-mail came from the Atla Election Coordinator and the displayed e-mail address is [noreply@directvote.net](mailto:noreply@directvote.net). If you did not receive this email, you may want to search your spam or junk folders or contact your IT staff to see if your institution's firewall quarantined the email.

If you are an Individual member who also serves as an Institutional Member Representative, you will have received two distinct ballots with different access codes in order to fulfill your voting opportunities as articulated in the Atla Bylaws.

If you have any questions about voting procedures or your membership status, please contact a member representative at [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com) or Gillian Harrison Cain, Director of Member Programs, at [gcain@atla.com](mailto:gcain@atla.com).

**Share this article**



BLOG POST

# SCOOP: The Year in Scholarly Communication: 2019 Edition

by Christine Fruin / January 02, 2020

Scholarly Communication, SCOOP



It's time for the SCOOP's annual recap of happenings across scholarly communication. Atla also had several important headlines from its own scholarly communication program:

- Hosted in February 2019 the ACRL Scholarly Communication Roadshow for Atla members <<https://www.atla.com/blog/scoop-scholarly-communication-roadshow-recap/>>
- Migration of *Theology Cataloging Bulletin* and the *Annual Conference Proceedings* to open access publications <<https://serials.atla.com/>>
- Publication of two new open books (*Teaching Religion in a Changing Public University* and *Information Literacy and Theological Librarianship*) by Books@Atla Open Press <<https://books.atla.com/atlapress>> as well as digital open access reprint of *A Broadening Conversation*

- ▶ Environmental scan of Atla membership engagement with open educational resources <<https://www.atla.com/blog/scoop-open-education-and-atla/>>
- ▶ Publication of the Atla Copyright LibGuide <<https://atla.libguides.com/copyright>>

## The Year in Copyright

### The Public Domain

After more than twenty years, the public domain date goalpost finally moved from 1923 to 1924 in the United States. On January 1, 2019, many culturally and historically significant works finally entered the public domain by operation of U.S. copyright law.

### Impact on Theological Libraries

The growth of the public domain corpus is important for theological libraries because it frees up works that can be digitized, reproduced, and otherwise reused without permission, which directly supports teaching, research, and archival activities of theological libraries.

### Further Reading

- ▶ Recent SCOOP column on the public domain <<https://www.atla.com/blog/scoop-public-domain/>>, which includes resources on how to find public domain materials.
- ▶ The Cornell University Public Domain chart <<https://copyright.cornell.edu/publicdomain>> is a go-to resource for helping you determine when a work falls into the public domain.
- ▶ The Public Domain Sherpa <<http://www.publicdomainsherpa.com/>> is a great starting point to learn more about the law of and locating resources in the public domain.

## **Who Owns the Law? Copyright Status of Statutes**

Late in 2018, a federal appeals court in the case of Georgia v. Public Resource declared that publishers contracted by a state government could not claim copyright in state statutes. The case arose when the state of Georgia filed suit against the web site Public.Resource.Org <<https://public.resource.org/>>, where the web site's founder Carl Malamud had posted scans of the nearly 190 volume Annotated Code of the State of Georgia. The case turned on the question of whether public law, including annotations, were protected by copyright. The appeals court held that the annotated code, as the official compilation of the state's statutes, was in the public domain, including the annotations, which the court declared were "part and parcel of the law" even though they did not have the force of law. On December 2, 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the issue of whether state laws such as this annotated code are copyrightable or belong in the public domain.

### **Impact on Theological Libraries**

While there is no direct impact on the work of theological libraries, the question at the center of the lawsuit – the copyrightability of state laws including annotations prepared by commercial publishers as part of the official compilation – is an important one for copyright jurisprudence and may influence future determinations about open records, open access, and the public domain.

### **Further Reading**

- ◆ The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) <<https://www.eff.org/cases/publicresource-freeingthelaw>> is tracking the litigation in the Public Resource case as well as similar lawsuits and legislation.

- ▶ An excellent overview of the history of case law and legislation regarding state statutes and other public laws, as well as opinion on the outcome of the Public Resource and similar cases can be found in this article on Medium <<https://medium.com/@ejwalters/who-owns-the-law-5e356ea5b5f8>>.

## **Controlled Digital Lending**

A relatively new term to library lexicon, “controlled digital lending” refers to empowering libraries, through interpretation of the fair use and first sale statutes of the U.S. Copyright Act, to permit the lending of a digital copy of a book in lieu of circulating the same physical book from their collection. Once again, the practice has given rise to disagreement among publishers, authors, and libraries. Although in many cases CDL is used to facilitate access to public domain books, there are also use cases (e.g., Internet Archive’s Open Libraries program) for using CDL to also promote access to in-copyright texts.

### **Impact on Theological Libraries**

As holders of both public domain and in-copyright books, particularly titles that may be rare, special collection items, or needed for use by students in rural or foreign locations, the legality and application of CDL is a critical issue for theological libraries.

### **Further Reading**

- ▶ The “Controlled Digital Lending by Libraries” web site <<https://controldigitalending.org/>> provides an excellent overview of how libraries are utilizing CDL and the legal reasoning behind it.
- ▶ This interview with attorney Jonathan Band by IFLA <<https://www.ifla.org/node/91896>> concisely presents the legal issues around CDL.
- ▶ The Internet Archive has a blog series on CDL. The first post in the series is available here. <<https://blog.archive.org/2019/08/20/helping-libraries-transform-their-physical-collections/>>

# The Year in Open Access

## University of California System Cancels Elsevier Contract

In March 2019, the University of California system made good on its previous year's threat to cancel its subscription agreement with Elsevier. UC sought a transformative agreement that would provide access to Elsevier content as well as secure open access availability to all UC corresponding-authored articles in Elsevier journal at a cost that reflected fair value for Elsevier content.

### Impact on Theological Libraries

As was shared last year, for theological libraries affiliated with larger university systems who may be considering similar negotiations or terminations, they should be aware of what content their patrons access that could be impacted by any big deal terminations. For smaller or stand-alone theological libraries, it is important, as always, to be well-versed in open access and the changing nature of scholarly publishing.

### Further Reading

- ▶ The University of California has a web site dedicated to the status of negotiations with Elsevier <<https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/open-access-at-uc/publisher-negotiations/uc-and-elsevier/>> as well as a statement detailing the reasons for the contract termination.
- ▶ Scholarly Kitchen's interview with UC-Berkeley University Librarian Jeffrey McKie-Mason. <<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2019/05/06/the-university-of-california-and-elsevier-an-interview-with-jeff-mackie-mason/>>
- ▶ SPARC is tracking the "big deal" publisher cancellations here <<https://sparcopen.org/our-work/big-deal-cancellation-tracking/>>.

## Transformative Agreements

Transformative agreements, also commonly referred to as “read and publish” or “publish and read” agreements, received a lot of attention this past year. This is due in part to both Plan S as well as the Elsevier contract cancellation at the University of California. Simply stated, transformative agreements compensate publishers for open access publishing services rather than for subscriptions. This flip in business model recognizes that the price paid represents a fair price for publishing articles open access.

### **Impact for Theological Libraries**

For theological libraries that are part of larger university systems or consortia negotiating licenses on their behalf, it is important to be aware of the terms of pricing and access as well as adequately communicating these terms to faculty and students who may be seeking to make their own work available open access. For smaller or independent schools, the growth in implementation of transformative agreements will be an important trend to watch and perhaps even adapt at the local level.

### **Further Reading**

- ▶ A primer on transformative agreement from Scholarly Kitchen  
<<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2019/04/23/transformative-agreements/>>
- ▶ The University of California released a toolkit to assist libraries with negotiating transformative agreements. <[https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ucnegotiationtoolkitfortransformativeagreements\\_may2019.pdf](https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ucnegotiationtoolkitfortransformativeagreements_may2019.pdf)>

### **“GetFTR”**

Late in 2019, several large academic publishers announced a new service called “Get Full Text Research <<https://www.getfulltextresearch.com/>>” or “GetFTR.” The service is aimed at improving discovery and access to published research, whether to an open access version of an article or the published version of record to which a researcher, faculty, or student may have access through

their affiliated institution, provided that user has disclosed their affiliation information to the service. The announcement immediately received a lot of negative attention from librarians, open access advocates, and others in the scholarly communication sphere.

### **Impact on Theological Libraries**

Free services such as Open Access Button <<https://openaccessbutton.org/>> and Unpaywall <<https://unpaywall.org/>> already exist by which users can locate open and legal copies of published articles. Publisher entry into this space on its face is a good step; however, there are legitimate privacy concerns as well as questions as to why existing work in this space by libraries and other entities promoting open content standards and identifiers and existing products like link resolvers and discovery services were ignored by this initiative. This will be an important development to watch in the months ahead.

### **Further Reading**

- ▶ Why Librarians are Concerned about GetFTR  
<<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2019/12/10/why-are-librarians-concerned-about-getftr/>>

## **How You Can Keep Up on News and Trends in Scholarly Communication**

To keep up on scholarly communication issues throughout the year, look for the SCOOP column every month on the Atla blog but also consider these useful and informative sources:

- ▶ Open Access Tracking Project <[https://cyber.harvard.edu/hoap/oatp\\_feeds](https://cyber.harvard.edu/hoap/oatp_feeds)> – hosted by Harvard University’s Berkman Center, the OATP provides a feed of stories and news on open access in a variety of forms (e.g, Twitter, RSS).

- ▶ The Journal of Scholarly Communication and Librarianship <<https://jisc-pub.org/>> is an open access peer-reviewed journal publishing articles investigating the modes and technologies of scholarly communication, particularly as relates to libraries.
- ▶ The Scholarly Kitchen <<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/>> is the blog of the Society of Scholarly Publishers and features posts that often inform and tantalize by a wide array of authors from both the scholarly publishing and library worlds.

## **About SCOOP**

*The SCOOP, Scholarly COmmunication and Open Publishing, is a monthly column published to inform Atla members of recent developments, new resources, or interesting stories from the realm of scholarly communication and open access publishing.*

## **Share this article**



BACK

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE LAUNCHES NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT SURVEY

BLOG POST

# Professional Development Committee Launches Needs Assessment Survey

by Michael Bradford / January 13, 2020

Professional Development

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) fosters development of librarians and related information professionals who serve theological and religious studies scholarship and study.

We define the infrastructure needed to deliver professional development opportunities to members throughout the year by:

- ▶ determining member needs
- ▶ identifying expert resources

- utilizing a variety of methods and delivery mechanisms

In doing so, we facilitate the exchange of ideas and support members at every point in their careers.

In order to determine member needs, we are asking you to help us out by completing the following survey <<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ry8vy85>>. We hope you see this as an opportunity to provide PDC

<<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/pdc/>> with information about what opportunities you'd like to see. This will, in turn, lead to programming to support the work of the profession.

<<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ry8vy85>>  
TAKE SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to complete the survey.

**Share this article**

BLOG POST

# Cristina Ochoa Joins Atla As Product Specialist

December 19, 2019

Association News



We are pleased to introduce Cristina Ochoa as Product Specialist in the Business Development Department.

Cristina is coming to Atla with a diverse background in nonprofits, journalism, and retail. After spending time producing newscasts, bringing in business and balancing budgets, and making stylish jewelry, Cristina realized her true heart's desire lay back in the nonprofit space researching, strategizing, and creating products. In this new role, Cristina will be working to develop new digital products for Atla, embracing diversity and expanding Atla's reach

throughout the world. She holds a Bachelor's in International Studies from the University of Chicago and several technical certificates, including Tableau and business analytics.

When she's not at work, Cristina loves to read (even more than she gets to at work), go out dancing, and take walks around the city.

Please join us in welcoming Cristina to Atla.

**Share this article**

BACK

JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING  
WEBINARS

BLOG POST

# Join us for our Upcoming Webinars

January 10, 2020

Events, Research Tools



As you prepare for the new semester, we invite you to register for our upcoming webinars this January and February. Whether you're an instructor, researcher, or librarian, we may have a webinar for you.

## **Metadata in the Atla Digital Library**

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM CST

The Atla Digital Library made available its Metadata Guidelines & Best Practices in the Fall of 2017 for the purpose of assisting contributing institutions with providing quality metadata that works well in the Atla Digital Library system. This workshop will go over these guidelines, discuss common metadata issues, look at tools for reviewing and revising metadata, and talk about what makes for good shareable metadata. The goal is to help contributing institutions create and develop metadata that works well in the multi-institution context of the Atla Digital Library.

<<https://www.atla.com/event/digital-library-metadata/>>  
**LEARN MORE**

## **Atla and the SCEL C Shared Print Program**

Thursday, January 30, 2020, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM CST

Rick Burke, SCEL C Executive Director, Linda Frodyma Wobbe, SCEL C Liaison to the Shared Print Committee, and Glenn Johnson-Grau, Head of Acquisitions & Collection Development at Loyola Marymount University and SCEL C Shared Print Consultant will share more information about the program and be available to answer your questions. Gillian Harrison Cain, Director of Member Programs at Atla, will offer ideas and invite discussion about how Atla members can coordinate and collaborate within the larger context of the SCEL C program.

Even if you cannot attend in person, feel free to register

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/wn\\_aib4isdnqbclcstp5nt\\_hg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/wn_aib4isdnqbclcstp5nt_hg) and we will send you a link to the recording after the session.

<https://www.atla.com/event/scale-printed-program>  
LEARN MORE

## **Rights Management in the Atla Digital Library**

Thursday, February 6, 2020, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM CST

Items found within the Digital Library are intended to be used for noncommercial educational and research purposes. To that end, participants in the Atla Digital Library have sole responsibility to ensure that the items they contribute are either free of any copyright or other restrictions that would prohibit their display or that they have secured necessary permissions from the copyright holders to digitize and display the contributed items. To consistently and clearly communicate copyright status to Digital Library users, items found therein include a rights statement. The preferred standard of the Digital Library are statements included in the [RightsStatements.org](https://rightsstatements.org/en/) schema or an appropriate Creative Commons license.

<https://www.atla.com/event/scale-printed-program>  
LEARN MORE

## **Using the Atla Digital Library to Find Resources**

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM CST

The Atla Digital Library provides a single point of access to digital items held across many member institutions, streamlining the discovery of primary resources and enabling historical documents, photographs, and other

materials to come into dialogue with one another in new ways. This session will introduce attendees to the search features of the Atla Digital Library, providing information on the available facets, as well as tools and techniques for refining queries and optimizing results.

<<https://www.atla.com/event/atla-digital-library-resources/>>  
LEARN MORE

## **Introducing the New Atla Serials Exchange**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM CST

During this webinar, Atla staff will introduce the new and revised member program Atla Serials Exchange. Attendees will learn how to set up their accounts, how to list serials that are available to others, and how to claim offered serials. We will also share options that are available to bulk import your offered serials as well as answer any questions you may have, whether you are a current ASE user or thinking about using the service for the first time.

<<https://www.atla.com/event/ase-webinar/>>  
LEARN MORE

Previous webinars can be found on Atla's On Demand Learning <<https://www.atla.com/webinars/>>, a collection of free professional development webinars.

**Share this article**



BLOG POST

# 'Hospitality' in Archival Collections Related to the Study of Religion

by Tomoko Shida / January 06, 2020

Programs & Projects



*Tomoko Shida, the winner of the 2019 Atla Diversity Scholarship, discusses hospitality in archival collections and how we can share the stories of the 'other'.*

Atla is an association of librarians and information professionals whose mission <https://www.atla.com/about/mission/> is to “foster the study of religion and theology” through libraries and librarianship. It is an association that has adopted “hospitality, inclusion, and diversity” as one of its core values

<https://www.atla.com/vision-purpose-values/>. What then should this ‘hospitality’ look like in the context of the archival collections of theological libraries and other institutions that hold records relevant to the study of religion?

In North America, there are many who have traditionally been excluded from religious archives. The records’ donors, whose legacies are being preserved for future researchers, as well as the researchers and archivists themselves, have predominantly been Western Christians. The stories of those to whom Christianity has been brought (or imposed, depending on your viewpoint) have often been left out or told from the perspective of the Western missionaries.

Verne Harris, a South African archivist who served within the post-apartheid State archives as well as for the Nelson Mandela Foundation, has taken up the question of how to extend the principle of hospitality into the archives. He writes,

*“...we need to move beyond a hospitality in which those who were kept out in the past — the strangers, the ‘others’ — are invited in as guests by the host. Come in, says the host, feel at home, use my resources, enjoy the diversity of my space. Meaningful transformation will only happen when hospitality involves a fundamental inversion of the host-guest relationship”*

(HARRIS, 2018, P. 194-195).

Through my summer practicum at the General Synod Archives of the Anglican Church of Canada and the generosity of the supervising Archivist who was unstinting in her time to answer my endless questions, I was able to get a

glimpse at how archivists at religious archives might begin to put this inverted host-guest relationship into practice, where “the space becomes their space [...] and...] the resources become their resources” (Harris, p. 195).

## Recommended Resources

Learn more about how archivists at religious institutions have helped to reveal a fuller history of religion in North America, by ensuring that the stories of the ‘strangers’ and the ‘others’ in their archives are not hidden:

- ▶ Rachel L. Swarns (2019, Aug. 2). The Nuns Who Bought and Sold Human Beings. <<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/02/opinion/sunday/nuns-slavery.html>>
- ▶ Bob Weber (2018, Aug. 25). Archivist helps families learn fate of missing residential school children.  
<<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2018/08/25/archivist-helps-families-learn-fate-of-missing-residential-school-children.html>>
- ▶ André Forget (2015, Jan. 16). Church submits residential school records to TRC. <<https://www.anglicanjournal.com/church-submits-residential-school-records-to-trc/>>

I am deeply grateful to Atla and its Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion <<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/dei/>> for awarding me the 2019 Diversity Scholarship <<https://www.atla.com/membership/member-benefits/individual/diversity-scholarship/>>, which made it financially viable for me to take on an unpaid practicum position this past summer at the General Synod Archives of the Anglican Church of Canada.

## Reference

Verne Harris (2018). Passion for the archive. *Archives and Manuscripts*, 46 (2), 193-199. DOI: 10.1080/01576895.2018.1446344

## Share this article

BACK

'THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIANSHIP'  
STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

BLOG POST

# 'Theological Librarianship' Student Essay Contest

by Garrett B. Trott / January 10, 2020

Publications & Resources

**Theological Librarianship**  
**Student Essay Contest**



The editorial board of *Theological Librarianship* <<https://theolib.atla.com/theolib>>, an online, open access journal of Atla, invites submissions of original essays from graduate and undergraduate students. The winning essay will be published in the Fall 2020 issue of *Theological Librarianship*.

Submissions will be accepted from any student currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate program, regardless of discipline. Essays should be in English between 2,500 and 3,500 words and should address topics that lie within the intersection of librarianship and religious and theological studies and that potentially impact libraries, including (though not limited to) resources available for the study of religion and theology, digital techniques, and tools for research in the area of religious or theological studies, and trends in academic librarianship.

Students interested in submitting are encouraged to review the archives of the journal <<https://theolib.atla.com/theolib/issue/archive>> to understand the scope of the publication. All submissions should follow the guidelines outlined on the journal's website <<https://theolib.atla.com/theolib/about/submissions>>.

The essay contest winner will be selected by the editorial board based on the clarity of the argument, the quality of the contribution to librarianship in general and theological librarianship in particular, and the relevance of the subject matter for the journal's readers. The winning essay will be published in the essay section of the Fall 2020 issue of *Theological Librarianship*.

The author of the winning essay will receive a 500 USD cash prize and a travel stipend to attend the Atla Annual 2021 in Fort Worth, Texas <<https://www.atla.com/event/atla-annual-2021/>>. Proof of current graduate or undergraduate enrollment will be required upon notification of selection as the

winner of the contest. Submissions are due no later than June 1, 2020, and should be submitted through the online portal at <http://theolib.atla.com> <<http://theolib.atla.com>>.

Please direct all inquiries or questions to [editors-tl@atla.com](mailto:editors-tl@atla.com).

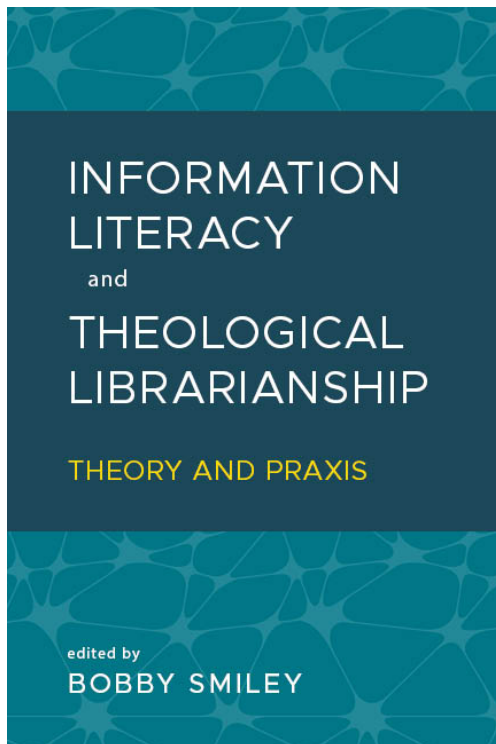
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BLOG POST

# Atla Hosting Information Literacy Panel at ALA Midwinter

by Christine Fruin / December 30, 2019

Events, Professional Development



If you are attending ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia, please join us on Saturday, January 25 at 4:00 pm in the Pennsylvania Convention Center Room 113-C for a panel presentation on the recent Books@Atla Open Press

<<https://www.atla.com/learning-engagement/resources-for-librarianship/atla-open-press/books/>>  
publication Information Literacy and Theological Librarianship: Theory and  
Praxis. <<https://books.atla.com/atlapress/catalog/book/33>>

This panel presentation, moderated by Atla's Scholarly Communication and Digital Projects Manager Christine Fruin <<https://www.atla.com/person/christine-fruin/>>, will feature a conversation among Bobby Smiley (Vanderbilt University) as the volume's editor, Elizabeth Young Miller (Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary) as a contributing author, and Myka Kennedy Stephens <<https://www.atla.com/person/myka-kennedy-stephens/>> (Lancaster Seminary) as an editor with Books@Atla Open Press.

Attendees will learn more about the productive tension between theory and practice that frames the volume, which examines contemporary information literacy instruction from the perspective of theological and religious studies librarianship. A webinar featuring the panel will be presented by Atla later this winter. Stay tuned to our Events <<https://www.atla.com/events/>> page to register, until then read the open access edition of Information Literacy and Theological Librarianship: Theory and Praxis.

<<https://books.atla.com/atlapress/catalog/book/33>>

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BACK

2018-2019 ATS LIBRARY  
STATISTICS AVAILABLE

BLOG POST

# 2018-2019 ATS Library Statistics Available

January 10, 2020

Publications & Resources



We collaborate with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) <http://www.ats.edu/> to collect and provide library statistics from ATS and Atla member institutions.

ATS collects information from institutions in the fall of each year, reflecting the most recently completed fiscal year (usually the prior year). Atla reorganizes the data from ATS member institutions to provide comprehensive statistics

focused on the library portion of the ATS survey.

The ATS statistics from 2018 are now available

<<https://www.atla.com/members/benefits/statistics/pages/default.aspx>> on our site. Data from prior years are available in the Members Only drive in the My Atla Web Portal <<https://my.atla.com/>>.

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BLOG POST

# Association for Jewish Studies Conference 2019 Recap

by Cristina Ochoa / January 10, 2020

Association News



The 2019 marked the inaugural year of Atla's attendance at the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference

<https://www.associationforjewishstudies.org/annual-conference>. With a small team of staff members, including Maria Stanton, Gillian Harrison-Cain, and Atla newcomer Cristina Ochoa <https://www.atla.com/blog/cristina-ochoa-product-specialist/>, Atla hosted a booth and participated in nearly a dozen sessions. The primary purpose of attending AJS this year was to ensure that the most recent and relevant content is being included across all Atla research tools. Closely following and understanding where and how scholarship is being done in Jewish studies is essential to the diversification and growth of all Atla research tools.

This year, AJS was hosted in sunny San Diego, bringing a little over 1,000 scholars, publishers, and practitioners from around the world. Spanning three days, the program contained dozens of panels on a wide range of topics, some of the most notable being:

- ▼ *Jewish Studies at Catholic Universities: Teaching, Research, Service*
- ▼ *Jewishness and Blackness through the Lens of BlackKlansman*
- ▼ *Judaism, Gender, and Modern Change-Makers: An Interdisciplinary Discussion*
- ▼ *Jewishness Beyond Liberalism: New Directions in American Jewish Cultural Studies*

Early career and senior scholars often paired up to deliver holistic accounts of their teaching, research, and publishing experiences, as well as advice and suggestions about the future of Jewish studies in the U.S. and abroad. Attending these sessions gave the Atla team the opportunity to have productive conversations with scholars, and gather indispensable information about current Jewish studies scholarship.

**[Photo Credit: AJS** <<https://www.associationforjewishstudies.org/annual-conference>>]

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BACK

ANNOUNCING ADDITIONS TO  
ATLA PRODUCTS – DECEMBER  
2019

BLOG POST

# Announcing Additions to Atla Products – December 2019

by Margot Lyon / December 31, 2019

Product Title List, Research Tools

## New Titles Added *Atla RDB, Atlas, & Atlas PLUS*



[Learn More](#)

Chicago, IL, December 31, 2019 – Atla is pleased to announce the addition of titles now available in *Atla Religion Database*<sup>®</sup> (*Atla RDB*<sup>®</sup>), *AtlaSerials*<sup>®</sup> (*Atlas*<sup>®</sup>), and *AtlaSerials PLUS*<sup>®</sup> (*Atlas PLUS*<sup>®</sup>).

#### New Indexing Titles in *Atla Religion Database*

- ▶ *Arquivo Maaravi* by Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
- ▶ *Carthaginensia* by Instituto Teológico de Murcia
- ▶ *Chrétiens et sociétés* by Rhône-Alpes Laboratory of Historical Research
- ▶ *Cuadernos Judaicos* by Universidad de Chile
- ▶ *Journal of the Sociology & Theory of Religion* by Universidad de Valladolid

#### New Full-text Titles in *Atlas*

*신약연구* [*Korean Evangelical New Testament Studies*] by 한국복음주의신약학회 [*Korean Evangelical Society of New Testament Studies*]

#### New Full-text Titles in *Atlas PLUS*\*

- ▶ *Estudios Marianos* by Sociedad Mariológica Española
- ▶ *Bogoslovska smotra* by Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

December marks another big stride in Atla's initiative to diversify both our indexed and full-text journal holdings. As we close out 2019, we add diversity linguistically, with additions in Portuguese, Spanish, French, Korean, and Croatian; geographically, with Spain, Chile, Croatia, South Korea, France, and Brazil represented; and in religious tradition, highlighting the Korean Evangelical Church.

\**Atlas PLUS* includes all of the titles in Atla's original full-text product, *Atlas* and 150+ additional full-text titles.

To view Atla's title lists click here: <https://www.atla.com/research/title-lists/>  
<<https://www.atla.com/research/title-lists/>>

## **About Atla**

Established in 1946 as the American Theological Library Association, Atla is a membership association of librarians and information professionals, and a producer of research tools, committed to advancing the study of religion and theology. Atla's membership includes more than 800 individuals and libraries at academic institutions from diverse religious traditions and backgrounds. As a community of collectors and connectors, Atla works to promote worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers.

## **Press Contact:**

Margot Lyon, +1.312.454.5100 ext. 4433, [mlyon@atla.com](mailto:mlyon@atla.com)

## **Share this article**

# Announcing Additions to Atla Products – December 2019, Part 2

by Margot Lyon / January 13, 2020



Chicago, IL, January 13, 2019 – Atla is pleased to announce the addition of titles now available in *Atla Religion Database*<sup>®</sup> (*Atla RDB*<sup>®</sup>), *AtlaSerials*<sup>®</sup> (*Atlas*<sup>®</sup>), and *AtlaSerials PLUS*<sup>®</sup> (*Atlas PLUS*<sup>®</sup>).

## New Indexing Titles in *Atla Religion Database*

- ▶ *Juris* by Institute Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Batusangkar
- ▶ *Labyrinth* by Axia Academic Publishers
- ▶ *Comparative Theology* by University of Isfahan
- ▶ *Revista Missioneira* by Universidade Regional Integrada do Alto Uruquai e das Missões
- ▶ *Ruch Biblijny i Liturgiczny* by Wydawnictwo UNUM
- ▶ *Soter* by Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas

## New Full-text Titles in *Atlas*



*Bulletin of Ecclesial Theology* by The Center for Pastor Theologians

New Full-text Titles in *Atlas PLUS*\*

한국개혁신학 [*Korean Reformed Theology*] by 한국개혁신학회 [Korea Reformed Theology Society]

## Expanding Content



<https://www.atla.com/blog/announcing-additions-to-atla-products-december-2019-part-2/bulletin/>As a new decade begins, Atla continues to expand its offerings to include a wide range of philosophical, academic, and practical texts for a wide range of users. For example, with the addition of the *Bulletin of Ecclesial Theology* by The Center for Pastor Theologians, pastoral ministers spanning the breadth of evangelical denominational affiliations, (Baptist, Anglican, Wesleyan, Reformed, Lutheran, Independent, etc.) can find and engage with ecclesial theology most relevant to their ministries, whether they be rural, urban, small church, or even megachurch.

To view Atla's title lists click here: <https://www.atla.com/research/title-lists/>

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BACK

MEET THE 2020 COMMITTEE FOR  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

BLOG POST

# Meet the 2020 Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

January 13, 2020

Association News



The 2020 Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) believes our diversity is our strength. As a way to share who we are and how we all come to DEI from different perspectives, the Committee believes it would be useful for each of us to share our own perspective on diversity, equity, and inclusion with the broader membership. As you can see, we all come to the committee with different voices but focused on the DEI Committee's charge

<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/dei/> as we continue our work.



## **Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir**

I have a lot of mixed feelings about how diversity is understood and embraced in higher education. I find that all too often the ideal of “diversity” has shifted from being a goal one must pursue to simply a product that can be marketed the hopes of attracting talented students, staff, and faculty. When my son was considering where to go for college this past year, most of the promotional materials he received featured photos of shiny, happy students in different diverse configurations. Also prominently featured were polished infographics boasting the school’s racial composition and other diversity metrics.

In my view, one should not reduce diversity to a numbers game. Diversity is more than just about representation. It is all too possible to have diverse representation within an organization and yet not really be diverse. All too often diversity has been relegated to the interpersonal realm. The catchwords are about “learning about one another” and “engaging difference” and

“sharing stories.” However, embracing diversity is not just an exercise for personal growth. Honoring diversity means that we need to look at the dynamics of power and privilege that exist within institutions and society. To be asked to have a seat at the table in the spirit of diversity, and yet not really have a say in how the table and menu are set is not enough. We need to consciously cultivate an ethic of mutual care and respect where we can co-create our workspace and learning environment. Understanding how power and privilege function can help provide moral clarity to our commitments to diversity. As librarians working in theological education, we each have a level of pastoral accountability to do so.

*“To be asked to have a seat at the table in the spirit of diversity, and yet not really have a say in how the table and menu are set is not enough.”*

YASMINE ABOU-EL-KHEIR



**Daniel (Bonggun) Baek**

I became conscious of DEI issues due to the fact that I am originally from outside North America, having lived in four different countries (South Korea, Australia, Canada, and the US) and attended five educational institutions in those nations. After getting my MLIS, I have worked for public, academic, and

theological libraries in Canada and the States. Throughout my tenure with these organizations, I cannot help noticing a discrepancy between the increasing diversity of library users in its various forms and the libraries in terms of personnel, resources, and services. Unless critically self-examined and challenged, this gap tends to validate and perpetuate the dominant culture's hegemony. Against this backdrop, I see DEI in theological libraries as an ongoing and active individual and structural engagement to critically re-examine current practices and actively reflect, affirm, and promote wonderful diversity already among us and around us.



### **Evan Boyd**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion makes us stronger. Diversity, for me, is the broad range of categories we identify with: race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, political values, etc. Equity and inclusion offer chances for the community (however formulated) to hear the voices of those who are not the majority or are not a part of who they identify with. I hope that Atla's DEI Committee can help the various members and potential members of Atla to hear voices they've not heard, feel empowered to actively seek them out, and welcome changes that may come from hearing voices that typically have not been heard.



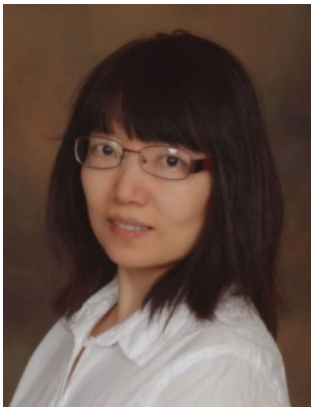
## **David Kriegh**

When discussing diversity, the question of “privilege” often arises and gets tossed around in ways many do not fully understand. With any given person you meet, they will carry with them both privileged and underrepresented characteristics. With a privileged characteristic, you subscribe to that group that tells the dominant story, writes the history, and generally sets the normative. That’s the reason why there is no need for a Straight Pride Parade or White History Month. Members of these groups enjoy the dominant narrative on any given day. Therefore, when an underrepresented group has some type of event or day to honor their achievements, everyone, regardless of how they identify, should take notice. These are not private, off-limits events. The underrepresented group has a story to tell, yes, but it is incumbent on the privileged group to listen to that story and to understand.

We cannot choose certain characteristics such as race; while technically we can choose others, such as religion, these are not things that change rapidly or readily, not if we are, to be honest with ourselves and our neighbor. From the perspective of one who identifies with many privileged groups, my role when discussing diversity is to listen to the stories and others and learn from them. There are so many rich traditions beyond those that I subscribe to, but they aren’t going to find me by themselves. I must make the active decision to come to them. This is the role I see for myself in promoting a diverse environment: not becoming somebody else but taking in their experiences to enrich and energize my view of the world.

*“The underrepresented group has a story to tell, yes, but it is incumbent on the privileged group to listen to that story and to understand.”*

DAVID KRIEGH



**>Dr. Alice Song**

For me, diversity means understanding and recognizing that everyone is unique and different. It embraces all the elements that make people unique and different from one another such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religious beliefs, political parties, and so on. All of these aspects contribute to shaping our own unique and beautiful identities. Equality means that everyone is equal and having dignity and should be treated equally. Inclusion is opposite to exclusion. It refers to the behaviors that ensure everyone feels welcome and respected rather than excluded.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are ideal to ensure that groups or organizations can thrive and benefit. Since I came to the United States, I have been studying and working in a multicultural atmosphere as a bicultural and bilingual Asian American woman. I have found that we can benefit from each other by having



different cultural backgrounds since we may discuss issues with different perspectives, which can enrich our knowledge and broaden our horizons for coming up with a brand new idea. Diversity, equity, and inclusion can be a huge advantage to a group or organization, as it not only provides more opportunities to demonstrate new ideas, innovation, and creativity, but it also creates a welcoming and comfortable environment to work efficiently and pleasantly. Therefore, diversity, equity, and inclusion together increase opportunities for creativity and innovation, a welcoming atmosphere and a favorable working environment.



## **Donna Wells**

When I think of the word diversity the first image I have is of the wonders of nature. I look around my yard and see so many variations in colors and species and types of living beings and their differing needs for survival. Yet they all coexist together in a small area, not without some drama — after all nature has predators and prey — but generally, everything goes about the business of life, sometimes in mutually beneficial ways, sometimes symbiotically, or even parasitically. The point is that relationships are organic. They grow out of a mutual need or interest. This symbolizes diversity to me in humanity. To be sustainable it has to be organic. A commonality must unite the group.

In the case of Atla, I see diversity growing from the shared interest of members in theology. Up until recently, this theology has been Christian theology. And understandably so. This was the American Theological Library Association and Christianity predominated in these United States. And although this is still

somewhat true, people, especially young people, are seeking a spirituality untethered to any certain dogma or denomination. Atla as an organization is also turning this way by opening its membership and resources to other religious traditions. I see it slowly happening and this is good, healthy, organic diversity. It is also an evolutionary process and by this, I mean slow in developing. Just because you throw open the doors does not mean people will run through it; more likely they will peek around the door frame to see what is in there for them. Atla has made real progress in working toward diversity and, although the process is slow, people are coming. So that is how diversity looks to me — like-minded people grouped around a common interest. The most diverse group to which I belong has a common interest in tennis. We have all types of nationalities, skin colors, genders, and personalities. But we all gather and partner together to play the game we love. This is diversity done naturally; the only way it truly works and lasts.

To learn more about the DEI Committee and their work, visit their page

<https://www.atla.com/about/committees-councils-task-forces/dei/>.

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