



# ATLA NEWSLETTER

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## From the President Serious Times Call for Singing People

*Submitted by Matthew  
Ostercamp, ATLA President*

“Serious times call for serious people.” This short sentence from World Relief President Scott Arbeiter’s address at this year’s

Justice Conference stuck with me as I boarded the plane for ATLA in Atlanta. These feel like serious times. I suppose I could try to justify this feeling in many ways. Mr. Arbeiter presented some sobering statistics on the world refugee crisis. That is serious. In our domestic politics, I find a heightened sense of urgency and at times hostility on all sides in the wake of the most recent American elections. This seems serious as well.

In the remainder of this column, I intended to talk about how in our world of hot takes and fake news, librarians are doing important, serious work. But then Atlantis reminded me that we are about even more.

On that listserv, I first read about the passing of ATLA choirmaster Seth Kasten. I’m not a musician and have never served in the ATLA choir. However, the stories I’ve heard and the moving tributes that so many of you wrote about your memories of Seth, reminded me that what really sets ATLA apart is not how serious we are, it is that we are a singing people. In *Who is Man?*, Abraham Heschel laments the banality and triteness of his day which he diagnoses as, “Losing the power of appreciation; we are losing the ability to sing.”

So, in these times let us continue to fight the degradation of dialogue and community. As we did in Atlanta, let’s take seriously both our work as librarians and our opportunities to gather and sing. As Heschel and perhaps Kasten would say, serious times call for singing people.



## From Staff Leadership 21st Century Library Furnishings: It’s All Covered

*Submitted by Brenda Bailey-Hainer  
Director of Member Programs*

The exhibits at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference attract hundreds of vendors featuring wares related to all aspects of library service in all types of libraries. This

year’s conference, held in Chicago near the end of June, was no exception. Granted, I missed the last several conferences, but I was struck by a major shift in the focus of the exhibits. There was less emphasis on the traditional software giants and much more on innovative services. An entire aisle was devoted to comic books, a large section featured maker space equipment, and attendees had the opportunity to test drive drones.

But most striking to me was the number of library furniture companies exhibiting and how library furniture design has evolved. Collaboration activities are now better served with creatively designed whiteboards, tables covered with a whiteboard surface, and movable shelving that doubles as a wall for creating flexible enclosures. Other pieces are simply more aesthetically pleasing, with flowing lines and cocoons of cushioned comfort.

Nienkamper Furniture, based in Canada, is one example of a vendor with inventive options. They offer a whole line of products that are collapsible and movable or can be transformed into other equally functional objects. For example, they have a conference table that is hinged in the middle and can be folded into a sandwich board style portable whiteboard.

I recently visited two ATLA member libraries that have incorporated interesting furnishings into their design. The award-winning Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University Center features a myriad of seating options.

The library at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary has some traditional library furnishings, but they also offer alternative seating for users including hammocks and laptop friendly cycling stations.

And you can always consider adding a “tranquility dome” to your reading room, like those offered in the ALA Annual conference exhibit area. They are convenient places for users – or staff – to relax.

No matter what the specific needs of your users are, library furniture makers have it all covered.

## ATLA Attends European Academy of Religion (EUARE)

While many ATLA staff were in Atlanta for the ATLA Annual Conference, Metadata Analyst Antonio Terrone and Licensing Manager Gregg Taylor were in Bologna, Italy, for the foundational conference (called “*ex nihilo zero*”) of the newly established European Academy of Religion (EUARE).

The conference aimed to serve as a center for the international study of religion centered in Europe. While topics across religion studies were covered in a range of languages, there was a special focus on political engagement with religion, reflected by the number of EU dignitaries who attended and presented.

ATLA was invited to present on an international panel on Data Archives for the Study of Religion, a two-part event that featured a range of databases, encyclopedias, and archives. ATLA had a table to promote our products to the attendees, both raising awareness among scholars and speaking to editorial board members of scholarly journals. Staff attended sessions on religion and human rights, global affairs and interreligious engagements, religion in the public sphere, modern interpretations of religion in Japan, and law, religion, and tradition, among others.

The conference displayed a real vitality toward the role of religion in European society and politics.

ATLA was grateful to attend as an invited guest and to participate in the lively scholarly discussions throughout.

Learn more about the European Academy of Religion (EUARE) <https://www.europeanacademyofreligion.org/>

## ATLA 2017 Conference Bags Made by re:loom

We are thrilled to have the ATLA Annual Conference tote bags sponsored by the JBC Library at Columbia Theological Seminary made by re:loom. These specially made bags were designed and woven with our conference attendees in mind.

re:loom employs and empowers homeless and low-income individuals through weaving beautifully-designed products out of upcycled materials. All profits benefit Atlanta’s Initiative for Affordable Housing to reduce homelessness.

Conference attendees will also have a chance to upcycle their ATLA lanyards for future possible re:loom products.

Learn more about the JBC Library partnership with re:loom in the video: <https://youtu.be/MEVsuc1XbgE>

Learn more about re:loom and consider supporting this fantastic nonprofit.

## ATLA Calendar

ATLA is around the globe this season. Check out the new ATLA Calendar for a list of events, deadlines, and meetings <https://newsletter.atla.com/calendar/calendar/>.

### Upcoming Event.

PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference  
August 2-4  
Montreal, QC, Canada

Catholic Biblical Association  
August 5, 2017 – August 8, 2017  
Washington, DC, USA

International SBL Meeting  
August 7, 2017 – August 11, 2017  
Berlin, Germany

As a reminder, routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, August 7. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00-6:00 pm. 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.

## Testimony: Using MarcEdit and OCLC Connexion to Enhance Bibliographic Records in a Batch

*This article was previously featured in Vol. 25, No. 3 of Theology Cataloging Bulletin (TCB), an ATLA member publication. Testimony is a feature in TCB that gives a place for members of the technical services community to share their stories. We felt this testimony was applicable to the wider community and have since published it below for you.*

*Submitted by Christa Strickler, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Buswell Memorial Library, Wheaton College*

With the tight budgets common to libraries these days, cataloging departments search for ways to add value while streamlining processes. At Buswell Memorial Library (Wheaton College, IL), we’ve developed a method for enhancing our records with contents notes to make them more searchable for our users, then adapted that method to add Library of Congress Classification (LCC) numbers in preparation for a reclassification project.

### Project Background

We began the table of contents project to make our records more discoverable. For several years the cataloging department followed a policy of adding contents notes to records for only materials that correspond with the disciplines in our doctoral programs, namely, Bible, theology, and psychology. We recently eliminated this policy to include all newly added materials with useful tables of contents, since keyword searching should benefit all of our users. In addition, many of our records hadn’t been updated since

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## Testimony Continued

they were originally added to our ILS, so several of them had corresponding OCLC records with contents notes added by others. Rather than duplicate work already done by OCLC subscribers, we created this method to import those enhancements in a batch.

The LCC enhancement project began as a way to save money for a hoped-for reclassification from Dewey Decimal to LCC. If the project proceeds, we will be hiring a vendor that charges per record, and records that lack valid call numbers in the 050 or 090 cost more than records that include them. An older policy required catalogers to delete the 050 from records since they weren't needed at the time, so several of our older records were missing call numbers that existed in their corresponding OCLC records.

## Procedure

### 1. Identify a Record Set to Target

This step varies depending on the ILS. Buswell uses Voyager, so we query a Microsoft Access database to generate reports. For our table of contents project, we focused on our main circulating collection and generated a report of all records in within a specified call number range in that main collection. We found it best to target sections of the collection at a time rather than attempt to complete it all at once. For our reclassification project, we generated a report of all records in the locations that we plan to reclassify. From the report, copy the list of record identifiers (in Voyager it's called the Bib ID), paste it into an empty Notepad file, and save it.

### 2. Extract Records

Extract the identified record set from the ILS. If you don't have the ability to extract records from your ILS directly, this can be done using MarcEdit's Z39.50/SRU Client feature. With the Batch Search Utility (found by clicking on Batch Mode), link the source file field to the list of Bib IDs previously created, and extract each record in the list. Before you can extract records, your database needs to be added to MarcEdit's Z39.50 client. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has a tutorial for this process, but it varies across institutions, and not all databases support Z39.50, so check with your systems administrator for help. UIUC also offers a helpful tutorial for querying help.

### 3. Identify Records Lacking Desired Enhancements

Open MarcEditor and use the Select Records for Edit function under File to identify missing fields by entering the desired field, such as 505, into the Display Field box, import the file, and select "Does Not Match", then export the resulting record set to a new file. UIUC provides a useful tutorial for this step as well.

### 4. Export OCLC Numbers to Text File

Use MarcEdit's Export Tab Delimited feature to extract the OCLC numbers from the new file into a text file, then perform a Find/Replace to add the "#" symbol before each number to make the text file readable for OCLC Connexion.

### 5. Extract Records from OCLC Connexion

Using the edited text file, perform a batch search in OCLC Connexion and then export the search results into a new MARC file.

### 6. Merge OCLC Records into ILS Records

Using MarcEdit's Merge Records feature, merge the enhanced records with the original ILS records. Since we do not want to completely overlay our Voyager records, we tell the program only to merge specified fields, such as 505 or 050.

### 7. Load Enhanced Records into the ILS

Finally, load the enhanced records back into the ILS. For us, this involves contacting our consortium with a bulk import request.

### 8. Final Steps

These vary depending on the project, but for our table of contents and reclassification projects, we want to identify which records still lack a 505 or 050, so we run Step 3 on the merged file from Step 6 to tell us which records to target manually, then export the resulting file to an Excel spreadsheet using the Export Tab Delimited feature. This creates a list of records our staff uses to manually enhance the records. For the table of contents project, our cataloging student assistant pulls the corresponding items from the shelf, manually enhances the records in Connexion, and then copies the changes to our Voyager records. For the reclassification project, our cataloging staff assigns LCC numbers and places them in 090 fields to indicate local use. We do not add these numbers to the OCLC master records.

## Conclusion

In the past year, we've added 5,500 contents notes with this method, and we estimate that we've saved about \$6,000 on the reclassification project.

## The Future of Early Christian Studies

*Submitted by Barnaby Hughes, ATLA CPLI Metadata Analyst*

This was my second year attending the annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society (NAPS) in Chicago, held May 25-27, 2017. It's a rather traditional academic association: most members are male, suited and bearded; papers are typically read; handouts are more common than PowerPoint presentations. Most presenters appear to be graduate students or nontenured faculty, so much of the research is fresh, though somewhat tentative.

I attended a variety of sessions, especially on liturgical subjects. One paper provocatively titled: "Leavened and Unleavened: Did the Church Fathers Attach Any Theological Significance to the Type of Bread Used in the Eucharist?" answered in the negative. The type of bread, argued A. Edward Siecienski, only gained theological significance at the time of the Great Schism between East and West. Joseph

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### The Future Continued

Mueller's subsequent presentation asked, "Why Did Ancient Christians Call Ministers Priests?" It was almost certainly not due to an increased emphasis on the Eucharist as sacrifice, Mueller contends, but for a variety of reasons, including the social, political, and administrative roles of Christian clergy, which resembled those of Jewish and pagan priests.

Yet another interrogatively titled paper asked, "What is a Phōtistērion? Reconsidering Terminology for Sites and Rites of Initiation." Michael Peppard still isn't sure, but he's reasonably confident that it's not the same as a baptistery, as hitherto thought. The name phōtistērion means something like "place of enlightenment or illumination," so a reasonable hypothesis might be to associate it with anointing or mystagogy. Stay tuned. In a session on liturgy in ancient Jerusalem, I had the pleasure of listening to the speculations and disagreements of two eminent liturgical historians: Maxwell Johnson and Paul Bradshaw.

I ran into the only other librarian at the conference in the session on digital humanities. (Coincidence? I think not.) Librarians were highly praised for their technological expertise. Sarah Bond showed how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) could be creatively leveraged in the classroom, even for imaginary landscapes. Perhaps the most impressive digital humanities project in early Christian studies, however, is [Syriaca.org](http://Syriaca.org), which organizes data about Syriac places, persons, and hagiography. Nathan P. Gibson highlighted the website's robust metadata, linguistic capabilities, and authoritative sources.

Among a crop of rather disappointing plenary lectures that revisited old topics, the most interesting lecture was Elaine Pagels' "Contesting Paul's Legacy: New Insights on Reception History." Speaking without notes, Pagels easily made me see for the first time how similar Paul's language is to that of the Gnostics, especially when substituting the Greek cognates "archons" and "aeons" for the more common English translations "rulers" and "ages." More importantly, by reading the Gnostic writings themselves rather than the work of heresiologists, we can see begin to appreciate them as Christian literature.

Not long after the conference, I was intrigued to discover in my email inbox a survey about possibly renaming NAPS as the Early Christian Studies Association, along the lines of its publication, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (<http://patristics.org/journal/>). What's in a name? As the above-mentioned conference presentations make abundantly clear: everything.

### "Religious Change, 1450-1700" Explores Impact of Religion and Print on Society

*Submitted by Joel Schorn, ATLA Metadata Analyst*

To coincide with the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, the Newberry Library in Chicago is hosting a multimedia project, "Religious Change, 1450-1700," (<http://www.newberry.org/religious-change>) which traces "how religion and print challenged authority, upended society, and made the medieval world modern," the project's website says.

The brick-and-mortar anchor of the project is a gallery exhibition at the library, "Religious Change and Print, 1450-1700" (opening September 14, 2017). This exhibit draws on over 150 objects from the Newberry's collection to show how people of the time—like preachers, teachers, travelers, writers, and printers—experienced the Reformation and the rapid changes that the interrelationship of religion and print media brought about.

The library offers an official project blog, The Rite Stuff (<https://theritestuff.tumblr.com/>), which responds to key questions and features input from Newberry curators, reference librarians, catalogers, and other staff as well as outside scholars. The library is also devoting an episode of its regular "Shelf Life" (<https://soundcloud.com/shelflifepodcast>) podcast to the project. On the podcast the Newberry's Major Projects Fellow Chris Fletcher "discusses what Luther originally hoped to accomplish with the 95 Theses, how he marketed religion to a larger audience, and why he had some regrets after empowering people to read the Bible themselves," says the project's website.

Other online offerings include a series of illustrated articles on the transcribing and translating of early modern religious manuscripts; religious change and print culture in the Reformation; and Italian religious broadsides. The Early Modern Conversions: Religions, Cultures, Cognitive Ecologies initiative will be taking advantage of the Newberry exhibition by holding the third meeting in its Politics of Conversion project at the library in mid-September. This public program will include a theatrical reading (and U.S. premiere) by The Shakespeare Project of Chicago of *Shakeshafte*, a new play by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. The play is set during Shakespeare's "lost years" between his departure from Stratford-Upon-Avon and arrival in London.

Another activity open to the public will be a series of lectures, beginning in early October: "Expanding Literary Horizons: Religious Change through Cross-Cultural Contact" by Rabbi Seth M. Limmer; "Cosmopolitan Early Modern Venice" by Edward Muir and Kaya Sahin; "Luther and the Reformation: 500 Years of Book-Burning and Book-Learning" by the distinguished church historian Martin E. Marty; and "What the

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## Religious Continued

Reformation Did and Why It Still Matters” by Brad Gregory and Mark Noll.

The Newberry Library is an independent research library on the Near North Side of Chicago established in 1887 out of the will of Chicago businessman Walter L. Newberry (1804-68). For expanded information on the project, visit <http://www.newberry.org/religious-change>.

## Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Establishes Dr. William L. Wallace Collection

Institutional Member Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) (<https://swbts.edu/>) has established the Dr. William L. Wallace collection, which will be displayed in the seminary's new Mathena Hall. The most notable item in the collection is a portrait of Wallace that was originally housed at the Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee; however, thanks to the work of Craig Kubic, Dean of Libraries, SWBTS now has a permanent loan of Wallace's papers and portrait for display.

Wallace was a medical missionary from Tennessee, who left for China in 1935 to work as a surgeon in the Baptist-operated Stout Memorial Hospital. He worked through the Japanese bombing raids, but in 1950 at the start of the Korean War, he was no longer welcome. He was subsequently arrested, tortured, and died in 1951.

If you are not able to make it to Fort Worth, Texas, a portion of the collection will be digitized and made available online through Southwestern's J.T. and Zelma Luther Archive. The Archive also contains more than 500,000 historical artifacts concerning Southwestern as well as other notable Baptist documents.

Learn more about Wallace and the collection here (<https://swbts.edu/news/releases/southwestern-receives-lifetime-papers-southern-baptist-martyr/>).

## Evan Boyd Appointed Library Director at United Lutheran Seminary

We are excited to announce that Evan Boyd has been named Library Director at United Lutheran Seminary (ULS).

ULS formed from the unification of two historic Lutheran seminaries in Gettysburg and Philadelphia (<http://newschooloftheology.info/two-historic-pennsylvania-seminaries-become-united-lutheran-seminary-july-1/>), Pennsylvania. Boyd will serve as the first Library Director for the consolidated seminary and will be responsible for both the Krauth branch (Philadelphia) and the Wentz branch (Gettysburg).

Evan has most recently served as Director of Library Services and Assistant Professor of Trinity Lutheran Seminary,

Columbus, Ohio. He received a degree in library science from Dominican University, River Forest, IL and a MAR from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

“I am honored to be joining United Lutheran Seminary,” said Evan, “as it launches itself into a new era in Lutheran theological education. As a lifelong Lutheran and graduate of LTSP (MAR, 2007), I look forward to further integrating the collections and services of the A.R. Wentz and C. P. Krauth Memorial Libraries so that we can best serve the seminary community and the greater church in new and inventive ways.”

Beginning this summer, he will oversee the library operation on both campuses of ULS, including more than 400,000 volumes, materials, and resources. He will also direct the archives of the Seminary and Region 8 Archive, hosted by the A.R. Wentz facility.

Evan will hold primary residence in Philadelphia but will travel frequently between the two campuses.

Please join us in congratulating Boyd on this new position.

## ATLA Job Board

- ATLA, Chicago, IL, is looking for a Digital Collections Metadata Librarian and Scholarly Communication/Open Access Publishing Manager and Development Lead
- Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, is looking for a Reference Librarian/Bibliographer, Philosophy and Theology
- Drew University, Madison, NJ, is looking for an University Librarian
- Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, is looking for a Cataloging and Metadata Librarian
- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Styberg Library, Evanston, IL, is looking for a Systems and Digital Services Librarian
- Liberty University, Jerry Falwell Library, Lynchburg, VA, is looking for a Research Assistance Librarian
- Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and College, Kansas City, MO, is looking for a Head of Technical Services
- Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, is looking for a Managing Director of the Library
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Barbour Library, Pittsburgh, PA, is looking for an Electronic Resources Librarian
- Theological Book Network (TBN), Grand Rapids, MI, is looking for a President and CEO
- Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, is looking for a Continuing Resources Librarian (Faculty Status)

Find the job listings here: <https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/default.aspx>

## **ATLA RDB® and ATLA CPLI® Merge Vocabularies**

ATLA is in the process of merging the vocabularies used in indexing the *ATLA Religion Database®* and the *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index®*. Where possible, *ATLA RDB®* subject heading conventions will be applied to the *ATLA CPLI®* data. During this process some *ATLA RDB®* subject headings will be modified.

In order to keep our users up to date on the vocabulary changes, we have added an Excel spreadsheet that documents the changes that were made. The current list of significant changes have been updated (June 20, 2017) and can be downloaded from our website.

If you have any questions, please email [support@atla.com](mailto:support@atla.com).

## **Announcing Additions to ATLA Products – June 2017**

We are pleased to announce the addition of titles now available in the *ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®)*.

New indexing titles in *ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®)*

- *Annales Theologici*, by Facoltà di Teologia della Pontificia Università della Santa Croce; Fabrizio Serra Editore
- *Journal of Biblical Counseling* [previously indexed to 2001], by the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation
- *Kagoro Journal of Theology*, by ECWA Theological Seminary, Kagoro
- *Teologia Polityczna*, by Fundacja Świętego Mikołaja

Read the full press release here (<https://www.atla.com/about/pressroom/Pages/Products-June2017.aspx>).