ATLA

ATLA NEWSLETTER

This is the PDF version of the ATLA *Newsletter*. Please visit the ATLA *Newsletter* (<u>newsletter.atla.com</u>) for the latest content.

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From the President Managing Change

Submitted by Timothy D. Lincoln, ATLA President

My wife is an organizational psychologist. When people casually ask her what her job is about, she says that she deals with organizational change. Organizations are constantly changing and change is hard. At

this point, people typically say that her observation is rather obvious. To which she replies, "That part is obvious. How to manage change isn't."

In my day job at Austin Seminary, I am a cheerleader for improvement. I spend energy encouraging change in the library and in the teaching practices of the faculty. The results are mixed. I am The Boss of the library staff, so I have the positional leverage to redesign staff positions and reallocate priorities. In the context of the faculty, however, I am no one's boss. At best, I have a bully pulpit and data with which to argue my point of view. Change there comes more slowly. Fingers crossed.

ATLA is a web of relationships between individual and institutional members, the elected Board, staff, and with committees. In accord with our governance model, the Board works at the fifty-thousand foot level of policy, not the day-to-day operational level of services to members or adding content to the Association's products.

A year ago, the membership approved changes in the Association Bylaws. One effect of that change was to broaden the membership of the association beyond our traditional membership core of religious studies and theological librarians. The Board has also approved a new set of Organizational Ends. These new ends understand ATLA's work within the larger frame of scholarly communication. Our membership and the Board have clearly made choices that favor change.



From Staff
Leadership
See You, or "See" You,
Soon!

Submitted by Gillian Harrison Cain, Director of Member Programs

We're looking forward to seeing more than 200 of you in Atlanta, Georgia next week! The Conference Committee,

the Local Host Committee including folks at Columbia Theological Seminary, Robert. W. Woodruff Library Atlanta University Center-The Interdenominational Theological Center, Pitts Theology Library-Candler School of Theology-Emory University, Erskine Theological Seminary, Mercer University-McAfee School of Theology, and of course staff have all been working hard to put together and amazing conference for all of you that will be attending.

Even though we're highly focused on the events to come next week, I'm reminded that there are just as many, if not more of you, that won't be in Atlanta this year. Whatever the reason that is keeping you from joining us, we hope you might take advantage of some other ways to experience a bit of the networking and learning that happens at conference. Over the past couple years, the Professional Development Committee (PDC) has worked hard to identify areas of member interest and offer a series of webinars. These webinars sometimes feature popular conference sessions or sometimes are focused on a timely topic. Some feature member speakers, some speakers from the broader library sphere. If Atlanta isn't your destination next week, I encourage you to take some time to visit (virtually):

- The On Demand Learning page on our website (https://www.atla.com/Members/development/OnDemandLearning/Pages/default.aspx). There you'll be able to view webinars on a wide variety of topics from "Succeeding in the Library Job Market" to "Developing a Mutually-Enriching Library Volunteer Program" to "Making Your Library a Place for Meaningful Conversations."
- The 2017 ATLA Annual Conference Schedule (https://atla2017.sched.com/). Even if you can't be there, look and see if there are topics or speakers of interest and let us know (memberrep@atla.com) who or what they are. Your suggestions will help kick-start the PDC's webinar scheduling efforts for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

Continued on the next page

Managing Change Continued

As a tribe, we librarians have a reputation for being quiet, introverted people. In times of change, we may need to work harder than usual to assume good will on the part of those with new-fangled ideas. We may need to move outside of our individual comforts zones to communicate with other members, Board members, and staff about the work of the Association. The Board is working on a set of steps to help us continue to keep in touch with the needs and aspirations of members, who are the moral owners of ATLA. I encourage each of you to ask your questions about the work of the Association so that the changes now underway result in the strengthening of theological and religious studies librarianship.

See You Continued

An area of focus for the Member Programs team over the past year has been Interest Groups. Roger Morales, ATLA's Member Programs Librarian, has been working with the leadership of each of ATLA's interest groups to update the Interest Group Handbook and expand opportunities for interest group members to connect and share information all year round, as well as at conference. ATLA and Interest Group leaders are exploring a myriad of opportunities for Interest Groups to connect with members, be that through conference or webinar programming, technological support for collaborative projects, or establishing communication venues for members to connect. Through these discussions, a new interest group has formed, the Small Libraries Interest Group (SLIG) (https://newsletter.atla.com/2017/smalllibraries/), and several others are looking to ramp up activity and interaction (Colleges and Universities Interest Group (CUIG) (https:// newsletter.atla.com/2017/colleges-universities-interest-groupcuig-reactivation-meeting/) and World Religions Interest Group (WRIG) (https://newsletter.atla.com/2016/join-the-worldreligioins-interest-group-wrig/)). Look for more information to come soon on Interest Groups and their activities.

Whether we connect in person in Atlanta or somewhere else, or virtually through email or mailing lists or social media or over the phone, we're glad to have you as part of the ATLA community and look forward to seeing you, or "seeing" you, soon!

Join the ATLA Member Programs Department

This past year, ATLA has launched two new programs, the ATLA Digital Library and the ATLA Publishing Program. These new programs aim to enhance the benefits offered to ATLA members, as well as to advance the scholarship and work of libraries and related information providers. To help facilitate us in this endeavor, we are adding two new positions at ATLA: the Scholarly Communication/Open Access Publishing Manager (https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Digital-Collections-Metadata-Librarian.aspx).

The Scholarly Communication/Open Access Publishing Manager position will be responsible for managing our open access publishing initiatives. For more information and to apply for this position, see the job posting on the ATLA Job Board (https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Digital-Collections-Metadata-Librarian.aspx).

The Digital Collections Metadata Librarian will work with members and other organizations to harvest digital collections metadata. For more information and to apply for this position see the job posting on the ATLA Job Board.

If these positions seem like the perfect fit for you, we encourage you to apply.

Please see our website to learn more about the other benefits that ATLA membership provides.

Theological Librarianship Editorial Board Welcomes Two New Editors

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Manly "Bo" Adams, Jr. and Chris Anderson to the Editorial Board of *Theological Librarianship*: An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association.

Bo is currently the Head of Public Services at Emory University, where he has previously served as Systems and Reference Librarian and as an Instructional Technologist. He contributed to an Ithaka study on supporting the changing research practices of religious studies scholars and has also published in the ATLA Proceedings and in the *Feasting on the Word* commentary series. He will receive his MLIS from the University of Alabama this summer and also has a PhD in Religion from Emory, a ThM from Columbia Theological Seminary, a MTS from Candler School of Theology at Emory, and a BS Computer Science from Dartmouth College.

Chris has most recently been Associate Dean of Libraries at Drew University, preceded by time as Acting Dean of Libraries, as Head of Special Collections, and as Methodist Librarian. He has served on the editorial boards of *Briefs in Religion and*

Theological Librarianship Continued

Sport and Methodist History and was the founding editor of the International Journal of Religion and Sport. He is the author of two books on Methodist missionary exhibits and has published articles and essays in various academic and popular journals and books. He received his PhD and MPhil in Religion from Drew, MSLIS from Syracuse University, MDiv from Asbury Seminary, and BS from Houghton College.

These editors will join Editor in Chief Jennifer Woodruff Tait and other editors Miranda Bennett of the University of South Carolina Library (until she departs later this year to become editor of the *ATLA Proceedings*), Barnaby Hughes of ATLA, and Keegan Osinski of Vanderbilt University on the Editorial Board.

As we move forward in making the ATLA Publishing Program a reality, these new appointments will continue to help us to achieve our core purposes of promoting worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers.

Theological Librarianship is an open access journal that publishes essays, columns, critical reviews, bibliographic essays, and peer-reviewed articles on various aspects of theological librarianship and its contribution to theological education. The journal is published twice a year. The purposes of *Theological Librarianship* are to foster the professional development of theological librarians and to contribute to and enrich the profession of theological librarianship.

Thank you to the search committee who reviewed applications and conducted interviews as well as to those who expressed interest in these positions.

Small Libraries Interest Group to Meet at ATLA 2017

Submitted by Susan Ebertz, Chair, Small Libraries Interest Group

The Small Libraries Interest Group will be having our FIRST meeting as an official interest group at the end of our session "Small Libraries Collaborating to Create Information Literacy Videos" on Friday, 3:30 pm at the ATLA Annual Conference. Join us and add the session to your schedule now (https://atla2017.sched.com/event/A7Lp/small-libraries-collaborating-to-create-information-literacy-videos).

The majority of the member schools in the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada have less than 150 FTE students. Many of the libraries of these schools are members of ATLA. Most of these participating institutions and/or individual members serving in such contexts work in a small staff environment. The Small Libraries group started with a session at the annual conference in 2009 to serve these libraries. A listserv was started after the conference. Each year we have met at the annual conference of ATLA to provide

avenues for learning, collaboration, and fellowship. And now we will become an official interest group!

If you are unable to be at the conference, but would like to begin or continue your involvement, please contact Susan Ebertz, sebertz@wartburgseminary.edu.

Photo credit: https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/people/susan-ebertz/

You're Invited to the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference Opening Reception

Don't forget to add the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference Opening Reception to your conference schedule! For the first time, this year the Opening Reception will be held in the Exhibit Hall to allow more time for attendees to explore all of our vendors' offerings and meet fellow conference attendees.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks while you explore the exhibits and reconnect with colleagues before venturing into the Atlanta Perimeter area.

The Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia is located at 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia, 30346. The opening reception is from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Register for the conference and view the 2017 Conference Schedule: https://atla2017.sched.com/

Digital Spotlight: Digitization Cost Calculator

Submitted by Andy Carter, ATLA Digital Projects Manager

Planning for a possible digitization project requires cost and time estimates for which there are few good models. Digitization is ubiquitous in libraries, museums, and archives in the 21st century, but due to the variance of institution type, available resources, and experience with digitization workflows, it is difficult to extrapolate metrics that can be reused. The Digital Library Federation Assessment Interest Group, recognizing the need, has been working to build and refine a digitization cost calculator.

The Digitization Cost Calculator (DCC) (http://dashboard.diglib.org/) is designed to "make freely available a large set of data on the time it takes to perform various tasks involved in the digitization process, in order to assist organizations in digitization project planning and benchmarking." The DCC aggregates anonymized data on aspects of a digitization workflow. This data is donated by institutions and then "the calculator normalizes each contribution so it can be combined into an average with other contributions for the same digitization process."

The DCC website provides a three-step data entry form. You can input the number of scans for your project and the

Digital Spotlight Continued

salary and benefit information for all involved staff. Then you can provide as much detail as you need for "processes to be performed" which includes dropdowns for capture device, preparation of materials, quality control, post processing, and metadata creation. After entering all relevant information, the calculator will provide time and cost estimates, and even break down those estimates by an individual task.

As explained on the site, the DCC will improve the quality of its estimates as the quantity of data it has for reference grows. Institutions are encouraged to donate data from their own digitization projects. I know that I would have benefited from such a tool over the years, and I am glad to see this need being met.

A Relational Database of Syriac and Arabic Historical Registers and Archives

Submitted by Dr. Iskandar Bcheiry, ATLA Metadata Analyst

Introduction

At the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, I will present a plan to create a database of historical registers and archives belonging to the Syriac community. These historical resources are found in various libraries in the world, and I will focus especially on the Library of the Forty Martyrs in Mardin/Turkey. The database would offer direct access to scholars and students of Syriac studies, Near East Christian studies, and Ottoman history to the registers and archives and the possibility to examine the copies of original documents as well as the possibility to search a word in the documents.

This plan combines historical studies, librarianship, the use of technology, scholarly communications, and programs that apply to religious studies bibliographers working in university settings. In short, the extracted social, cultural, religious, and geographic information in these archives will be stored in a database system and made of use to scholarly research by a schema program.

Historical and Geographical Background

The social ethnic fabric of the Near East contains, like other places in the world, various ethnic and religious groups whose historical roots are traced far back in history. The Syriacs or Sūryānī - referred to as Aramaeans or Assyrians - are the inhabitants of Syria and Mesopotamia who embraced Christianity in the first and second centuries. Because of the Christological conflict in relation to the nature of Christ, the Syriac world was divided into two major parts in the fifth century: Syriac Orthodox, also known in history as Jacobites, and the Church of the East, also known as the Nestorian Church. The Syriac Orthodox were those who rejected the resolutions of the Council of Chalcedon in 451 on the nature of Christ; thus they were subject to Byzantine persecutions. After the Arab Muslim conquest of the Byzantine and Persian territory in the Near East in the seventh century, the Christian Syriacs, as well as other Christian groups and Jews, found themselves as "the people of the Book," or *Dimmī*, a legal term used to designate a protected non-Muslim under Muslim rule. After living under different Muslim states and dynasties such as Mamelukes, Turcomans, and Persians, the Syriac people were ruled by the Ottomans who occupied the eastern part of Anatolia, Syria, Palestine and Egypt at the beginning of the 16th century.

By the 19th century, we find the Syriac community had been greatly weakened and the greater part of them was found in southeast Anatolia, northern Iraq, and parts of western Syria. The 20th century brought with it radical events that enormously changed the life, culture, social, and religious aspects of the Syriacs. These events occurred when the Syriac community, as well as other Christian communities, lost a great number of its members during the First World War. In addition to that, the 20th century witnessed a massive Syriac immigration toward Europe and America. Many Syriacs lost contact with their relatives and members of the same family found themselves dispersed in distant places. However, more recently there has been greater interest in rediscovering some of the historical data on Syriac genealogy and communities, particularly from archives that date from Ottoman period.[1]

Syriac Archives and Registers

In the Ottoman Empire, Syriacs kept their own baptismal, marriage, funeral, ecclesiastic ordinations, endowments, and other records. These records can be found in various libraries, churches, and monasteries in Europe, North America, and the East, with a large concentration in Mardin in South East Turkey, which was once the spiritual headquarters of the Syriac Christians and their patriarchate. The records followed a general norm which became a standard in registering the events.

Examples of Entries in Syriac Registers

Records of Ordinations

The records of ordinations were made of the following more or less occurring elements: Introduction (the Holy Spirit consecrated...) + name of the consecrated person + church for which he was consecrated + region of the church + liturgical event + Seleucid date and conclusion.

The Holy Spirit consecrated deacon Fețrūs a priest for the altar of Morī Osyō in Manṣūriyyah [...] in 1884 A.G.

The Holy Spirit consecrated 'Abd Allāh deacon for the altar of Morī Ya'qūb in the village of Banābīl on Sunday the beginning of Aylūl (September) 1884 A.G.

The Holy Spirit consecrated Ni'mah a deacon for the church of Morī Istīfān in the blessed village of Klībīn in the middle of Aylūl (September) in 1884 A.G.

The Holy Spirit consecrated deacon Yūsef a priest for the holy church of Morī Gewargīs in Brahīmīyyah at the end of Tišrīn (October) in 1885 A.G.

A Relational Database Continued

Records of Ordinations

Historical Notices and Colophons

Colophons contain brief descriptions of the date and place of copying, and the name of the copyist of a manuscript. Often in Syriac colophons, additional information would be recorded such as the name of the contemporary religious leaders: patriarch, mafrian, and bishop of the diocese. Or other relevant details might be added, such as special events that occurred in the life of the copyist or in the life of his community or country. The normal position for a colophon is at the end of the text. Historical notices, however, occur in marginalia: notes, scribbles, and comments made by readers.

These saints' lives were copied and completed on the 13th of February in the year 1910 A.G., [1599 A.D] in the chamber of the holy church of Saint Mary the Mother of God, in the blessed village of Wānik, also known as Dayr Abū Ġālib. The copying of the book occurred during a difficult period: because of anarchy and unrests between the kingdoms of the earth; because of rebellion and the unjust rulers of the regions competing with one another. I, Gregory, the writer of these lives of saints, who by the grace of God is the bishop of Gargar I pray and appeal (to God)

Below, I would like to present a table that contains examples of types of information extracted from the historical registers and archives:

To learn more about this topic, consider attending my session at the 2017 ATLA Annual Conference, *A Database of Syriac and Arabic Historical Registers and Archives*, Saturday, June 17 8:00 am – 8:50 am (https://atla2017.sched.com/event/ATLW/a-database-of-syriac-and-arabic-historical-registers-and-archives).

[1] The historical background of the Syriac community and their archives is an adapted version of my previous publication. Cf. Iskandar Bcheiry, *Collection of historical documents in relation with the Syriac Orthodox community in the late period of the Ottoman Empire*, Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias press, 2010, pp.1-2.

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 a University Librarian
- Feehan Memorial Library and McEssy Theological Resource Center, University of St. Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary, is looking for a Director of the Feehan Memorial Library and McEssy Theological Resource Center

- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Styberg Library, Evanston, IL, is looking for a Systems and Digital Services Librarian
- Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and College, Kansas City, MO, is looking for a Head of Technical Services
- Northern Seminary, Lombard, IL, is looking for a Director of Library and Information Technology
- Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, is looking for a Managing Director of the Library
- Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, is looking for a Librarian
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Barbour Library, Pittsburgh, PA, is looking for an Electronic Resources Librarian
- 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

Welcome New Members: Coe College and St. Mary's Seminary and University

Please join us in welcoming our new members who joined in late May and early June 2017. We would like to take this opportunity to help you get to know these institutions better.

Institutional Member, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA

Coe College was founded in 1851 by the name of the School for Prophets. During a fundraising campaign, a Catskills farmer named Daniel Coe pledged \$1,500 with the stipulation that the frontier town college be "made available for the education of females as well as males." Since Coe's early coeducational beginnings, the college has grown in size and reputation.

The Stewart Memorial Library is at the heart of Coe's campus. A learning commons was added in 2015. In addition, the library houses the Writing Center, the George T. Henry College Archives, the Fisher Music Library, and gallery spaces featuring works by Iowa artists Marvin Cone, Conger Metcalf, and Grant Wood.

Institutional Member, St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, MD

St. Mary's Seminary and University holds the title of the oldest Catholic seminary in the United States and has been called America's "cradle of pastors." The Ecumenical Institute is also a part of the university and invites people of all denominations to engage in theological study.

New Members Continued

The Marion Burk Knott Library is the largest specialized theological library in the Baltimore area and contains additional materials in the fields of church history, pastoral counseling, philosophy, and psychology. The library's special collections include a Rare Book Room, the Raymond E. Brown Johannine Collection, and the John Paul II / Catholic-Jewish Relations Collection.

ACLS Humanities E-Book (HEB) Offers Chance to Win Amazon Dot at ATLA 2017

Submitted by Christopher Plattsmier, ACLS Humanities E-Book

Greetings ATLA Members! ACLS Humanities E-Book (HEB) is excited to be exhibiting during the upcoming ATLA Annual Conference in Atlanta. This will be a great opportunity for ATLA Members to connect with the HEB team about the ATLA Special Series that launched last year, discuss challenges in the digital library marketplace, and earn the chance to win an Amazon Dot!

There are only two requirements to enter to win the Amazon Dot: 1) You must be an active ATLA Member and 2) You must provide at least one title recommendation for the ATLA Special Series. Title recommendations are to be for backlist and/or out-of-print titles in the humanities that are essential to religious scholarship, have lasting scholarly importance, and can benefit the members of ATLA. If you would like to email HEB your recommendation to enter the Amazon Dot drawing before the conference, that is fine too!

HEB prides itself on being, "The Online Collection Developed by Scholars", and partnering with organizations like the ATLA in curating our collection has been crucial to HEBs success — a quarter of the HEB collection has won a major award, from the Pulitzer Prize to scholarly society prizes, and only 7 titles in our collection were not used in 2016.

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the American Theological Library Association have had a long and cordial relationship dating back to the 1940s with the inception of ATLA, and the ATLA Special Series is a continuation of this mutually beneficial relationship. If you are interested in learning more about the ATLA Special Series, please visit http://humanitiesebook.org/the-collection/series_ATLA.html. See you in Atlanta!

ATLA's On Demand Learning

As the Spring Webinar Series comes to a close, we wanted to bring your attention to ATLA's On Demand Learning, a collection of free professional development webinars on topics in librarianship, theological librarianship, technology, and other related fields.

If you missed the Spring Webinar series or would like to re-watch them, we have taken a portion of the recorded sessions and have uploaded them to our website (https://www.atla.com/Members/development/OnDemandLearning/Pages/default.aspx).

Please feel free to share with colleagues and friends. A special thank you to the presenters for their great work. Stay tuned for future webinars.

Four Free Webinars

The webinars include:

- ATLA PCC Funnels With an Emphasis on SACO (https://vimeo.com/217893058)
 - Richard Lammert, Technical Services Librarian, Concordia Theological Seminary
- Let's Talk about Power: Why Diversity and Cultural Competence are Important to LIS (https://vimeo.com/215062869)
 - Nicole Amy Cooke, Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Librarians as Active Bystanders: Centering Social Justice in LIS Practice (https://vimeo.com/210659589)
 - Nicole Amy Cooke, Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Making Your Library a Place for Meaningful Conversation (https://vimeo.com/205103542)
 - Myka Kennedy Stephens, Seminary Librarian, Lancaster Theological Seminary

Announcing Additions to ATLA Products – May 2017

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

New indexing titles in ATLA RDB®

- McMaster Journal of Theology and Ministry by McMaster Divinity College
- 복음과 선교 [Evangelical Missiology] by 한국복음주의선교신학회 [Korea Evangelical Missiological Society]
- Religion in the Roman Empire by Mohr Siebeck
- Römische Quartalschrift für christliche Altertumskunde und Kirchengeschichte by Herder
- Practical Theology (Baptist College of Theology, Lagos) by Baptist College of Theology, Lagos
- · Sojourn by ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
- Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology by Equinox
- Health and Social Care Chaplaincy by Equinox

Read the full press release: https://www.atla.com/about/pressroom/Pages/Announcing-Additions-to-ATLA-Products-%E2%80%93-May-2017.aspx

Theology Cataloging Bulletin Available

The May 2017 issue of *Theology Cataloging Bulletin (TCB)*, a benefit of membership, is now available. Please click here (https://www.atla.com/community) to access this issue in the members-only section of the ATLA website.

Section one of each issue lists new and changed subject headings and genre/form terms and section two lists new and changed classifications. Both are selected and compiled by Ann Heinrichs (Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois). Section three includes general information, including professional development opportunities, and is edited by Leslie Engelson (Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky).

Christa Strickler, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Buswell Memorial Library, Wheaton College, submitted a testimony, Using MarcEdit and OCLC Connexion to Enhance Bibliographic Records in a Batch.

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

Click here to access the Member's Only publication: https://www.atla.com/community