

# Newsletter

## THE ANTIOCH BIBLE: Gateway to Middle Eastern Christianity



From the President.....	1
Annual Conference.....	2
Conference and Meeting Reports.....	3
Consortia Offers and Training.....	3
Member News .....	4
Staff News .....	4
Job Openings .....	4
Calendar .....	4
From the Executive Director.....	5

## From the President

### An Invitation to Ongoing Conversation and Words of Appreciation



If you are a regular reader of the *ATLA Newsletter*, then you know that the ATLA Board has been working with a consultant to think strategically about ATLA's future. The association started a conversation about our future during last year's town-hall meeting at the 2014 Annual Conference. In my newsletter columns over the past year, I have shared more about the Board's work, including our formulation of our association's

core values and purpose statement and a description of the roles and responsibilities of board members. Brenda Bailey-Hainer and I will continue the conversation at the annual conference in Denver via an [open forum on the future of the association](#). In addition, we look forward to seeing some of you at the new members' welcome reception, the opening reception, and the ATLA business meeting/association update. Because many of our members do not attend annual conference, we will offer additional opportunities for discussion later this year. We are eager to share more details about the strategic work of the Board and staff and to hear how you will join us as, together, we live into the future of our association. [Please contact us](#) at any point during the year.

It has been a great honor to serve as your president during the past two years. At the business meeting in Denver, I will pass the gavel to Kelly Campbell. I have learned so much from the ATLA community: our members, our colleagues on the board, and the ATLA staff. In return, I hope that my columns have, in some small way, assisted you in your day-to-day work and inspired you to serve our association in new ways.

With deepest gratitude,

Beth Bidlack  
President

## ExperienceGuru - Provide Feedback in Real-Time

We're offering a new way for attendees with smartphones to quickly provide feedback in real-time during the annual conference this year via ExperienceGuru. By gathering feedback throughout conference, we will be able to measure success of the conference experience in real-time as well as address any issues or questions that come up during the conference in a more timely manner. [Learn more about why you should consider participating in ExperienceGuru.](#)



Participating in ExperienceGuru is an optional opt-in program. Feedback submitted via ExperienceGuru will not be anonymous in order for us to work directly with you to resolve any specific needs or issues that may crop up during the conference. Printed session feedback forms and a web-based post-conference survey will still be available to provide more detailed feedback (anonymously or not, your choice) to the session presenters, conference and local host committees, and ATLA staff.

In order for you to participate in ExperienceGuru, [please complete this short \(3 question\) survey.](#)



REGISTER NOW

## Registration is Open

[Register for the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference.](#)

Learn, network, and share with more than 220 colleagues and speakers from around the world focused on religion and theological librarianship in Denver this June!



VIEW SCHEDULE

## Browse the Conference Schedule

[The 2015 ATLA Annual Conference is on SCHED.org.](#)

[SCHED.org](#) allows you to browse conference sessions, develop and print your own schedule, and connect with associates and friends.



RESERVE ROOM

## Reserve Room

[Book your stay](#) at the conference location, the Marriott Denver Tech Center.

## Session Spotlight: Religion and Theology Digital Scholars-How They Research and What Tools They Use



ATLA staff recently partnered with the Illinois Institute of Technology's Institute of Design (IIT/ID) to work with graduate students and faculty members to observe and understand the workflow, motivations, and goals of digital scholars engaged in diverse areas of religion and theology research. This interactive panel will present and discuss the project and will feature Thomas Brandenburg and Sipra Bihani, student researchers.

Learn more: <http://sched.co/2QTY>

## Exhibit Hall

We are excited to share with you the list of 40 exhibitors that will be in Denver this June! Definitely make some time in your busy conference schedule to check out the Exhibit Hall! [Click here for the list of exhibitors.](#)

## We've Added Sessions!

Join us for informal discussion groups on Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.:

- [Digital Projects Initiatives](#) with Gillian Harrison Cain and Karl Stutzman
- [Reciprocal Borrowing](#) with Brenda Bailey-Hainer and Thomas Phillips

### Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Religious and Theological Librarians Association (PNWRTLTA)

Thanks to a grant of from the American Theological Library Association (ATLA), the Pacific Northwest Religious and Theological Librarians Association (PNWRTLTA) was able to invite Dr. Ian Werrett of Saint Martin's University to present on the topic of libraries in the classical world at their annual meeting held at George Fox University's Portland Center Campus. Dr. Werrett presented for an hour and a half on the topic and held the audience's attention. He then joined the PNWRTLTA members for a luncheon hosted by George Fox University.

In attendance at the annual meeting of the PNWRTLTA were 17 members representing 15 institutions in the Pacific Northwest region. After the luncheon the annual business meeting was conducted. One of the topics that came up was a discussion on the content of future annual meetings. The members weighed in what they looked for from the PNWRTLTA. Nearly everyone expressed their satisfaction with Dr. Werrett's presentation and would like to see more programming like this. A couple members opined that the meetings needed to have a practical element to them, one that would give them useful information or training as religious or theological librarians. After some discussion the consensus was that both elements are important, but that they found that Dr. Werrett provided something that they were missing from their other avenues of professional development. As one member stated, "It brought me back to library school and why I chose this profession in the first place. The love of learning." In the future, PNWRTLTA will try to alternate between the practical and the academic as the centerpiece of its annual meetings.

The PNWRTLTA is grateful to ATLA for making this 2015 annual meeting one to remember. We will remember that we have allies on the national level in making religious and theological information flow in the Pacific Northwest.

- Submitted by Fr. Peter Tynan, OSB, Librarian, Saint Martin's University

### ATLA / OCLC Consortium for WorldCat Discovery (formerly OCLC FirstSearch)

[WorldCat Discovery Services](#) will replace the OCLC FirstSearch service in December 2015. All libraries that provide access to the WorldCat database on FirstSearch can use WorldCat Discovery now as a part of their existing subscriptions. FirstSearch and WorldCat Discovery will operate in parallel through December 2015, to provide time for library staffs to become familiar with the new service before access to FirstSearch ends December 31, 2015. Below are upcoming WorldCat Discovery instructor-led training classes on searching and configuration:

#### WorldCat® Discovery Searching Basics

- [18 June 2015 - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM \(Eastern Daylight Time, North America\)](#)

#### WorldCat® Discovery Searching: Advanced Topics

- [9 June 2015 - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM \(Eastern Daylight Time, North America\)](#)
- [11 June 2015 - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM \(Eastern Daylight Time, North America\)](#)
- [17 June 2015 - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM \(Eastern Daylight Time, North America\)](#)

### ATLA at CRRA

Three ATLA representatives attended an early June symposium of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) at Chicago Theological Union, organized with leadership from CTU Director of the Library (and ATLA Board member) Melody Layton McMahon, Lisa Gonzalez, and others. Participants explored the topic "Bringing the Created Toward the Creator: Liturgical Art and Design After Vatican II."

Twenty-four institutions sent representatives to hear about the resources that scholars use and would like to develop for research on Catholic liturgical art and design. Panel discussions on the preservation of the archives of liturgical designers and architects brought into focus the value of these archives as a path to understanding the complicated period of change in Catholic parishes following Vatican II, when architects, artists, lay people, and priests worked together to make a renewed ecclesiology and expanding sense of the sacred visible in church design. Roundtable discussions enabled participants to discuss topics such as collaboration in collection development (especially for collections of parish histories, Catholic pamphlets, and Catholic ephemera), grant writing, and best practices in digitization of special collections.

ATLA was pleased to have been able to sponsor this opportunity and to support the ongoing work of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance.

- Submitted by Deborah Winarski, Manager for ATLA CPLI®

If your institution is interested in joining the consortium, please contact Kelly Jurecko at [kjurecko@atla.com](mailto:kjurecko@atla.com).

### Retirees Wanted

Did you retire during the past year or are you planning to retire before June 30? Please send your information to [newsletter@atla.com](mailto:newsletter@atla.com) so you can be recognized in the newsletter and at the ATLA Annual Conference.

### Routine Maintenance Reminder

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

### Job Openings

Are you in the market for a new position? Be sure to check the [ATLA web listings](#) to see who is hiring now.

Positions posted this month:

- ATLA, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Metadata Analyst](#).
- Biola University, La Mirada, CA, is looking for an [Information Literacy Librarian \(Librarian I-II\)](#).
- Emory University, Pitts Theology Library, Atlanta, GA, is looking for a [Reference and Instruction Librarian](#).
- Moravian Theological Seminary Library, Bethlehem, PA, is looking for an [Instruction Librarian and Seminary Liaison](#).
- North Park University, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Digital Archives Assistant](#).
- Perkins School of Theology/Bridwell Library, Dallas, TX, is looking for a [Librarian 3 \(Curator of Special Collections\)](#).
- Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA, is looking for a [Head Librarian](#).

### Vivian Le Joins ATLA

ATLA is pleased to introduce our new Digitization Specialist, Vivian Le.



Vivian recently earned a BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, with a minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures. She

is currently working as an intern at the Woman Made Gallery, and as the staff artist for Double Cluepon Studios, where she develops concept designs and art assets for online games. Vivian has a professional interest in libraries and art administration, and brings with her considerable experience in digitizing her own work and using Adobe Creative Suite products to create and manipulate digital media.

Please join us in welcoming Vivian to the ATLA Family.

## ATLA Calendar

### June

- 17 - ATLA Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO
- 17-20 - ATLA Annual Conference, Denver, CO
- 26-July 1 – ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA – Gillian Harrison Cain attending

### July

- 4 - ATLA office closed in observance of Independence Day
- 6 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA Systems
- 20-24 - SBL (Society of Biblical Literature) International Meeting - Buenos Aires, Argentina - Margot Lyon and Gregg Taylor attending

### August

- 1-4 - CBA (Catholic Biblical Association) - Xavier University, New Orleans, LA - Rick Rybak and Barnaby Hughes attending

## Embracing a Creative, Innovative and Transformative Future



In her March 2015 *From the President* column in this newsletter, ATLA President Beth Bidlack talked about the Core Values recently adopted for ATLA by the Board. As staff leadership makes plans for the future, we will use these values to inform our work as well as the work of ATLA's volunteer committees.

The Core Values are:

- Excellence in library collections and services
- Widest possible access to relevant information and ideas
- Hospitality, inclusion, and diversity
- Collegiality and collaboration
- Creativity, innovation, and transformation

ATLA's Organizational Ends have long included a statement about diversity. *Organizational End 1.3: ATLA reflects the diversity of our communities and institutions, including but not limited to religious, racial, ethnic and gender divisions.* However, adding the word "inclusion" along with "hospitality" strengthens the concept of diversity and what is required for ATLA to truly embrace it.

[Joe Gerstandt](#) is a consultant who works with corporations and associations on diversity and inclusion. His February 17, 2015 blog post on "[Assimilation vs. Inclusion](#)" explains how being a diverse organization and being an inclusive organization can be two very different things. When individuals who become part of a group are "different", others may not always include them in the same way that "like" individuals are. Those "different" individuals often are not included until they adopt the characteristics of the rest of the group - in other words, until they are assimilated. Inclusion means embracing the differences and including and accepting others as they are.

In the latest issue of *Theological Education* (49:2, 2015), Roy E. Barsness and Richard D. Kim encourage faculty to rethink the way they approach diversity in the classroom in their article, "A Pedagogy of Engagement for the Changing Character of the 21st Century Classroom" (pp. 89-106). While the authors focus on faculty-student relationships and the dynamics of the diverse classroom, there are several points made in the article that are applicable to the association environment. Several areas of awareness that faculty should be mindful of in the classroom are mentioned, two of which are especially relevant to associations: tacit ethnocentrism and bias (pp. 97-101).

According to Howell and Paris in *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective* (Baker Academic, 2011, p. 34), ethnocentrism "is the assumption that one's own way of life is just normal, not cultural." Those individuals who do not fit in are often forced to conform to the ways of a group so that they will fit in (aka assimilate). Bias relates to the idea in psychology that there are two facets to the mind: reflective and automatic. While the reflective side may embrace diversity, the automatic side may

still have negative associations of difference based on upbringing (Banaji and Greenwalk, *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*, Delacorte Press, 2013, pp. 53-70). Both of these concepts infer that even those of us with the best of intentions may not recognize when we exclude people or dismiss their ideas just because of their differences.

Theological librarianship is in the midst of a sea change. Many schools are financially challenged, impacting the ability of the library to adequately serve students and faculty. Distance and online education have brought challenges to providing service equal to those who are locally based. Faculty, students, and the local community may be engaged in interreligious dialogue. Technology has brought exciting opportunities as well as the need for a whole new vocabulary and set of skills that require a new set of credentials. As Christianity has spread to other parts of the world, the ethnic, racial and linguistic diversity of students in theological schools has increased. As a younger generation of students who are digital natives enter higher education classrooms, they bring with them different learning styles, technology savvy and fluency in social media along with a different culture - whether it be tattoos, gender fluidity, or simply extreme informality and a short attention span.

Differences are emerging among ATLA's different member generations. Recent graduates of MLIS programs are digital natives and young enough to be the grandchildren of long term ATLA members. Librarians serving religious studies departments at universities may be passionate about the quality of service they provide but their dedication is based on a vocation of library service rather than a religious calling. Professionals who work in the library may hold degrees in educational technology, graphic design, or other fields. Library leaders may have their own preferred tattoo artist or a penchant for both hip hop music and traditional hymns. Some members have worked at the same institution for decades, others change jobs every three years.

In my mind, the value of *hospitality, inclusion, and diversity* is inextricably linked with *creativity, innovation, and transformation*. If we embrace diversity and inclusion, the differences can be a powerful catalyst. As Gerstandt reflects in an [April 16, 2015 post](#), the tension of difference is at the root of all change, learning and innovation. None of these things can happen without the inclusion of different ideas, information, perspectives, identities, experiences, and practices. He goes on to quote Frank Zappa: “without deviation from the norm there can be no progress.” Difference is fuel. It is a social catalyst. It pushes relationships, groups, organizations, communities - and associations - in new directions.

As we consider the future of theological librarianship and ATLA in particular, it is useful to keep in mind the advice that Barsness and Kim provide: Those “of the dominant culture must recognize the uniqueness of their own context and not assume it to be universal, while acknowledging that the understanding of all cultures adds value” (pp. 92-93). We must keep in mind the ATLA value of *hospitality, inclusion, and diversity* and hold open dialogue with those who are different. This dialogue must be based in a posture of mutuality and respect.

There is room for everyone in the ATLA house. Increasing ATLA's diversity and embracing it through conscious inclusion also supports our value of *creativity, innovation, and transformation*. Exhibiting hospitality will show newcomers that ATLA as an association is welcoming to those who may look different, behave differently, practice a multiplicity of religions, are younger or older, or have valuable but different credentials than the norm. In the end, it will make ATLA a stronger association with the healthy tension of differences that will foster creativity, innovation, and transformation. Let's use these differences to transform ourselves, our libraries, and ATLA's future as an association.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer  
Executive Director

**“We must keep in mind the ATLA value of *hospitality, inclusion, and diversity* and hold open dialogue with those who are different. This dialogue must be based in a posture of mutuality and respect.”**

## Contact Information

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

Contact [newsletter@atla.com](mailto:newsletter@atla.com) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

## Stay Connected



300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2100, Chicago, Illinois 60606 • 888.665.2852 • ATLA.com  
© 2015 American Theological Library Association  
ISSN 1946-1518