



Wall art from Chicago's Catholic Theological Union

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From the President

Are You Organized?



As librarians, we are expected to bring a great deal of organization to our organizations. But what happens when we get disorganized? While I am drawn to (and love) the work of organizing knowledge, my own personal levels of

organization can fluctuate considerably and ultimately--ahem--leave a bit to be desired.

In any profession, there is a spectrum of orderliness, from chaos to exactitude, and a related spectrum of tidiness. However, as an information professional, I place a high value on being organized. When I don't meet my own standards, I feel a bit adrift. Repairing the damage is important, but getting back on track is difficult. How did I let it come to this?! As a librarian, I also am acutely aware of the work involved in good organization. Simply straightening the piles on my desk or half-heartedly adopting a new day planner isn't sufficient. I need a system that is sound, with robust categories and metadata, and assurance that the return on (time) investment will reward my commitment.

If you share my dilemma (concurrently or occasionally), take heart. Carve out some moments to recover. We will improve! If you don't share my dilemma, please send me your secret and wish me luck!

- Laura C. Wood



Left to right: Beth Bidlack, Kelly Campbell, Doug Gragg, and Andre Paris

Board Members Elected for 2011-14

The following candidates have been elected to serve a three-year term (2011-2014) on the ATLA Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the membership of the Board Secretary's report at the 2011 Annual Conference: Douglass Gragg, Andre Paris, Beth Bidlack, and Kelly Campbell. The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors express their thanks to all candidates who appeared on the slate and for their many efforts on behalf of the Association.

-Carrie M. Hackney, Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors

From the Executive Director

Assessing the Value of Libraries



ATLA member institutions share many of the same concerns as their counterparts that serve broader higher education communities. One key area is how to increase the recognition of the value of libraries and librarians by those in decision-making roles in the organization that are outside of the library. The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) issued a report last fall that thoroughly addresses this topic: *The Value of*

Academic Libraries: A Comprehensive Research Review and Report. (<http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/>) At the recent ACRL conference in Philadelphia, several meetings focused on the results of the report. Some of the key points of the study resonate with the outcome-based evaluation methodology (<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/basics.shtm>) that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) requires from recipients of grants to all types of libraries and museums: focus on outcomes not outputs.

A first step is to define outcomes that are relevant to the institution and set up measurement criteria. Some of the outcomes might be from areas that aren't automatically associated with the library. Does the library play a role in a student's decision to attend a particular institution? Does library support for faculty research impact a faculty member's decision to take a position with the institution? Other outcomes might be broadly related to student retention and graduation rates, student success, and faculty research and productivity. In addition to helping us think about different ways in which our libraries may impact their home institutions, *The Value of Academic Libraries* is a helpful report that brings together the current state of both qualitative and quantitative research on the value of libraries--regardless of type.

One session will be offered during the upcoming ATLA Conference that can help librarians learn to measure outcomes. Timothy D. Lincoln's pre-conference workshop, *Doing Qualitative Research*, will help attendees hone their skills in conducting many different types of qualitative research. I hope you'll take advantage of this workshop to learn more about tools that you can use to help demonstrate the value of the library in your organization.

--Brenda Bailey-Hainer

Member News

Spring Committee Meetings

On Tuesday, March 15, the Special Committee of the Association for Diversity met via teleconference. Diversity Committee members include Diana Brice, Chair, Susan Ebertz, Cait Kokolus, Mayra Picos-Lee, and John Weaver, Board Liaison.

On Monday, March 21, the Professional Development Committee (PDC) met via teleconference. PDC members are Timothy Lincoln, Chair, Ellen Frost, Eric R. Stancliff, and Christina A. Torbert.

St. Louis Theological Consortium Librarians Sponsor Presentation



On February 24, ATLA's regional group in Saint Louis sponsored a presentation by three colleagues from the Emerson Library of Webster University, who donated their time

and expertise. They were Laura Rein, Dean of the Library (left), Eileen Condon, Associate Dean of the Library, and Holly Hubenschmidt, Instructional Services Librarian. The title of their presentation was "Multi-faceted and Continuous Library Assessment."

Covenant Theological Seminary hosted the event. Attendees represented five of the consortium's theological libraries. Besides those from Webster University, approximately 15 academic librarians attended representing Fontbonne, Lindenwood, and Saint Louis Universities and the University of Missouri at Saint Louis.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, May 2, 2011. You may encounter a brief interruption in web and phone services between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Join Your Colleagues



It's Time to Register

We anticipate that the conference in Chicago will be well-attended. To date, 134 participants have signed up for their choice of the wide range of papers, conversation groups, panel presentations, and excursions on offer. Be sure to register now and save space for your 2011 conference experience.

Come Early for Free Professional Development

Once again, this year there are no extra fees to attend the Preconference Workshops. Join us on Wednesday morning, June 8, and learn about doing qualitative research and beginning and advanced Romanization.

Pick Your Excursions

The local hosts have designed several excursions to help you take a firsthand look at the diversity and culture that thrives in Chicago's neighborhoods. You can view the splendor of a suburban arboretum, relax aboard a riverboat cruise as a guide points out the magnificent architecture along your route, fill your day with a visit to four famed religious sites, gain special insight into the collections at the Newberry Library, or get acquainted with the campus of Saint Mary of the Lake and the Feehan Memorial Library. And of course, there's always BASEBALL!

So--don't wait! You can register for the conference, the sessions, and the excursions through the official conference website.

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza Reservations

The code to register for the ATLA room block at the Holiday Inn is located on the ATLA conference web pages. Simply go to http://www.atla.com/Members/conference/2011_conference/Pages/2011ACHotel.aspx. You'll find a "Make a Reservation" link directly under the hotel's fax number. Click the link and you'll be brought to the hotel's ATLA rate page. In the middle of the page, right above the ATLA logo, you'll see a green button labeled "Reserve Group Rate." Clicking the button will automatically give you the ATLA rate for your reservations.

Member Loyalty Program-Free Conference Registrations

The American Theological Library Association is proud to support the Member Loyalty Program to thank our current Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate members for your involvement in ATLA as members and customers. Forty member libraries have registered and are sending 68 staff to Chicago.

During these challenging economic times, we hope this program will allow you to attend the upcoming 2011 Annual Conference if cost has been holding you back.

We have extended the member loyalty program registration until the conference to accommodate members who would like to attend and are managing tight budgets--all you need to do is complete the form available at <http://www.atla.com/Members/benefits/projects/Pages/Member-Loyalty-Program.aspx>. Your registration will be confirmed and you will be invited at that time to redeem the loyalty benefit of your

choice. Please note that loyalty benefits are not transferable.

As always, we appreciate your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Denise McFarlin at 888/665-2852 or dmcfarlin@atla.com. Thank you for your dedication to ATLA as a member and as a subscriber. We are pleased to be able to provide you with a range of products and services.

Travel Grants for 2011 Conference

Generous gifts to ATLA from corporate and member donors make it possible for us to offer grants of up to \$500 each to support attendance at the conference. The program provides grants for ATLA student and individual members who receive no financial assistance from their institutions to attend the conference.

You may apply for a travel grant until Monday, April 18, 2011. Simply contact Denise McFarlin by email at dmcfarlin@atla.com to express your interest. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis and winners will be notified on or before Friday, April 22, 2011. Applicants not selected to receive a grant will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted if a selected recipient cancels. If you are chosen to receive a grant, Denise will contact you by email and you must be prepared to register for the conference shortly thereafter. In the interest of privacy, we will not announce the names of the recipients; however, we will announce that grants have been made.

ATLA values all our members. We hope that this support will allow those of you who might not otherwise be able to attend the conference to join your colleagues in Chicago.

Spotlight: Day on Campus

Catholic Theological Union, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and McCormick Theological Seminary

Catholic Theological Union in Chicago was founded in 1968 in the spirit and vision of Vatican II, when three religious orders decided to merge their seminaries and move to Hyde Park. CTU is the largest Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry in the United States, and there are currently 32 religious orders that send students to CTU, as well as lay students from the United States and around the world.

CTU's Academic and Conference Center was completed in 2006, and houses classrooms, administrative and faculty offices, reception space, liturgical space, and the Paul Bechtold Library (*top right*). The Bechtold Library collection is particularly strong in materials pertaining to religious orders, Franciscan studies and catechetical materials. The library contains over 150,000 volumes, and has a varied art collection that was included in the Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries project.

The day on campus will conclude with a block party on the shared quad of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and McCormick Theological Seminary (*bottom right*). The two schools share the JKM Library, which was formed in 1975 through the merger of the LSTC, McCormick, and Jesuit School of Theology libraries. The merger of the three schools' libraries also resulted in a merger of the libraries' names, resulting in the Jesuit Krauss McCormick Library. Since each of these schools were formed through mergers, JKM actually has nine predecessor libraries! The library was legally incorporated as The JKM Library Trust (its legal title is JKM Library-just initials, no names!!) in 1995, a decade after the Jesuit school was closed.

In addition to the opportunity to visit CTU, LSTC and McCormick, the day on campus will include numerous papers on a range of topics, from local figure Henry Warren Roth to trends in theological publishing, as well as art in libraries. In addition to the morning worship and memorial service, the Saturday program will include conversation groups and papers over the course of two program sessions. With a day full of programming plus the concluding block party, we know you will want to include the day on campus in your conference plans!

A Note on Transportation to the Airports

If you would like to book your transportation to the airport in advance, SuperShuttle schedules transportation for groups of up to five people, and provides service to both Midway and O'Hare. Information on shuttle service from Go Airport Express and Omega Airport Shuttle is also available at flychicago.com.

--Lisa Gonzalez, ATLA 2011 Annual Conference Local Host Committee



SCELC offers for ATLA Members

As we approach the anniversary of our partnership with the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC), we are pleased to announce an enhancement. To date, SCELC has negotiated special offers designed for ATLA members, but can now entertain inquiries from members on any SCELC offer. Note that some licensing opportunities may be geographically restricted. To review or search current and past offers, visit the SCELC website: <http://scelc.org/resources>. Offers that may particularly interest members include, LibGuides, SkyRiver, e-book collections and more. Don't see an offer for a resource you need? Contact SCELC to request assistance in creating one: <http://scelc.org/contact>.

Have You Heard?

Two Reasons to go 'Thin' -- and One Caveat in Doing So

In March of 2011, the Technology in Theological Education Group of the Association of Theological Schools conducted a survey of 196 theological libraries as to whether they use thin clients, which are networked computers that receive all of their operating functions from a central server. Of the 68 responding libraries (35% of those surveyed), 14 are using thin clients. Two dominant reasons were provided: lower cost and ease of maintenance. Concerning the first, savings are immediately felt in the thin client itself (the cost of which is only \$300 - \$400), in the software licensing (which is purchased for and installed only once on the central server), and in the tech support (though a library would want someone on hand capable of supporting the central server). Concerning the second, tech support need service only the central server to address multiple problems on dozens of thin clients rather than service the myriad of particular problems any one PC may have over the course of its lifespan. One caveat emerged as a common theme among these libraries involving the slowness of the system for the patron "even with significant investment in server processing and memory," a problem which should be explicitly addressed with vendors by libraries wishing to move in this direction.

--submitted by Dr. Sebastian Mahfood, OP,
Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies,
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

International Society for Science and Religion to Award Books

The International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR) has completed an extensive peer review of over 2000 books on Science and Religion. The ISSR editorial board has selected 220 titles that it judges to be central texts in the field of science and religion. Complete sets of these books, rebound in durable hard covers, will be awarded free of charge to institutions in the United States and around the world in 2011. Preference will be given to institutions that meet the following criteria: awardees should 1.) demonstrate that the Library will have substantial impact on the teaching and study of and/or research in Science and Religion and related fields, and 2.) show that their current resource base would make it challenging for them to otherwise obtain this kind of expansive collection in the field. Applications will be judged on a rolling basis. The deadline for receipt of all applications is June 15, 2011.

For details on the program, a complete list of selections, and application information, see <http://www.issrlibrary.org>.

ATLA Calendar

April

- 1 Submissions for May ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 26-28 Catholic Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans; Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending

May

- 1 Submissions for June/July ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 5 Early bird conference registration ends
- 9 Housing block closes
- 30 ATLA Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

June

- 8-11 ATLA 65th Annual Conference in Chicago