Why Diversity?
Recent Census data indicates that the demographics of the United States are changing. In order to serve more diverse communities institutions must understand and reflect our communities' diversity and provide services that are relevant, appropriate, and timely.

Diversity is an essential element in the guarding and protection of human interests (aiding interpersonal relations and social justice), the nurturing of experience (aiding human understanding and the development of new knowledge and skills), and the fostering of creativity (aiding human progress and enjoyment).

ATLA’s Commitment to Diversity
ATLA and its member libraries seek to reflect diversity in denominational and religious affiliation, racial and ethnic background, gender, as well as in other areas, such as age and disability. Diversity in vocation is also important as theological librarianship is a career path that requires a variety of skills from administration and collection development to reference and public service, metadata creation and management, and technological expertise. All of this diversity within ATLA is needed to provide valuable educational services to an ever changing body of students who are called to minister in today’s multidimensional society.

www.atla.com

ATLA reflects the diversity of our communities and institutions, including but not limited to religious, racial, ethnic, and gender divisions.

Contact a Member Representative today.
memberrep@atla.com

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Diversity Committee
The Diversity Committee recommends practices and programs related to recruitment, retention, development, and advancement of diverse members; receives applications, evaluates and selects recipients for the ATLA Scholarships to Promote Diversity; encourages collaborative relationships with communities of diverse professionals; ensures diverse perspectives in programs at the ATLA Annual Conference and other activities of the Association; promotes research that supports diversity in theological and religious studies libraries; and shares resources and services related to issues of diversity.

The current members of the Diversity Committee:
• Lynn Berg, chair (7/2012 - 6/2015)
• Jaeyeon Lucy Chung (7/2013 - 6/2016)
• Shanee’ Yvette Murrain (7/2014 - 6/2017)

Scholarships
ATLA currently offers two scholarships in support of diversity. (For full information on the eligibility requirements and application process, visit http://tinyurl.com/ATLADivSchol.)

Scholarship for a Theological Librarianship Course ($1,200). This scholarship is given to a student from an underrepresented population to attend a Theological Librarianship course at any ALA-accredited master’s program in library and information studies, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s LEEP course, Theological Librarianship (LIS 590TL).

ATLA Diversity Scholarship ($1,300). This scholarship is given to a student from an underrepresented population enrolled in an ALA-accredited master’s program in library and information studies.

Conference Activities
Each year, the Diversity Committee works to ensure that the Annual Conference contains programs that address issues facing underrepresented groups and includes presenters from diverse backgrounds.

Discussion List
A Diversity Discussion List (Diversity-L) is available for members to discuss all facets of diversity. To subscribe to the list please e-mail memberrep@atla.com. The Diversity Committee welcomes any comments or suggestions on current or other avenues of assistance that could be made available to or for underrepresented groups.

Resources
Resources to support diversity in theological librarianship and education are available at the ATLA website under Professional Tools (http://tinyurl.com/ATLAProfTools). The committee welcomes contributions to the list from members to help keep it up-to-date.