Forum on Theological Librarians Around the World

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SPEAKERS

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Ok, we are just a couple minutes past the hour so I'm gonna go ahead and get started. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Ana Cackley, and on behalf of Atla, I'd like to welcome you to today's program, Forum on Theological Librarians Around the World. Now before we get started, I'd like to point out just a few features of the webinar interface. By default, you'll be listening in using your computer's speaker system, but if you would prefer to join by phone, you can do that too. Um, at the bottom of your screen you there should be a control panel. It will contain a chat box where you can type in questions for the speakers and contact us about any technical difficulties. You get there's also a q&a box down there where you can also send your questions, you can send in questions at any time, and we will collect them and address them at the end of the presentation. We also have live transcripts now and if you would like to view the live transcript, you can go up to the top left of your screen. Click live on custom live streaming service, click the little carrot, and then click View stream, it will pop up in a separate browser for you. As a reminder, today's presentation is being recorded, we will make this available online on our on demand learning webpage, everyone who registered for today's webinar will receive an email notification when the recording is available, and it will also have the live transcript there as well. And now I'd like to introduce you to today's moderator, we have Dr Carisse Berryhill, who is the Special
Carisse Berryhill 02:46
Good morning, everyone. I'm so glad for you to join us I see we have 30 or so folks with us besides our presenters logged on here so welcome to all of you. I have. I'm going to do three things here after everyone has introduced themselves. Then, we will have three rounds of questions, and then have some time for q&a at the end of the rounds, our first context. I'll ask each person to talk about the context in which they work, then we will talk about collections that's the second round. And then the third round is professional development. So the point here is theological librarianship is something that's going on around the world. And in a very diverse set of settings. So I wanted to give each participant, an opportunity to introduce themselves. and then I will start the questions. Let's start with you Matina, Tell us. Tell us your name and where you are.

Matina Ćurić 04:01
Hi everyone, it's so good to be here with you. And to present our work and also see how everybody is working around the world. in different theological libraries. My name is Matina Ćurić I'm a librarian at the artificial library at the library of defense official Mission Society in our hand Germany. I'm also the Secretary and board member of Beth, which is the European Association of theological libraries, originally come from Croatia, is a small country in southeastern Europe, where I also worked in a theological library a specialized library for Biblical Studies. And I have almost 15 years of experience working in predominantly special theological libraries that belong either to an academic institution or church organization.

Carisse Berryhill 04:57
Thank you so much. That's wonderful. Now we're going to move east a little and we'll hear from. Yesan.

Yesan Sellan 05:09
Yes. Good evening, everyone. It's indeed a pleasure. And I'm indeed honored by the invitation to be with you this evening in this webinar. My name is Yesan. I work as the Chief Librarian at South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian studies, located in Bangalore, which is popularly known as the Silicon Valley of India. So, it's been 22 years as theological librarian. And I have recently completed my PhD in library and information
Carisse Berryhill 06:03
Thank you. Thank you. Cynthia.

Cynthia Peleña 06:07
Morning everyone, I’m Cynthia Peleña, Director of libraries, any loss the third library central Philippine University how to add the City, Philippines. Ah, to give you an overview of our institution center Philippine University is a North American but is founded institution from 1975. And so the foreign mission board in the American Baptist foreign Mission Society. So that’s the short, and I am formally I am a former coordinator of the master of Library and Information Science in specialization in theological librarianship in settings in the Philippines.

Carisse Berryhill 06:51
Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Okay, we will we will start our first round. So the first topic that I'd like each of you to talk about for. Oh, maybe for four minutes or so, is to tell us about the location of your library, how old your institution is what its mission. The mission of your parent organization, the number of faculty and students that you're serving the size of your collection in general, we'll get to more details about the collections in the next round. And then, the size of your library staff so what I’m looking for here is where is your library located within an institution and what is that institution like. Let's start with Matina.

Matina Ćurić 07:45
I library is located in the city of Austin, which is in the center of Europe on the borders between Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. It is the largest library for mission studies world church and contextual theologies in Germany and also one of the largest special libraries with this focus in Europe. The library was founded in 1917. In 2017 we celebrated our 100 year anniversary, with the aim to support missionaries in preparation for the trips, but also largely to support the members of the Pontifical Mission Society and clergymen in their work of advertising missionary activities in congregations. So our main interest lies in the areas of mission history mission theology contextual theologies and and history and situation of the local churches in Asia, Africa Oceania, and also to a lesser
extent in Latin America. I don’t know if many of you know what Pontifical mission societies, or missio, are, but just to tell you briefly This is a worldwide network of charity organizations that are under the jurisdiction of the Pope. So we care for and support pastoral, social, and inter religious work of local churches in Africa, Asia and CNL worldwide, and also support their training, the training of laypeople priests and religious, the Catholic Church on these continents. It is the official support organization for overseas missions in the Catholic Church and has 100 offices worldwide so we are one branch or we are one office of the mission society’s Mission Society in Germany. Our organization in our home has about 150 employees. The library is primarily serves our employees for the preparation of their different projects and publications. We are also closely connected to the Institute for Catholic theology of the action of the Technical University of the afternoon in our hand, where some of our employees, teach missiology world religions church history, etc. Their students also use our library. So the library is frequently used not only by students and our employees, but also by researchers and journalists scholars who are interested in topics of religion, religious freedom mission mission theology, religious dialogue human rights and development etc. So, a lot of different, different topics in this area. The library has about 170,000 volumes of from the 17th century to the present day and around 400 and 400 current journals from all over the world. We also maintain an archive. And a special picture library. We have also must be mentioned that we also in our hundred year history have taken over several other theological libraries in this area, most notably the mission library of the chestnuts and bone. And one of our particularly interesting assets is a collection of handwritten records by German speaking missionaries in Africa, Asia Oceania from the 19th century, from the 19th and 20th centuries. We employ seven librarians in total together with the archive.

Carisse Berryhill 11:32
Thank you so much. That’s very helpful and gives us a much better picture of where you are and what you’re doing. Let’s see. Yesan, if you’ll go next. Please, sir.

Yesan Sellan 11:43
Yes, our institute Sykes is a post graduate theological institution, located in Bangalore. It’s 40, years old evangelical institution. The mission of our institution is to train Christian leaders to demonstrate Christ’s likeness and excellence in academics ministry and missions. By offering biblical and contextually relevant postgraduate degree programs in a caring and egalitarian community. There were three things prompted for the founding of our institution, one. Most of our Indian students who study in western countries too often do not return. And to the Western education, understandably, irrelevant to Indian context in some cases, some areas. Therefore, the sciex can address these issues and needs of
South Asia. The third thing was the offering postgraduate education in India rather than in the West, allows for more financial stewardship at about one 10th of the cost per student so therefore these three things found helped, or these three reasons why our institution was founded here in Bangalore. We have currently over 180 students and 20 faculty members, which includes residential and adjunct faculty members. My Library, to say the history. It began in a humble way with 200 books which belonged to our founding principal Dr Graham Houghton from New Zealand. And today, our library collection includes over 65,000 print books and 2500, ebooks, and also, in addition to this library subscribes to over 200 and print 200 print journals, from all over the world, regarding our online resources we also subscribe to few databases like a claw religion database with serials j store, and it is sciex, our institution was the first subscriber to Atlas religion database in India, about our staff team. We are five in the library, I lead the team as the head of the library, and we have two members who have master’s degree in Library Information Science. Our special emphasis, are our collections on evangelical mission theology Asian history and religious studies.

Carisse Berryhill 14:27
Thank you so much. Cynthia, you please tell us about your institution

Cynthia Peleña 14:35
in Dallas, the third library is located in Isla City, Philippines center Philippine University was started as an institution and, which was founded in 19 05 is about 150 years now, and the mission of our institution is to carry out the program of spiritual intellectual, moral, scientific, technological and cultural training in allied studies, under the influences with strength and risk free, but that character and promote scholarship, research and community service. Recently, our total enrollment is 12,562. By the way, the College of theology is embedded or structured embedded in a university. So, our faculty and staff is 675. And for our college to theology population are enrolled in law student is 72 students for this semester, and they have been full time faculty members for the College of theology. So the total holdings of the library is 273,000 collections both brand and non print resources. And the policies theology library has 18,320 titles and 25,000 volumes. So the library man by 12 licensed librarian and paraprofessional that IP specialist and library Secretary here in the Philippines, we are required to take the board examination. As for us to become a professional librarian so we are required to take the board examination for library. As far as college of theology, the programs that we offer our Bachelor's of theology. For the master program we have master of divinity, Master of theology, Master of ministry, and for the doctoral degree program we have doctor of ministry major in church leadership in management and pastoral counseling in clinical pastoral supervision
for the collection of course, we have collection from various languages like Hebrew Spanish Latin German in other languages from Asian countries, and of course, in terms of power collection, China, we have bread in electronic resources. And also we have Vyas denominational collections and through art is a resource that is to share resources to the library available in all fields on nine legs.

Carisse Berryhill  17:32
I’m going to continue with this idea about collections, and Matina you mentioned that your library is focused on special collections, especially, but tell us a little bit more about the languages, the types of resources that you collect. And I’m particularly interested in how collection policy development works at your at your library, and I’d like to know if you write the collection development policy yourself, you and your staff. And if it is written within the library do faculty and administration, participate in that process are approved or authorized the policy once it is finished with what’s the interaction between the library’s own sense of its control of policy and authorization by the institution itself.

Matina Ćurić  18:37
Okay. Um, as for the languages library naturally because of the topics that we are concerned with our house, patients in many different languages more than 200. We primarily collect materials in German, English, French, Italian and Spanish. But we also have quite a big number of titles in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and other languages, so it’s it’s a very diverse very rich collection that we maintain. As for other. We also have a subject catalog that has approximately 404,500 terms. These are also translated in English and in German. Some many terms also translated into French and Spanish. As for the collection development policy. We do not have a written collection development policy that may happen in the future. But our whole focus has been very clear over the years. We collect materials primarily in these topics so contextual theologies and philosophies in Africa, Asia, Latin America Oceania mission theology Religious Studies inter religious dialogue situational the local church in Africa, Asia, all over the world human rights development policy issues poverty reduction, and so on. But as for the relationship. How we purchase, what how we purchased the titles. We do that together. Our library staff, and also the in house departments, so we’ll have an influence in what titles are purchased. We also receive many recommendations from the publishers we work with. If we support a project conference or program in some country we also receive then these titles. So, these are the some of the ways we we continue to grow our collection. I hope this.
Carisse Berryhill 20:43
I'm interested that you've been at it for you know 100 years almost, and, and, and you have a very focused sense of your, the circumference and the emphasis of your collections, but it hasn't been formalized as a, as a policy document. Yes, no, maybe that's maybe that's just one way of doing it, I'm pretty sure it's only one way of doing it. But

Matina Ćurić 21:09
yes, but it's it's, it may not be in the future as I say I must say that I'm, I'm not very long in this in this library so I really did not know what was the reason why we have not written it until now, but obviously has functioned.

Carisse Berryhill 21:26
How did you learn it? How did you learn that this is the way that that your collection shape.

Matina Ćurić 21:34
Well it was the focus of, well the the team, the way we were the focus of the library has always been has always been there is very specific. And that has I would say that has helped us with our collection development policies because we are not in a, an academic theological library belonging to a school, university that has a very wide audience for users and so on. So, I would say that that has helped us to have a clear focus.

Carisse Berryhill 22:15
When someone has a project that they're working on one of your employees is working on a missional project, then you're going to be communicating with them about the resources that they may need pursued what they might need to know. Yes, yes, very interesting. Thank you. Dr. Sellan, tell us about your collection policy, and a little bit more about just your collection in general the languages the degrees you're supporting, that kind of thing.

Yesan Sellan 22:45
Yes, thank you. Yes, as I mentioned, Sachs was founded to cater to the evangelical postgraduate education so it offers doctoral programs and masters at both residential and online. And we follow a modular system which helps us to get the some of the best
faculty members visiting us and to teach our students and help them. And Sachs has six deep top departmental specializations and also to offer an offer, MD. In, MD masters in theology and PhD degree programs. And since our medium of instruction at Saks is in English, and therefore our library collection is also most of them are in English, only a couple of hundreds of books are in other languages and so saks. Since it was started with the vision to be reputable evangelical mission focused center that held on to the centrality of the Christian gospel. Therefore, the library collections also very much focused on missiological studies in theology mission history and religion studies Religious Studies. Our library adds resources to its holdings strategically with the focus. As I mentioned evangelical mission, and other sub disciplines. And it’s also mandated to preserve and protect the heritage of indigenious mission archival collections available various mission fields, is one of the initiatives we have started. Now, with regard to the collection development. It’s through the policy, the partnership and networks with several agencies, globally, to network and so offer programs on therefore in that association and relationship science was able to procure. Some of the best collections to support the research activities one such is called center for South Asia, research, which identifies and generate indigenous scholarship from South Asia. So far we have had several dozen scholars produced remarkable scholarly works. The acquisition of resources learning resources, both in print and online, or very much focused to support the academic and research activities of faculty and students. It is the faculty members who always play a major role in adding library resources. So, I have a close relationship with the faculty members, and the library staff, and also we have some standing orders with some publishers who as in when published resources and they send us. So, It is very much focused, with the faculty input that library resources are added some of the agencies like TBN Langham literatures and others who have largely contributed to our library resources collections and also we have been able to get some of the donations from retiree professors who always felt like it’s a strategic place and location therefore science has received some of the best collections, through donations from retiring, professors, so that was something very very well work with a science. We continue to procure both print online resources, but library to budget is always a challenge for us and so we try our best to add resources. So that’s all about our library collection policies Yes, as Martina mentioned we don’t have a written policy collection development policy but we are in the process of identifying one and a shape to fit it to our local context. It’s very interesting. I, I think that being able to receive collections from expert scholars, you know, as they are in their careers, is a very fun way to, to, to get a great Core Collection and whatever that topic is. And sometimes things that are very rare might otherwise, you know because an accessible. One says to name. I’m pleased to say, Professor Eric frickin Burke, Robert Eric freakin Burke, the former professor from the University of Wisconsin has donated his personal collection which is one of the finest collections on South Asian history mission and woman studies which no library has in India.
That's wonderful. Thank you. Well now Cynthia, How about you, you're operating in a much larger university sort of context so I'm thinking probably policy tends to be a little bit more formalized there, tell us a little bit about it.

For our collection development process, the library has a formal reading collection development policy which serves as our guide in acquiring library resources. As an aside from our format from our collection development policy, we asked why double bass is also the Chad requirements are the commission of higher education requirements as, as we are mandated to to comply with the requirements, the number, number in base of quality, quantity and quality of resources and materials that support the curriculum that we are offering or the policies that we are offering, as well as the accrediting agencies like at the CEA and PACA khoy there are a lot of accrediting agencies in all our courses that we are offering depends on the courses that we are offering. And then the steps that we are doing is we went with a senior professor or the deans are the faculty who handle the subject to give us the, the list of books that only within their field of specialization, but also resources outside their, their field that the my thing. This will add are needed ought to be needed in there to support the program. In terms of budget allocation, the theology library has a separate budget, regardless of the number of students involved. Unlike in the other academic colleges by men. The budget is allocated in accordance and the approved budget. But in the case of theology library, they have a special and separate budget for them. Thank you, the library. Thank you.

That's very interesting. It's, it's just fascinating that we have really three different types of libraries here. You know, represented. And I think that gives our, our viewers a wonderful opportunity to see how wide Lee theological librarianship can be practiced in in a variety of settings. I'd like to turn for the third round of questions to the question of professional development. Now we can all tell our own stories and that each of us can take an hour doing it. But we still have about, 15 minutes or so I think maybe, so I'd like each of you to talk about your preparation, as a theological librarian. Um, what professional networks have been most important to you in your past and particularly now. And then what opportunities you have that you and your staff have access to. For further professional development Matina will begin with you.
Okay, by preparation Do you mean our qualifications or.

Carisse Berryhill 31:14
How did you become a. How did you what what credentials Did you acquire in order to serve as a theological library.

Matina Ćurić 31:23
I did my bachelor studies in theologies and theology, and then I moved to Master. Master Degree in library science. And after that I began working in a theological library. So, that was in my country, my homeland Croatia I was also required to take the state exam. And that was it. That was really all of the formal requirements I was supposed to, to do the state exam in Germany or in Croatia. In the state of the state of semi took was in Croatia that was when I was living in Croatia,

Carisse Berryhill 32:02
with you when you went yes yes

Matina Ćurić 32:04
all of that transferred Germany has a little bit. Each country in Europe has a different process, I would say it's not it's not really translatable and also depends on what type of theological library one is working in it's, it's not really a requirement that one has a state exam, or even that one has a degree in library science to be to work in a theological ivory sometimes other qualifications other degrees, such as in history, or art, and are more needed, and even IT, so. So,

Carisse Berryhill 32:53
I can think of an example of that. Yeah. Yes, Tell us about professional networking.

Matina Ćurić 33:00
Yes, I have invested, almost 15. Well, years of my life in the advancement of these libraries in the European and international level and that is would not be possible if I was not connected with other colleagues, both in my homeland and here in Germany and in
Europe. I'm now involved very much with the work of the European Association of theological libraries, Beth. Germany also has two theological library associations that have different projects. So, in general in Europe. There are many almost every country in Europe has a theological Library Association some countries even have more. There are total maybe 21. And all of them. In my case, Also, they would they provide and point to many opportunities for professional development that are specifically related to theological librarianship but also in general. So, I've also also been a member of from a member of Atlas since 2016 and that has been a great source of professional development on all levels for me.

Carisse Berryhill  34:18

Thank you. So, that over your staff you have. I believe you said you have about seven librarians do. What is, what is your, your staff's kind of practice about additional professional development opportunities that, that they routinely participating. Are they also members of Beth and other associations, do they have other sources of training that are provided that they take advantage of.

Matina Ćurić  34:53

I would say yes, I'm not a well. I think all of them. I'm not really sure because not all of the library. All of our staff is, is, is they're all primarily working for the library will also have an archive so we have an archivist and he's very active in the associations that are, that relate to archive archival work. All of our, our librarians are members of the German Association for theological libraries, and through the German theological libraries they're represented in Beth. So, Beth is is really a federation of of theological Library Association, and libraries so it's not really like Atla which has personal members. Personal members are mostly represented in their own country. And then through that through that country organization, they are represented in the umbrella organization for Europe which is that I hope that is clear this is a bit unusual. So, but yes, we are all.

Carisse Berryhill  36:08

That's it. Yeah, no, and Europe is Europe, and that's that's very informative and helpful to some of us who just really haven't worked in a multinational setting where there's such a strong sense of Federation and cooperation. Yeah,

Matina Ćurić  36:25

I would say for all my colleagues. They will invest themselves, and in their work and
participate in various professional development opportunities as much as they can, as much as we all can.

Carisse Berryhill  36:42
Yeah. Support for travel and things like that. Yes, professional, you have some some some some some budgeting for that kind of Yeah, that’s good, that’s good. Yesan, what about you and your folks let’s see how many people did you say you’ve got five staff members I know you’ve recently been through a huge professional development project and working on your PhD congratulations very much on having finished that that’s a wonderful thing. What else tell us more about how you as director of your library, think about staff development and professional associations in your setting.

Yesan Sellan  37:20
Well, thank you, Carisse. See, after having received a master's degree in Library Information Science in 98, I didn't know where to go and how to start and honestly I didn't know about theological librarianship at all. And it just happened to join in one of the theological institutions, that's where I picked up and that is an institution of this kind, all over the country and where there's a huge need out there. While I had opportunities to serve work in other educational institutions like liberal arts colleges or universities and so on. So, since 98, and I after seeing the plight of theological institutions in our country and I took it up as a challenge that I must do something and contribute to the development of theological libraries in our country. Since then I was strategy, I was able to reach out to some of the associations like in our country we have it la Indian theological Library Association. So, since, 2000, I been involved with that association as a secretary, and also closely working with some of the other regional groups like giant library committee in Bangalore which is more active than our national unit where we were able to do quite a lot of joint projects through initiatives like offering online catalog and publishing directory of theses and periodicals lists and so on. There was a quite an enriching experience to work with the local colleagues. Whenever we talk about something is always fall back on me and say, isn't Why don't to do something about it and I said there is a huge need out there so I felt like, providing leadership and leadership to the various projects and I was able to see. It's been achieved. And it's through the professional networks and I would say, through attending conferences like at law conference in 2008. I've been blessed by the association with the Association of theological librarians. In, Atla, and the other networks which helped me to shape my thinking and skills. So over a period of time I was able to acquire a theological degree to help me understand better about my constituents, the members, and the people who might serve and provide their needs. And so, I got a theological degree. Just about 10 years back, but they're not appropriations it just, it's
about how I see my community of learners and teachers as an opportunity to sell them and provide their needs. I always consider myself as a learner that I need to persevere to accomplish some tasks for the sake of my students and faculty. The professional networks like Atla Atlantis list forums and for attell. And the giant library committee and the iams and darboe and other groups these groups and various ways have helped me to shape my ideas and thinking, or also adopt some of the insights from various sources, I was able to implement apply and test, it's been very successful and so I'm so grateful that I was able to network with several groups and so with regard to the opportunities for professional development, it is always the workshops, the conferences that I have attended been very very beneficial. And so the, you know, India has a long history of Library Information Science, the father of life Information Science in our country, Dr. esrf. Sorry, Excuse me, sir Ranganathan who contributed immensely for the growth of Library Information Science. There are several universities offer workshops and seminars, which helped me to equip myself technic, technically, and, you know, the concept was. It's been a tremendous experience so whereas in my team. After I came in, I have always looked at the staff development, so that they could give their best. So they were able to acquire or equip themselves. Professionally, by doing distance mod education, but also work or become a member of various library associations. So, that's really a great experience. And because of this need. And I felt like I must do something. And so I planned and designed a program for the theological librarians in our country, a three months course on the logic librarianship since 2012, I was able to. In fact, as a team, we were able to accept about 60 librarians so far we have equipped them. And now, there is a plan to offer an online program, a year long program, starting from 2021, January next gen, we will have an, a year long program so that's something I see an opportunity to contribute to the professional development of my friends in our country and others saltation level.

Carisse Berryhill 43:10
It’s wonderful. That’s exciting to hear about your plan for your next. Your next step. The next thing I know you’re going to be dean of a library school, that just won’t be long. Let’s see Cynthia tell us about professional development at your library very deeply among your theological, staff, and your own development in becoming prepared to do the job that you’re doing

Cynthia Peleña 43:37
preparation to serve as theological labor I am personally, I don’t have a theological background. When association of theological education in Southeast Asia, that is a yeah is that great the accrediting agency, open the program for MLA yes in theological librarianship in Southeast Asia. I was a program coordinator at that time, and formerly, I
was a program coordinator and a theological librarian she was added to my responsibility. So the reason why we offer through CPU through with RSA is because all them. The result of the accrediting agency the ftca result shows that 90% of the seminary, especially in Southeast Asia managed by a volunteer or pastor detailed in the library. So the resources are not organized so. So the artist a director decided to offer the English theological librarianship through Central Philippine University, and the students from ASEAN countries received the full scholarship grant from RBC. So, I was fortunate enough that I was given the opportunity to have a two months Internship Program, or, or library Exchange Visitor at Columbia, Jen bolo compare library and the supervision of Dr. Kelly compare at Decatur, Georgia. I was there for two months. And I learned a lot from that staff of Dr can be, like, Pam, Tammy Tammy that acquisition and acquiring of library sciences, as well as that processing and preservation of our types of materials.

Carisse Berryhill 45:45
Are you, are there other librarians at some probing universities who are also working in the theological, are you kind of the theological library and.

Cynthia Peleña 46:01
Yes, I’m, I’m, I’m sad to say that our graduate English theological, the first graduate our librarian transferred to a public school because of that higher salary offered to the library and now our I assign another labor ion but he’s now taking units as one of the requirements that theological librarians requirement that students must have completed a degree of theology or equivalent. And for non theology graduates. They are required to take 21 units of theological courses so one of my librarians is now taking units. The requirements.

Carisse Berryhill 46:51
Yes. So you, you are facing one, a competitive environment where people who might be qualified can can make more money somewhere else. And two, there is a fairly high requirement for a person to be designated as a theological II buried because they have to have a theological credential under that. Yes. Yeah. Yes, that’s, that’s a very, you know that’s a very developed system accrediting system that places a fairly high demand on, on, on youth in for an accredited problem. That’s very interesting. Um, I think we have time for a couple of questions. And I don’t know what questions on them I have picked up. I’ve seen one question come through on the chat, which I think may or may or may not apply to you equally but the question is, how do you see your role as an educator and I think the. I think the question, presumes that you are interacting with theological students.
yourselves. So I would think that you would answer that sort of differently. Yesan, why don’t you speak to that question a little bit in your own setting.

Yesan Sellan  48:21
My role as an educator.

Carisse Berryhill  48:24
Yes. How much, how much do you work directly with the theological students themselves as an educator. Yes,

Yesan Sellan  48:32
the beginning of every academic year. We have a course offered on research, writing skills or research methodology program. It’s a team, taught course and where I’m also involved with the students as to how the library resources can are identified and located and used, and so on. And apart from the first module. And I have a series of meetings with the students at the beginning of every course, either personal meeting or the teacher tutor who takes the class and invites me to offer some sort of help to the students in terms of finding resources and use, and so on, including like strategies to be used or employed to locate information and so on. That’s been really helpful for me as a librarian I find myself that I could give more than what I sit and just to give a book and take it back, but to understand the research and needs of the students on a very personal level, especially for the thesis. Writing students. The research scholars, and also the faculty members who are involved in writing projects, and they also have, you know, meetings with me. systematically to get my help, as to how the library could help them in their writing projects and research works and I found it very very helpful and learn to know about their needs, wore very personally, and also to strategize myself or develop my library towards meeting those specific needs. It’s been a really a collaborative effort I see myself as a team player team member, as part of the core faculty members there.

Carisse Berryhill  50:29
Thank you. I have a question here that came in for Matina, which is with the huge number of different collections that you have. What kind of classification system do you use to manage such a diverse collection.
We do not use any of the standard classification schemes such as DDC or LC, but we have invested ourselves in our subject catalog which is very extensive that's our classification. That's how we organize our collection.

A little bit more about how the subject catalog is built in how it is accessible to your users.

It's accessible, of course through to our users through the through our online catalog. It's possible to search for various subjects subject terms geographic terms, languages and and other types of searching capabilities. We invest ourselves. Of course to always update it and to maintain it and develop it. But, yes, as far as I know that has been our main investment, I'm not really sure if we had a classification system in the past we might have, we, as far as I know we have, we do use DDC at one point, but now arc, ar n. That helped that was that was the way the collection was organized also on the shelves. But now it's not used anymore.

So are the shelves, open for users or the librarians, find materials and bring them to the request.

Yeah, the shows are not open to users. We. Everything is basically located in the, in the basements and one needs an assistance from a librarian to access the resources so we deliver all of the materials to our users. Yeah, we do have a collection of journals that is available on the shelves and the reading group, but that's just journals and and reference materials some reference materials but the majority of the collection is not accessible to users.

So how is it arranged in the, in the basement area. Is it accession numbers.
Matina Ćurić 53:20

Yes, accession numbers. Yes, yes, yes, for the, for the monographs, but for the journals, we have our own special. Call numbers. Yes. Do you remember the the the term in English, yes we have a special call number. Yes, yes, yes. Special call numbers, and they’re sorted according to call numbers.

Carisse Berryhill 53:52

So here’s another question that has come in which says, and I think this applies as much as Cynthia but it might apply to Yesan, which is if you don’t have a written development policy. And you have limited resources as everyone does even the largest libraries have limits. How do you balance the demands say of some users over against others I mean what’s your, what’s your sense of how to move toward areas that are being developed, as opposed to moving toward areas which may develop in the future.

Yesan Sellan 54:35

Thank you, Carisse I was waiting for this question in fact. While there is no written collection development policy. But there is a common understanding among our department faculty and hecho DS, and the library that we try to streamline our budget allocations on need basis. So the priority goes for the academic course offerings. And for the thesis, writing students. Now, while the budget allocation is, most of the time is limited. But, but if it is very essential and sometimes we, our institution relaxes its budget allocation, which becomes a core acquisition activity. Wherever is possible. We were able to network with the local libraries in our city to see our students have access to those resources, when it is rarely used or, you know, the books, or resources that we don’t frequently use them. So we try to get those resources, either through interlibrary loan from local libraries, we have a very good network in Bangalore city. There are about 18 colleges 18 seminaries or theological institutions, both evangelical ecumenical and Protestant Catholic institutions, we have very good network, the librarians. We work closely and support each other’s, you know, needs. When it comes to the collection additions to the library is each institution have a common understanding and say, a particular institution will develop core collections on this particular subject, so we don’t duplicate the titles which are available closely. I mean, local institution so that sense we were able to sort of chuckle and add resources strategically to our library resources.

Carisse Berryhill 56:38

Thank you so much. Before we close which I think we are very near the end of our time. I wanted to mention this book which has just come out from Atla Open Press. Matina edited
this first volume and is organizing a series of handbooks for theological librarians who are working in areas where they might have access to additional professional development. This first volume in the handbook series is called an introduction to theological libraries, and besides having a couple of general chapters on. What's the theological libraries are and theological librarianship is a career path. Then there are chapters about theological libraries around the world and by cop kind of by continent or region. There's a chapter on Africa, a chapter on Australia, New Zealand, chapter on central Western Europe chapter on Eastern Europe and Central Asia, chapter on Latin America, on theological libraries in North America, theological libraries in North Asia and then theological libraries in South Asian. So, these, this has just come out it is available as an open access volume from ajla open press, and it is the first of a series of volumes. But the next one that's coming off is been Matina what is the next volume in preparation right now.

Matina Ćurić 58:08
The next volume in preparation is administration in theological libraries and it should be published next year in June.

Carisse Berryhill 58:15
That's being edited by Andrew Keck, isn't it.

Matina Ćurić 58:18
Yes, yes and a third volume will be on collection development. Wonderful.

Carisse Berryhill 58:25
Wonderful. So this is the wonderful thing about this is that these are not only available you know if you want to print on demand you can have a book in your hand. But these are available as digital books, and they are completely free to download and use worldwide. So I think, I think this will be a great contribution to just theological librarianship education in general, I think we're out of time. Ana, have you got something to tell us here as we close out.

Ana Cackley 58:58
I do yes thank you. Thank you so much to our moderator and all of our panelists today. We really appreciate your time. And thank you all so much to everyone who has attended today. Just as a reminder, we this has been recorded so that'll be going out probably
within the next couple of days, and we want to thank you all for joining us for theological libraries month, this October. Have a great day everyone.

Carisse Berryhill  59:26
Thank you. Thank you, Martina, thank you Yesan.

Matina Ćurić  59:29
Thank you all for coming. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Yesan Sellan  59:38
Thank you.

Cynthia Peleña  59:39
Yes, thank you. Thank you.

Matina Ćurić  59:42
Thank you. Bye everyone. Good bye, bye,

Cynthia Peleña  59:47
bye Matina.