Conference Program
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Welcome from the Conference Committee and Atla Staff

Seventy-five years ago, when at the 1946 biennial meeting of the American Association of Theological Schools the foundation was laid for the organization that would become the Atla, the founders could never have imagined a global pandemic would disrupt our annual gathering decades later. Much has changed since the first gathering of fifty theological librarians in June of 1947: our membership now includes many colleagues working outside of seminary library settings and outside the North American context. What has not changed is that we still strive “to bring [our] members into closer working relations with each other” (“Proposed Constitution [of the American Theological Library Association],” 1947). Despite our distance, we still hold space for colleagues from across the world to come together and share in an experience that deepens our collegial bonds and professional wisdom.

After a year which has included working from locations other than our libraries, working in new and different ways, and a range of feelings from stress and sadness to, hopefully, moments of joy, we once again find ourselves gathering online. We hope that you are even more familiar with video conferencing platforms than you were a year ago, just as we have gained more confidence and expertise in planning and hosting a conference exclusively online!

As in previous years, this year’s Atla Annual will contain some of your favorites: three plenary addresses which provoke new ideas and inspire different ways of connecting with our work; time to gather and catch up with friends and exhibitors alike; thirty-nine concurrent sessions ranging from conversation groups to paper sessions on a wide variety of topics from information literacy to collection development to scholarly communication; and ways to engage with one another more deeply through interest and denominational group meetings in the weeks immediately following the conference. Revived this year we are thrilled to offer pre-conference sessions on Monday, June 14. Four different pre-conferences will explore themes of leadership, digital scholarship, information literacy, and instructional design.

This year’s virtual format will again allow us to safely gather with even more colleagues in a truly global conference. An added benefit of our virtual setting is that we are able to record sessions and offer them after the conference has concluded as on-demand professional development. These recordings will be helpful for those who attended to re-visit and refer to colleagues who could not attend Atla.

Thank you for your flexibility and participation as we once again find ourselves in a virtual learning space. We are so happy that you are joining us! We are also so grateful to our presenters and exhibitors who help to make the conference such an enriching experience for all. We want to extend our gratitude to the Atla staff who have explored ways to make a second virtual conference even more rewarding over this past year. Their perseverance and creativity are translated into each and every conference component. Likewise, the Conference Committee has carefully considered session proposals, conference structure, workflows for decision making, and the safety of all conference participants. We are grateful for the deliberative way in which the committee helped to shape all aspects of this year’s conference.

While we wish we could see each and every one of you in person, we hope that you are as excited as we are for the collective learning and networking experience we have worked so hard to craft! We are even more excited for the prospect of seeing so many of you in person at next year’s conference in Baltimore, MD. Have a fabulous conference everyone!

Gillian Harrison Cain, Director of Member Programs

Megan E. Welsh, Conference Committee Chair
## Pre-Conferences and Other Events

### Pre-Conference Workshops — Monday, June 14

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>XML/TEI Workshop: Learn How to Encode Documents and Contribute to the Wesley Works Digital Edition</td>
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<td>Improving Digital Literacy in Academic Libraries: Integrating Visitor-Resident Typology Maps in Information Literacy Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>De-Centering Self in Instructional Design: Learning from and Building with Each Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Strategic Planning: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly</td>
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### Thursday, June 17

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<td>9:00 am - 9:30 am</td>
<td>President's Welcome for New Members and First-Time Attendees (Invitation only)</td>
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<td>5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>President's Welcome for New Members and First-Time Attendees (Invitation only)</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Lunch 12:45-1:15</td>
<td>Vendor Social Hour</td>
<td>Unlocking Manuscript Collections</td>
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<td>1:15</td>
<td>Career Transitions</td>
<td>Sunday Sounds</td>
<td>Making Use of your LMS for Student Staff Training &amp; Support</td>
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<td>1:30</td>
<td>Atla Research Tools Update</td>
<td>Vendor Social Hour</td>
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<td>2:00</td>
<td>Small Theological Libraries as Place</td>
<td>Implementing Antiracism in Technical Services</td>
<td>I'm Writing a Sermon</td>
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<td>2:15</td>
<td>Atla Research Tools Update</td>
<td>P and/or E: That Is (Still) the Question (Or Is It?)</td>
<td>Seventy-Five Years of Racial Ethnic Diversity in Atla</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
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<td>Atla Business Meeting &amp; Association Update</td>
<td>NACO/SACO/CONSER</td>
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<td>Reclassification for the Chinese Theological Collection</td>
<td>How Theological Librarians Can Help Change the World</td>
<td>Plenary - Dr. Elias Ortega 2:30-3:30; Closing 3:30-3:45</td>
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<td>3:30</td>
<td>Online Content in International Languages for Religious Education</td>
<td>An Open Door for New Ideas: Open Access Publishing</td>
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<td>3:45</td>
<td>Building Trust: Understanding Users</td>
<td>Maintaining Service while Sheltering in Place: SCATLA</td>
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Conference Session Details

Monday, June 14 (Pre-Conference Workshops)

10:00 am-12:00 pm

XML/TEI Workshop: Learn How to Encode Documents and Contribute to the Wesley Works Digital Edition

Michelle M. Taylor, University of South Florida – Tampa, Continuing Instructor

Andrew Keck, Southern Methodist University, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Assistant to the Dean

DESCRIPTION:

In this session, in many ways a follow-up to last year’s Atla session, "Proposing a TEI-encoding Project for the Wesley Works," we will introduce participants to the principles of text encoding using the Guidelines of the Text-Encoding Initiative, a subset of XML. While last year we discussed the rationale for using TEI to create a digital version of the Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley, as well as our plans for orchestrating such a large-scale project, this year we will offer introductory, hands-on training in TEI. Alternating between short presentations and guided encoding exercises, we will begin with the basics of text encoding common to any TEI project, then explain and exemplify more advanced principles by demonstrating how the Wesley Works Digital Edition, specifically, has adopted and sometimes adapted them. Conference participants will want to attend this workshop if they have an interest in learning how to encode documents of any kind in TEI, and especially so if they have an interest in getting involved in the encoding of the Wesley Works Digital Edition. We will end the session with a discussion of the ways such involvement is possible.

Improving Digital Literacy in Academic Libraries: Integrating Visitor-Resident Typology Maps in Information Literacy Courses

Marta Samokishyn, Saint Paul University, Collection Development Librarian

Victoria Tsonos, Saint Paul University, Head of User Services Librarian

DESCRIPTION:

When designing information literacy instruction, librarians often rely on assumptions about their students’ information-seeking behaviors and skills proficiency. This workshop will present a unique application of David White’s visitor-resident typology map to identify students' information-seeking behavior online and improve the IL course design in order to reach the students effectively. The presenters will offer an
overview of White’s visitor-resident typology mapping exercise and examine how these maps can be used in credit-bearing information literacy courses. Through the analysis of students’ reflections as well as their maps, the workshops will demonstrate how students’ digital literacy skills can evolve throughout the semester and how their critical self-reflections can foster a new understanding of their own information behaviors. The attendees will have a chance to create their own visitor-resident typology maps and share them in the group. Through this activity, the attendees will learn to foster qualitative change in students’ learning with regard to their online information-seeking behaviors. Thus, this workshop will offer insight into how librarians can apply this method in their respective institutions to examine students’ use of digital sources through a visual representation of their behavior online. The presenters will conclude this workshop by providing best practices and recommendations for implementing typology mapping in different contexts as part of a critical digital literacy curriculum and its unique integration into the course assignment design.

12:30 pm-2:30 pm

De-Centering Self in Instructional Design: Learning from and Building with Each Other

Christopher Lopez, UCLA Library, Public Services Assistant
Renee Romero, UCLA Library, Science & Engineer Librarian

DESCRIPTION:

Theological education in particular, and Western Higher Education in general, have been haunted and shaped by colonialism. These colonial educational spaces too often produce a pedagogical model where the instructor or institution is centered, pushing learners into a voiceless, passive margin. What role does the theological library play in renouncing Whiteness and cultivating an ecology of learning that celebrates epistemological plurality and promotes a reciprocity of teachable moments?

This workshop will first initiate a conversation on the theological origins of Whiteness and the colonial imagination, leading to a collaborative discussion with attendants on where they see Whiteness at work in their libraries. After sharing brief conversations on the answers participants come up with, we will share a collaborative, learner-centered approach to instructional resource design practiced by a team of librarians and student workers at the UCLA Library called Writing Instruction and Research Education Team (WI+RE). WI+RE creates open online learning resources, such as videos, worksheets, and interactive tutorials, that address research, reading, and writing challenges. The last segment of this session will share how WI+RE’s implementation of learner-centered design philosophy can be seen as a workable model for fostering an instructional embrace of community and an institutional climate of belonging. While the “WI+RE Way” is an ongoing, communal practice, I will work with the audience on the initial steps of the process, which give a sense of how we practically center the learner and renounce values of Whiteness and the colonial imagination. All that is shared during this session falls under creative commons.
Strategic Planning: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Siong Ng, Carey Baptist College, Library Manager
Dr. Kelly Campbell, Columbia Theological Seminary, Associate Dean of Information Services, Director of the John Bulow Campbell Library
Matthew Ostercamp, North Park University, Library Director, Brandel Library

DESCRIPTION:

Do you struggle with strategic planning? Curious how a strategic plan can help you survive and thrive through the unexpected? Want to learn how to align your staff’s work around common goals? If so, you will want to attend this pre-conference workshop. The workshop will cover key aspects of creating a library strategic plan that connects with your institution’s mission, values, and strategic plan and sets your library up for success in your context. We plan to use breakout rooms to give participants a chance to brainstorm and problem solve case studies together. You will leave the workshop with examples and hands-on experience with developing a strategic plan.

Wednesday, June 16

PLENARY

Well Done is Better than Well Said: Benjamin Franklin as a DEIA Model for Higher Education

Alexia Hudson-Ward, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries, Associate Director of Research and Learning

Alexia Hudson-Ward is considered one of the information professions' leading diversity practitioners. Her past roles include serving as the Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries for Oberlin College and Conservatory, a Penn State University tenured librarian, an award-winning entertainment editor, a public radio promotions coordinator, and a Coca-Cola Company marketing manager. She has published multiple book chapters and research articles on a wide range of diversity-related topics.
Libraries and White Supremacy: Thoughts Around the Campfire

Matthew Ostercamp, North Park University, Library Director

DESCRIPTION:

Shortly after the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020, I came across the 1872 painting American Progress. In this painting, westward expansion is being led by a large floating white woman with a school book in one arm and telegraph wires in the other. The indigenous inhabitants of the west cower before this apparition. It is indeed a haunting image. In this paper, I explore the legacy of enlightenment constructs of civilized/savage in the operations of academic libraries and explore in the writings of Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, an indigenous alternative to knowledge preservation and transmission.

Oil, Earth, Books, and Holy Spirit: Theological Institutions, Libraries, and the Role of Environmental Sustainability

Anthony J. Elia, Director and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian, Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology, Bridwell Library

DESCRIPTION:

In 2016, David Todd and Jonathan Ogren published 'The Texas Landscape Project: Nature and People,' an expansive look at the natural history, ecology, and environmental justice of the state. Over 500 pages, the work includes an array of stunning photographs related to five areas where nature and the human meet: land, water, air, energy, and the built world. This holistic vision, distilled in the particular climates, topographies, and physical geographies of Texas, reflects both the concerns and hopes about the general stewardship and sustainability of natural resources. In this respect, perhaps there is no more significant place than the Dallas-Fort Worth region, which boasts both a history of abundant oilfields and a future of the country’s largest natural gas reserves in the Barnett Shale. Theological schools and libraries like Perkins and Bridwell continue to benefit from these and other historical investments, thus tying the operations, functionality, and overall existence of many such institutions to the land and the ways in which human actors have used the land. In the last few years, the focus on environmental sustainability has grown along with more critical understandings of institutional roles in renewable energy. As theological institutions, then, it will become ever more pressing to evaluate not simply questions about what our ties are to the past, but what visions there are for the future. This paper will examine the ambiguities of environmental legacies and justice while discussing what roles theological schools and libraries have in strategizing for coming generations.
Framing and Painting the Library: Mapping Existing Instruction, Services, and Practices to Established Standards

Elizabeth Young Miller, Information Literacy and Seminary Liaison Librarian, Moravian College and Moravian Seminary

DESCRIPTION:

Learn how Moravian’s seminary liaison librarian utilizes existing frames and standards to map to the seminary’s curriculum and existing services in order to paint a complete picture of all the library offers. Using lessons learned from mapping the curriculum of the MATS program to the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, the current curriculum mapping iteration has expanded to focus on courses required across degree programs. The curriculum mapping across degree programs not only provides ideas on how to scaffold library instruction but also serves as a stepping stone for mapping instruction and library services to the ATS standards. Framing the library’s relationship to the ATS standards can be used to generate conversations with seminary faculty and administrators, especially as the institution searches for a new dean. Come and hear how you might be able to implement something similar at your institution to facilitate meaningful dialog with your constituents and promote all that your library has to offer.

12:15 pm-12:45 pm

The Unique Contributions of the Theological Librarian in Campus-Wide Programs of Faith Integration

Elizabeth Leahy, Professor, Theological Bibliography and Research, Azusa Pacific Seminary, Azusa Pacific University

DESCRIPTION:

Many Christian colleges and universities have academic programs which emphasize “faith and learning” or “faith integration.” Campuses vary in their requirements, but many tie a formal written paper into the faculty advancement process. The religious or theological studies librarian can have a unique role in assisting faculty across the disciplines to develop a better awareness of theological writings and resources that might reflect concepts within their discipline. This session will highlight the work that has been done at Azusa Pacific University – including resource instruction in new faculty workshops, one-on-one mentoring of faculty colleagues, development of a research collection, integrative coursework, and monthly reading groups. The session will conclude with an opportunity to share ideas and resources to strengthen these programs at our campuses with one another.
Service to the Community: Listen and Learn with Mona Kafeel, the Executive Director of the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

Mona Kafeel, Executive Director, Texas Muslim Women's Foundation
Beth Kumar, Learning and User Experience Librarian, Graduate Theological Union Library

DESCRIPTION:
Join the World Religions Interest Group in listening to Mona Kafeel speak about how the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation supports all women and their families. About Mona: Mona Kafeel has dedicated her life and career to being a change maker. She currently serves as Executive Director at Texas Muslim Women's Foundation Inc. (TMWF), a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women and their families through multifaceted programs. She is instrumental in creating domestic violence shelters that are trauma-informed and culturally specific. Her extensive work with the grassroots community has led her to serve on multiple advisory boards, including the Asian Advisory Committee to Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and the Public Policy Commission of Texas Council on Family Council. The policy team researches, works, and eventually crafts the legislative agenda pertaining to intimate partner violence to ensure that survivor voices are included. Mona also serves on the Senior Advisory Board for senior citizens to the Mayor of the City of Plano. In this capacity, she advises the city council on the issues that are important to seniors living in Plano. She led a youth-led initiative in high schools across Dallas to educate /prevent teen violence. Mona created the Environmental Education Program for children in Plano ISD schools. At Texas Interfaith, she led the development of community programs serving at-risk children, seniors, and unemployed adults. A frequent presenter on diversity and inclusion, she has been training Dallas Fire Dept. new employees for the past 5 years on DEI.


Christa Strickler, Associate Professor of Library Science, Wheaton College

DESCRIPTION:
Wikidata, a community-curated knowledge base related to Wikipedia, affects our access to information, wielding more power than many realize. Seeing an opportunity for improving access to knowledge and promoting their collections, libraries, archives, and other cultural heritage institutions have been experimenting with Wikidata in various ways. One burgeoning area of activity is in Wikidata's scholarly citation data, but that participation has largely concentrated in the sciences, leaving a gap in its theological and religious studies coverage. Learn about how this gap matters to you and your institutions and how you can contribute to efforts to fill it, even in small ways. Delving into Wikidata can be intimidating, but it doesn’t have to be. As long as you have basic computer skills, you can find a way to participate. In addition to open Q&A, this presentation will include conversations with the audience about overcoming barriers to Wikidata participation and to gauge interest in a Wikidata learning group and/or collaboration on projects of interest to Atla members.
Sunday Sounds: Preserving the Radio Ministry of Brooklyn's Bethany Baptist Church

Colleen Bradley-Sanders, College Archivist, Brooklyn College

DESCRIPTION:

This presentation will discuss how the Brooklyn College Archives sought to preserve the audio-visual portion of one of its collections: that of the Rev. Dr. William Augustus Jones, Jr. The pastor of Brooklyn’s Bethany Baptist Church, Jones was a significant figure in the African-American community in Brooklyn. He was active in the Civil Rights movement and a contemporary of Martin Luther King, Jr., with whom he co-founded the Progressive National Baptist Convention. Jones was in demand as a preacher both locally and around the world. In the mid-1970s, he was approached by a New Jersey radio station with an offer to have his Sunday sermons broadcast in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut markets. He accepted, and the broadcasts, promoted as The Bethany Hour, continued for over twenty years. The collection donated to the Brooklyn College Archives contains cassette recordings of several hundred of these sermons, as well as video recordings from the program’s short time on broadcast television. With no playback equipment for patrons, and concerns about the physical integrity of the recordings, the archives decided to digitize the materials, which would not only preserve them but allow the Archives to make them available to local patrons, as well as researchers anywhere in the world. With a tight budget and no digitization expertise on staff, the archives applied for and won a Council on Library and Information Resources Recordings-at-Risk grant to digitize the entire collection. Despite some delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project will be made available to the public by the end of March 2021.

Career Transitions: Theological Librarians and Moves to Non-Theological Libraries

Beth M. Sheppard, Professor, University of West Georgia

DESCRIPTION:

How seamless are career transitions for theological librarians between schools that have religious affiliations and public schools or other secular library settings? The main differences of various types of libraries are highlighted. A schematic will be supplied to assist those considering potential moves to determine how far apart their current setting is from any given employment opportunity they might be considering. Perspectives and experience theological librarians may bring to non-theological positions are highlighted. Pros and cons of these types of changes, learned from the presenter’s career that has so far spanned four very different types of libraries, are disclosed. Participants will be invited to share stories and insights related to their own career moves and dreams.
**Atla Research Tools Update**

Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development, Atla  
Maria Stanton, Director, Content Production, Atla  
Gregg Taylor, Licensing Manager, Atla  
Jill Annitto, Editorial Manager, Atla

**DESCRIPTION:**

Want to learn what’s new with Atla’s research tools? Hear about the latest content additions and infrastructure updates included in Atla Religion Database® (Atla RDB®) — the premier index in all fields of religion, as well as AtlaSerials® (Atlas®), and AtlaSerials PLUS® (Atlas PLUS®) — the go-to full-text collections of journals in diverse areas of religion and theology. This session will include a 20-minute presentation by Atla Staff, followed by 10 minutes of interactive Q&A with Atla’s team of product experts.

2:00 pm-2:50 pm

**Small Theological Libraries as Place**

Susan Ebertz, Associate Professor & Director for the Library, Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Vance Thomas, Director of the Library, Central Baptist Theological Seminary (KS)  
Kris Veldheer, Director of the Paul Bechtold Library, Catholic Theological Union

**DESCRIPTION:**

The idea of “library as place” has become challenged/problematized because of two concurrent realities — the pandemic and the growing popularity of online instructional delivery. These two realities have aggravated longstanding questions about the status of small theological libraries already struggling with limited personnel and resources. How can we envision the “theological library as place” in such a way that we can revalue physical space while also orienting and guiding the development of virtual spaces? After speakers have shared concepts and resources, participants will be broken up into small groups to discuss experiences, including challenges and successes, and may focus on either physical place or virtual place.
P and/or E: That Is (Still) the Question (Or Is It?): Collection Development in a Post-pandemic World

David Schmersal, Access and Instruction Librarian, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Juliana Morley, Head of Public Services, Liaison Librarian for Talbot School of Theology
Steve Perisho, Theology and Philosophy Librarian, Seattle Pacific University

DESCRIPTION:
While the question of whether to choose the print and/or electronic format of a given title is certainly not new, the circumstances in which we are making such decisions have changed, prompting many of us to reconsider collection development priorities. If, as seems likely, the changes accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic—offering many if not all classes online, enabling many students and staff to work remotely—represent a watershed, prioritizing e-books and other electronic resources is a logical response. Of course, not everything is available electronically, so how can we make print-only sources available to students who do not have physical access to the library? Conversely, what about our print collections? When and why might one still prefer print, even when it is not substantially cheaper, or the only option? How might we continue to serve patrons who only have access to our print collections, such as alumni and local clergy, if we are acquiring most of our new resources electronically? Join us for a guided discussion of these and related questions. A panel of our colleagues will share their strategies for providing access to print-exclusive content, as well as their decision-making processes, identifying criteria they use in determining whether print or digital format is more suitable for a given title and sharing factors that inform such decisions. We will also reserve time for our participants to share their own experiences and observations, as well as questions, for the benefit of all in the session.

Implementing Antiracism in Technical Services

Leslie A. Engelson, Metadata Librarian, Waterfield Library, Murray State University
Brinna Michael, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University
Caitlin Soma, Acquisitions, Serials, and Assessment Librarian, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University

DESCRIPTION:
It is a sad reality that racist bias is inherent in cataloging standards and collection development practices. Ibram X. Kendi states in his book "How to Be an Antiracist" that it’s not enough to be “not racist” and that the opposite of racism is antiracism. Whether innate racism in cataloging and collection development practices is intentional or not, Technical Service librarians can be intentional about combatting it. This panel will present three antiracist projects implemented to address racism in collection development and classification. Leslie Engelson will discuss an effort initiated by the music faculty to determine the representation of BIPOC in the music score collection at Waterfield Library.
Brinna Michael will demonstrate how racist language is represented in the Library of Congress Classification schedule and discuss her efforts at Pitts Theology Library to update call numbers. Finally, Caitlin Soma will discuss a diversity audit of the books assigned on the course reserve at Candler School of Theology to identify potential collection gaps and to encourage faculty to develop curricula that include more diverse voices.

3:15 pm-3:45 pm

How Theological Librarians Can Help Change the World: Addressing Knowledge and Gender Gaps in the World’s Largest Encyclopedia

Kerrie Burn, Library Manager, University of Divinity, Mannix Library

DESCRIPTION:

The 1000 Women in Religion Project, a major initiative of the AAR/SBL’s Women’s Caucus, is working to add 1000 biographies about women (broadly defined) to Wikipedia, where only 18% of entries are about women. Knowledge and gender gaps on Wikipedia are well-documented and exist despite the platform’s idealistic early goal of providing “free access to the sum of all human knowledge.” My participation to date has included committee membership and coordinating the Australian contribution to the project, which has been a collaborative initiative under the auspices of the University of Divinity. This paper tells the story of the Australian Women in Religion Project, which is working with a list of 400+ women and associated biographical data. The template developed by the Australian project can now be used as a model for similar projects in other parts of the world. Initially, becoming familiar with Wikipedia and Wikidata was a steep learning curve, as was coming to grips with the platform’s policies around notability, reliability, and conflict of interest. Working collaboratively with an international group has been a valuable experience. There is also the sense of satisfaction gained from working on such a worthwhile project, which, as well as raising up noteworthy women in religion, is a practical way of addressing systemic knowledge and gender bias issues on platforms like Wikipedia. Theological librarians are well-placed to contribute. As well as having subject expertise related to the world’s religious and spiritual traditions, they also understand the importance of accurate metadata, unique identifiers, and other international standards. They are used to working collaboratively, navigating in an online environment, and can identify and accurately cite reliable secondary sources. Because theological librarians have the skills required to access information, conduct independent research, and develop new content, they are encouraged to contribute to the project.
Reclassification for the Chinese Theological Collection

Josella Chan, Bilingual Librarian, Melbourne School of Theology

DESCRIPTION:

John Searle Library at Melbourne School of Theology has the Chinese Theological Collection for Chinese students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The collection contains 18,000 items, including General Collection, Reference Collection, and AV Collation. It was classified with Pettee Classification. The Chinese Department found that Pettee Classification might not accommodate items with new theological concepts and subjects. They recommended the bilingual librarian investigate the reclassification of the entire Chinese Theological Collection. After investigation and discussion, the librarian proposed to reclassify the entire Chinese collection to the Library of Congress and submitted an implementation plan. The developed proposal was approved in October 2020. The project was implemented by the librarian in November 2020. It is expected to be completed before the commencement of the new semester (2021). This paper discusses the decision of reclassification and the choice of a classification scheme for the Chinese Theological Collection in a theological library. It also will describe the implementation, review the results, and discuss what lessons we have learned from this project.

Online Content in International Languages for Religious Education (DIGITALIA)

Xavier Claret, Director, DIGITALIA, INC.

DESCRIPTION:

We will provide an overview of the e-resources available across our academic databases (e-books, e-journals, and streaming video).

Social Hour (Remo Platform) 3:45 pm-4:30 pm

Today’s Social Hour will begin with a quick overview of the Remo platform, acquainting attendees with the platform, and then there will be time for open socializing.
PLENARY

Dr. Safiya Noble

Dr. Safiya Noble is the author of the highly acclaimed *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism* (NYU Press) which was a New York Public Library 2018 Best Book for Adults and recognized by Bustle as one of “10 Books about Race to Read Instead of Asking a Person of Color to Explain Things to You”. She is currently an Associate Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); she also holds appointments in African American Studies and Gender Studies. She has been quoted in The Guardian, the BBC, CNN International, USA Today, Wired, Time, Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, The New York Times, and Virginia Public Radio, and a host of local news and podcasts. In her talks and research, she focuses on the ways that digital media impacts our lives and intersects with issues of race, gender, culture, and technology.

11:15 am-11:45 am

There and Back Again (Almost), or One Library's Staff's Journey through A Major Construction Project

Timothy D. Lincoln, Library Director, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Kristy Sorensen, Associate Library Director, Archivist and Records Manager, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
John Vinke, Systems and Metadata Librarian, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Mandy Deen, Learning Technologies Librarian, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
David Schmersal, Access and Instruction Librarian, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

DESCRIPTION:

How does a major construction project affect the tasks and mindset of library staff members? What aspects of one school’s experience resonate with the circumstances of other schools? This session has three parts. First, presenters will provide an overview of the journey of the library staff of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as they helped design a major renovation, vacated a building, stored 90,000 books, moved into temporary quarters, and continued library services — in addition to helping the Seminary make a sharp pivot from face-
to-face teaching to distance education. Second, staff will reflect on lessons learned for their specific areas of work. Third, attendees will ask questions and discuss the intricacies of continuing to serve library users during the disruptions caused by construction.

A Collaborative Future within Atla: How Theological Libraries Must Work Together in the Digital Age

Richard Manly Adams, Director, Pitts Theology Library

DESCRIPTION:

In the foreword to the 2006 Atla open-access volume ‘A Broadening Conversation,’ Simeon Daly notes, “ATLA has been a catalyst for establishing collaborative projects.” Daly identifies several examples of this collaborative spirit, offering Atla members a heritage to be proud of. Given changes in academic structures in the years since Daly wrote, changes accelerated by the pandemic, a re-evaluation of and renewed invitation to this ideal of collaboration is needed. Cross-institutional collaboration is more important than ever, not only needed for the growth of impact of collections and research, but rather vital for the survival of our institutions and the promotion of our vocational ethos. Fortunately, new technologies afford greater opportunities for collaboration across libraries. So, how are we doing as a collaborative organization? In this paper, I approach this question in two parts. The first part of the paper is descriptive. I highlight some of the past collaborations between theological libraries, many fostered by Atla, and identify their origins and outcomes. I then consider present projects that involve multiple theological libraries working together. The bulk of the paper, though, is prescriptive, calling for theological libraries to work together in the digital age and suggesting ways that this may work. As the roles for, perceptions about, and budgets of libraries undergo dramatic change, I call for increased collaboration in a few key areas of work and invite reflection on what role our professional organization may play in our work together.

Transparency Teaching Theological Research

Garrett Trott, University Librarian, Corban University

DESCRIPTION:

In higher education, transparency is critical. Transparency is simply a process that enables students to see the connection between what you are teaching and what they want to learn (ideally, this is identical to the course or session objectives). Transparency can also aid the teacher by empowering them to focus their content solely on content that aligns with course objectives. In non-educational contexts, transparency is seen as critical. For example, transparency is often related to financial investments: before investors pledge funding to an organization, they want to know how that money will be spent. As students are investing in their higher education, likewise, prior to investing funding and time in a course or a program, students want to know how their investment of time will pay off. While the critical dynamic of transparency has impacted many of our institutions of higher education, many questions still remain. One question is: What does transparency look like for teaching theological research? Instructional design can play a critical role in aiding instructional transparency. This session will provide an
overview of instructional design, showing how it can be used as a framework for transparency for teaching theological research. Theological research can be taught in a variety of contexts, and how transparency is implemented can vary depending on context. Transparency not only aids the student in knowing what is taught but can also be a tremendous benefit to the instructor. Transparency, through instructional design, aids the instructor by enabling them to know what is being taught and why it is being taught, and subsequently enables them to confirm that the means of instruction is the best venue for this. This presentation will provide examples of what transparency can look like for theological librarianship in both a one-shot library instruction session and a full three-credit course.

12:00 pm-12:30 pm

Open Access Religion Resources for Your Students

Jeff Siemon, Electronic Resources Librarian, Anderson University, Nicholson Library

DESCRIPTION:

Open Access (OA) journal collections can add diversity and breadth to your library’s theological resources. We’ll review and recommend some OA collections for quality, ease of implementation, and indexing. We’ll consider OA materials from regions and language. What are some ways to search for and select OA collections? There will be time for questions and sharing experiences.

Join Us To Hear What’s New With EBSCO

Mike Crowe, Regional Sales Manager, EBSCO

DESCRIPTION:

EBSCO supports the research needs of students and faculty in the study of religion with our eBook Collection and Archive resources. Join us to hear how EBSCO can help you as we navigate these challenging times together!

Accessibility is in the Eye of the Beholder: Creating a More Accessible Library

Kenneth Litwak, Reference and Instructional Services Librarian, Gateway Seminary

DESCRIPTION:

Much has been written about the importance of accessibility. This is both an issue of helping patrons and providing inclusivity and equity for those with disabilities. All patrons, regardless of physical ability, should be able to access library resources. Unfortunately, often the decisions about accessibility are made by those who do not need accommodations due to a disability. Therefore, library staff may be unaware of ways
in which the library may be inadvertently less than fully accessible for all patrons. This presentation looks at some common areas where accessibility needs to be considered. This will cover three areas: physical spaces and signage, tools for accessing library resources, and considerations for library websites. Each portion will examine possible problems and suggest solutions. The session will include time for audience participants to make suggestions regarding accommodations or describe their own experiences in seeking a more accessible library.

12:45 pm-1:45 pm

**Vendor Virtual Social**

**DESCRIPTION:**

Our exhibitor partners are an important part of the Atla community and we’re pleased to announce that several of them will be joining us online. During the Vendor Virtual Social, we encourage you to visit with them and play our reimagined Passport Program to be entered into a prize drawing.

[Learn how you can win donated prizes, including gift cards, books, and other fun items!](#)

2:00 pm-3:00 pm

**Atla Business Meeting & Association Update**

Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Executive Director, Atla

Stephen Sweeney, Atla Board President; Library Director, St. John Vianney Seminary - Cardinal Stafford Library

Christina Torbert, Atla Board Secretary; Head of Continuing Resources and Acquisitions, Liaison for Phil/Rel, University of Mississippi

**DESCRIPTION:**

During this session, Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer will provide a brief update on the association followed by the recognition of recent retirees and memorials for those in the Atla community who have passed away. The current President of the Board of Directors, Stephen Sweeney, will then conduct the annual business meeting of the Association during which the results of the 2020 election will be
shared and new board members welcomed and outgoing board members will be thanked for their service. Finally, incoming President Christina Torbert will share some thoughts on the upcoming year.

3:15 pm-4:05 pm

**Maintaining Service while Sheltering in Place: How SCATLA Member Libraries Thrived Under the Country’s Most Stringent COVID Lockdown**

Stacie Schmidt, Reference Services Librarian, Biola University

Steve Jung, Circulation Coordinator & Information Specialist II - Reference, Azusa Pacific University

Robin Hartman, Director of Library Services, Hope International University

Alexis Weiss, Reference & Instruction Librarian for Theology, Loyola Marymount University

**DESCRIPTION:**

California has consistently been at the forefront of COVID-19 cases in the United States and thus has had more stringent regulations to slow the curve and save lives. These regulations have had a dramatic impact on academic libraries in Southern California, with many universities conducting online Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. This presentation will include:

- An introduction to California state and county COVID-19 restrictions.
- An overview of how SCATLA (Southern California Theological Library Association) libraries have dealt with the COVID-19 restrictions.
- A deep dive into how several SCATLA libraries - Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, Hope International University, and Loyola Marymount University - implemented creative solutions to support their communities under the COVID-19 restrictions. Issues of budget, instruction, online support, staffing, physical materials vs online materials, mailing services, and space will be discussed in detail.
- Discussion of current COVID-19 related policies & services, one year after the pandemic began.
- Plans for future policies & services in a world affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Building Trust – How Understanding Users Can Lead to Inclusive and Equitable Library Services

Rebecca Donald, Director, University Library Services, Trinity International University
Cindy Lu, Ph.D. candidate, Rutgers University

DESCRIPTION:

The importance of understanding the community a library serves in order to best support their information needs is universally applicable in the library profession. This session introduces two separate research projects examining specific student groups in theological libraries. Rebecca Donald, Director of Library Services at Trinity International University, will share lessons learned from interviewing students of color about their experiences with the library. She’ll discuss listening to understand how the library can be more welcoming and thinking about how librarians can work toward anti-racism. Cindy Lu will discuss her doctoral research on the outsider mentality of theological students from China, whose lived experience of practice and learning in unregistered, underground Christian communities in China informs their complicated interactions and relationships with library staff. She’ll address how librarians can support these students’ academic study, build trusted relationships, and rethink approaches to reference services, front-desk staffing, and library orientations to be more inclusive and equitable. These two studies illustrate the varied demographics of student populations in theological libraries while addressing the common ground of actively taking steps to understand user populations in order to design appropriate services and foster supportive learning environments.

An Open Door for New Ideas: Open Access Publishing Opportunities with Atla Open Press

Christine Fruin, Scholarly Communication and Digital Projects Manager, Atla
Cynthia Snell, Library Director, Columbia International University
Myka Kennedy Stephens, Seminary Librarian, Lancaster Theological Seminary
Garrett Trott, University Librarian, Corban University

DESCRIPTION:

Atla Open Press publishes open access books, journals, and other serials that cover subjects at the intersection of librarianship and religious and theological studies that potentially impact libraries, that guide and support innovative library services, that enhance professional development for religious studies and theological librarians, and that represent specialized topics of interest in religion and theology that are of relevance to libraries. Over the last few years, the program has evolved with the addition of guidelines, policies, and procedures representative of a professional open scholarly press, resulting in an impressive growth and diversity in its output. During this session, the editors in chief of three of Atla Open Press’s publications will speak about recent developments and publications from their area of Atla
Open Press as well as offer guidance on how to edit, peer review, and author with the Press. Additionally, Atla’s Scholarly Communication and Digital Projects Manager will provide a brief overview of open access publishing in librarianship as well as share other resources and opportunities to engage with open access publishing and Atla Open Press.

**Social Hour** (Remo Platform) 4:15 pm-5:00 pm

Today's Social Hour will include a friendly competition and a chance to win prizes, but most importantly, make new connections.

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**Friday June 18**

**10:00 am-10:30 am**

**“Student Needs are Academic Needs” and the Theological Library**

Karl Stutzman, Director of Library Services, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Brandon Board, Information Services & Online Learning Librarian, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

**DESCRIPTION:**

A 2019 research report from Ithaka S+R entitled “Student Needs are Academic Needs” looked at the needs of community college students for academic success and the ways libraries could support them. This study formulated service concepts and ranked them in order of perceived value to students. As theological schools grow the diversity of their student populations, theological libraries are faced with similar challenges to those identified in the report on community colleges. Increasing technology access and incorporating writing services and other academic supports are just some of the ways theological libraries have been called upon to meet student needs. Theological librarians need to consider in particular the needs of historically underserved or disadvantaged populations to maximize academic success and retention. Presenters will indicate some ways they have thought about these issues and invite attendees to think about how the insights from this report could be applied in their respective contexts.
Libraries and Scholars on the Green Path to Open Access: Services, Policies, and Challenges

Matti Myllykoski, Chief Information Specialist, Helsinki University Library

DESCRIPTION:

Golden open access means publishing scholarly articles in journals that are open without costs for all readers. Green open access means secondary publishing of toll access articles in institutional repositories. Thus, it offers scholars a nice possibility to promote open access without giving up their preference of publishing in high-ranking toll-access journals. But what are the real pros and cons of this path to open access publishing culture?

Cracking the Collections Basket (Project MUSE)

Doug Storm, Sales & Library Relations, Project MUSE

Lance Tieperman

DESCRIPTION:

- **A new book sales model**: The Project MUSE Book Custom Collections – which, just as it sounds, allows libraries to come and browse all single book content using BISAC categories to create a unique collection. Titles that may be not have been in our Philosophy & Religion collections due to having a different primary subject designation can now be discovered and purchased.

- You can still buy content in MUSE-created annual **Subject and Area Studies Collections** (such as American Studies, Literature, History, Political Science, Philosophy & Religion, etc.) as well as via participation in our EBA program, or via a third-party vendor like GOBI or OASIS

- And don't forget the **Hermeneia: A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible**!

- We will also discuss “**what's new** in our Journal Collections” as well as detail journals that are not included in collections.

- Resources for Instructors – **MUSE in Focus**

- **Open Access on MUSE**
Controlled Digital Lending... On the Quick and Cheap

James Darlack, Director of Goddard Library, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Drew Baker, Managing Director, Digital Theological Library
Thomas E. Phillips, Director, Digital Theological Library

DESCRIPTION:
In the light of both the COVID pandemic and lack of digital availability for several key resources, the Digital Theological Library (DTL), a co-owned library with participating institutions, wanted to quickly implement a Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) project, beginning in the fall of 2020. The DTL staff and partners examined a number of options, evaluating them on the basis of cost, user experience, time commitment, and ease of implementation. We decided to create our own system for CDL access, using inexpensive systems created for other purposes, but adaptable to the needs of CDL. This presentation will (1) explain the legal basis for CDL, (2) the advantages and disadvantages of CDL, (3) how the DTL implemented CDL quickly and cheaply, and (4) how other libraries can implement their own CDL program.

The Intertwining Concerns of Libraries and Writing Centers

Wesley Custer, Director of Instructional Services, Asbury Theological Seminary

DESCRIPTION:
Through 2020, Asbury Theological Seminary largely built an introductory course for those preparing for graduate-level study in seminary disciplines. Through that work and the collaborative efforts between our research librarian, Writing Center, and instructional designer, we have discovered shared concerns, knowledge, and new insights into how to help our students. This presentation will describe the institute course that was developed and the benefits/insights that came through the process.
Atla and SPARC: A Collaboration Made in Open Access Heaven

Brad Ost, Head of Research Services and Liaison Librarian for Religion, Theology and Philosophy, AUC, Robert W. Woodruff Library

DESCRIPTION:
In Fall 2020, I was fortunate to be chosen as a recipient of an Atla grant to produce an Open Access resource to be used in a class at the Interdenominational Theological Center in June of 2021. At the same time I received the grant, I was chosen for a SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) Leadership Program Fellowship, which was to run, coincidentally, concurrent to the timespan of the Atla grant. I will examine my starting knowledge about open access resources and how, through the Fellowship, my growth in knowledge about and advocacy for open access resources informed my work on the Atla grant. I was able to make the grant project, an open-access textbook for a Traditional African Religions course, the capstone project for my SPARC Fellowship. I will walk through the different stages of the project, from the application for the grant to working with faculty to find and create the necessary public domain material to the technological processes involved in making the resource accessible to the implementation of the resource.

11:30 am-12:20 pm

Can You Find Yourself in the Stacks? Building Diverse Collections in Religion and Theology

Suzanne Estelle-Holmer, Associate Director for Research, Collections, and Access, Yale Divinity Library, Yale University
Amy Limpitlaw, Head Librarian, School of Theology Library, Boston University
Michelle Spomer, Director of the Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

DESCRIPTION:
The past year has brought renewed attention to the need for academic library collections to support an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) in the curriculum and to reflect the increasing diversity among students and faculty. The urgent calls for maximum inclusivity and diversity in all aspects of theological education have led collection development librarians to examine and recalibrate their collecting practices and to assess existing collections. This panel of three, admittedly white, women librarians will discuss the issue of what it means to be an ally in working toward ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and how allyship might inform the work of collection development. The critical importance of engaging with key stakeholders, particularly those within historically underrepresented groups, in order to build more diverse collections will be emphasized. Panelists will consider the many ways that collections can represent diversity in smaller collections and varied theological contexts, and will demonstrate how to align collecting with the institution’s mission statement and/or strategic plan. There will be a discussion of displays and events that promote diverse resources and provide opportunities for collaboration with faculty, staff, and student advocacy groups.
Institutional Repositories: Expectations and Experience

Melody Diehl Detar, Duquesne University, Instructional Design Librarian
Amanda Hurford, Scholarly Communications Director, PALNI
Matthew Davis, System and Data Services Librarian, Davidson
Melissa Aaronberg, Reference Librarian, General Theological Seminary

DESCRIPTION:

Institutional repositories provide the opportunity for the long-term preservation and the widespread accessibility of institutional scholarship and history. Join us for a panel conversation that will present both the expectations and the realities of each presenter’s experiences with initiating and maintaining IRs. The speakers will represent a diversity of institution types and will be at different points on their journey toward developing and maintaining their repositories. Whether your institution is just thinking about creating an IR, or is navigating the complexities of maintaining one, we welcome you to learn from our panelists’ challenges and successes.

Re- vision, Re-tool, Re-spawn: Gameful Design for Whole-person, Transformational Learning

Chris Rosser, Theological Librarian, Oklahoma Christian University
Grant Testut, Associate Professor of Bible, Oklahoma Christian University

DESCRIPTION:

Gameful design reimagines teaching within and outside the classroom, online or in person. "Re- vision, re-tool, re-spawn" continues the conversation from Atla Annual 2020, where gamification was presented as an invitation to rethink instruction, especially in today’s tech-saturated, pandemic-sequestered situation now that virtual is a crucial mode. Gamification is the application of game-design principles to non-game contexts; gameful design incorporates basic game architecture, story, and aesthetic as central to course design, infusing education with curiosity, imagination, and play. We want to share two new examples of gamification — curricular and co-curricular — demonstrating how gameful design yields whole-person, transformational learning. First, we describe our co-taught Bible and Classical Literature course, where the hero-students journey into the dark, accomplish heroic tasks, earn badges, and engage in desire-driven, side-quest learning. Second, we describe “Human Salvo: An Experiment with the Antidote to Zombification,” a virtual, Covid-inspired alternative to weekly in-person chapel offerings. Chapel-as-game responded to our shared experience of Fall 2020, fraught with four anxieties: pandemic/contagion, political tribes, economy, and racial (in)justice (the primary anxieties that characterize the zombie genre as well). Examples offer assessable evidence of learning toward specified outcomes. Our aim at Atla Annual 2021 is to spark creativity among librarians-as-teachers for re-visioning, re-tooling, and (perhaps) re-spawning as game-oriented instructors.
Establishing an Institutional Archives in a Filipino-Chinese Seminary: Lessons and Reflections

Luis Ezra D. Cruz, Reference Librarian, Biblical Seminary of Philippines

DESCRIPTION:

The project was undertaken to establish the Biblical Seminary of the Philippines (BSOP) Institutional Archives. The project’s main objective is to have formal, sustainable, and working archives that will appraise, collect, arrange, store, and make available seminary records with enduring value to its community as well as those outside researchers who would be interested in these materials. It also aims to promote the seminary’s institutional identity and memory through the preserved archival records. The communities which the BSOP Institutional Archives aim to serve would be its in-house users, which are the BSOP administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumni as well outside users who are members of the Christian Filipino-Chinese churches and mainland Christian Chinese churches, as well as researchers interested in the spread of Christianity in China.

Making Use of your LMS for Student Staff Training & Support

Jude Morrissey, Access Services Librarian, Yale Divinity Library

DESCRIPTION:

Training and supporting student staff is a reiterative process that can run into several roadblocks that differ greatly from regular staff training and support - including creating work schedules around class schedules, training student staff individually and comprehensively while making sure student staff really understand processes, and making it easy to communicate (especially for switching shifts). This session will cover some of the whys and hows of creating a student staff module inside your institution's learning management system.

Unlocking Manuscript Collections: Congregational Library & Archives and Adam Matthew Digital Discuss Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) Transcription (Quartex)

Jessica Kowalski, Product Sales Manager, Quartex, Adam Matthew Digital
Zachary Bodnar, Archivist, Congregational Library & Archives
Jules Thomson, Associate Archivist and Social Media Manager, Congregational Library & Archives
Liz Stringer, US Library Sales Manager, Adam Matthew Digital
Quartex, an Adam Matthew Digital platform, recently launched Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) Transcription, a cutting-edge development which uses ground-breaking AI technology to generate automatic, highly accurate, editable, and fully searchable transcriptions of manuscript materials. Join us for a conversation with Congregational Library & Archives and Adam Matthew Digital to learn about how this technology is being applied to manuscript collections.

Congregational Library & Archives is one of the first institutions to seize the opportunity to enhance the discoverability and accessibility of handwritten documents using HTR Transcription. They will provide a sneak peek into their work on Quartex, including a look at the Boston Massacre sermon, written shortly after the riot on March 5, 1770.

HTR Transcription will also enhance the research experience of one of Adam Matthew Digital’s most highly anticipated collections this year, Colonial Caribbean, Module 1: Settlement, Slavery and Empire, 1624-1832, which draws upon extensive manuscript sources to chart the turbulent years of early British settlement to the rise of the abolition movement.

Time will be provided to ask questions of Quartex, Congregational Library & Archives, and Adam Matthew Digital about their collections, working in Quartex, and HTR Transcription.

1:45 pm-2:15 pm

**Seventy-Five Years of Racial Ethnic Diversity in Atla**

Susan Ebertz, Associate Professor & Director for the Library, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Some of the events of the past year have resulted in theological institutions assessing their own racial ethnic diversity and making plans for increasing that diversity. This year Atla celebrates 75 years of existence. This session will reflect back over the past 75 years and note what has been done. The presentation given at the ATLA Annual Conference in 2011, Sixty-Five Years of Racial Ethnic Diversity in ATLA, will be the basis for the session. At the conclusion of the 2011 presentation, the vision of the future was of an association that reflected the general population in terms of the percentage of racial ethnic persons. The session will chronicle events from the last 10 years, update data, and see how close to that vision the Association has come. Areas of possible growth will also be noted.
"I’m Writing a Sermon...": Reference and Instruction Services for Alumni

Anne Marie McLean, Reference Librarian & Outreach Coordinator, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University

Brady Beard, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University

DESCRIPTION:

"I’m writing a sermon..." prefaces most of the questions that come to the Pitts Theology Library Reference Desk from alumni. Candler School of Theology alumni regularly return to the library to inquire about the resources and databases that remain available to them through Emory University Libraries in their new ministerial settings. In addition to these one-off reference interactions, Pitts librarians also engage with alumni through a variety of means, including outreach and events, instruction, and graduation preparation and celebrations. During the academic years of 2019–20 and 2020–21, however, alumni needs and requests increased and transformed as public libraries closed in-person services and university campuses were limited to currently enrolled students and faculty. This session will explore the changing needs of seminary alumni during the COVID-19 pandemic during which Pitts Library saw an uptick in requests for access to collections, library spaces, and online databases. When library instruction transitioned to an exclusively online platform, alumni participation in instructional sessions, including our alumni workshop and more general workshops, also increased. Pitts Reference Librarians Brady Beard (Reference & Instruction Librarian) and Anne Marie McLean (Reference Librarian & Outreach Coordinator) will discuss past alumni resourcing including previous workshops and outreach tools, the new resources we created, and tools we employed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and future plans for ongoing alumni engagement. This Listen and Learn session will end by highlighting helpful takeaways, resourcing challenges, and the lasting benefits of online instruction and events for alumni.

NACO/SACO/CONSER Listen & Learn

Richard A. Lammert, Technical Services Librarian, Concordia Theological Seminary

DESCRIPTION:

Participants will hear about and have the opportunity to discuss the changes made in the NACO, CONSER, and SACO programs of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) in the past year. Updates applicable to Atla catalogers from the PCC Operations Meeting held May 6-7, 2021, will be specially noted. Participants will have the opportunity to receive answers to their questions about their work in the Atla funnels contributing to these programs.
Plenary and Closing of the Conference

Curating and Resourcing for Change in a Post-Pandemic World

Dr. Elías Ortega, President, Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago

DESCRIPTION:

The emerging post-pandemic world presents institutions of Higher Learning with opportunities to renew our commitment to intellectual life in service of the common good. Through initiatives aiming to bridge the gap between the educational mission of schools and the larger public, librarians and administrators can rethink how curating and resourcing knowledge production can be a catalyst for sustaining communities to engage contemporary challenges.

Dr. Ortega is an interdisciplinary scholar committed to building organizational systems in which people, especially those underrepresented in our society, can thrive. He uses the lenses of religious ethics, spirituality, and theological reflection to foster change in higher education, non-profit organizations, and religious institutions. Dr. Ortega led cultural and institutional changes at the Unitarian Universalist Association through a three-year assessment of the barriers that maintain racial exclusion practices and inequality in the organization, resulting in recommendations for equitable practices and policies. He has also provided strategic planning and program support to community organizations, including the New Jersey Parent Caucus, a mental health and juvenile justice advocacy group, the Sila Maria Calderon Foundation, and the Drew Freedom School Initiative, a social justice program that provides non-violence resistance and community organizing. Currently, Dr. Ortega serves as the president of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

Social Hour (Remo Platform) 3:45 pm-4:30 pm

Today’s Social Hour will conclude with speed networking and open conversation.
## Interest Group & Denominational Meetings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, June 21</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>World Religions Interest Group (WRIG) Meeting</td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Campbell-Stone Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td>Anglican and Episcopal Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, June 22</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>LEEP Theological Librarian Alumni Meeting</td>
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<td>Small Libraries Interest Group (SLIG) Meeting</td>
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<td>Special Collections Interest Group (SCIG) Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, June 23</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Anabaptist/Mennonite Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td>Presbyterian/Reformed Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td>Top Concerns of Technical Services Staff / Technical Services Interest Group (TSIG)</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, June 24</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Lutheran Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td>Orthodox Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Methodist Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, June 28</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Public Services Interest Group (PSIG) Meeting</td>
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<td>Roman Catholic Denominational Group Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, June 29</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Southwestern Area Theological Library Association (SWATLA) Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Atla is a membership association of librarians and information professionals, and a producer of research tools, committed to advancing the study of religion and theology.

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