

# Impact and Importance of Open Access Publishing

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

book, atla, publishing, information literacy, open, open access publishing, theological, volume, access, libraries, press, authors, questions, librarianship, scholarship, library, pay, christine, essays, support

## SPEAKERS

Christine Fruin, Ana Cackley, Bobby Smiley, Tim Lincoln, Pat Graham

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A

Ana Cackley 00:00

Good afternoon, everybody. 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: "Impact and Importance of Open Access Publishing for Theological Libraries." Now before we get started, I just want to point out a few features of the webinar's interface. By default, you'll be listening in using your computer's speaker system. But if you would like to join by phone, that's also an option. At the bottom of your screen, you should see a control panel. It contains a chat box, where you can type in your questions for the speakers and contact us about any technical difficulties. You can send in your questions for the speakers at any time during the presentation, and we'll collect those and address them during the Q&A session at the end. We now have live transcripts and closed captions for Atla Webinars. You can find the transcript by going to the red button in the top left corner, which will open up the transcript in a new browser window. And we will make this transcript available on our On Demand Learning webpage. Speaking of the On Demand Learning webpage, today's presentation is being recorded, and it will be available online. Everybody who has registered for today's webinar will receive an email notification when it's up. And with that, I will turn it over to Christine Fruin, who will introduce our speakers today. Thank you very much.

C

Christine Fruin 01:32

Thank you Ana. And thank you everyone for joining us today for what I hope will be an informative panel about the impact and importance of open access publishing for theological libraries. I'm Christine Fruin. I'm the Scholarly Communication and Digital Initiatives Manager at Atla. And joining us today are Bobby Smiley from Vanderbilt University's Divinity Library. Pat Graham from Pitts Theology Library at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and Tim Lincoln from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. After I give just kind of a brief, hopefully brief introduction, just kind of a landscape look at open access publishing, generally an overview of Atla's Open Press, I'm going to turn it over to our panelists who are going to talk kind of share their perspectives on the importance of open access publishing, they both they all three have published in some form with the Books at Atla Open Press, either editing contributed volumes or offering a single author volume. And so they're going to share kind of their experiences, their perspectives on why they chose open access and why they feel open access is important for libraries and specifically for theological libraries, as it is theological libraries month. So with that, I want to just talk a little bit just about some trends that we have been seeing in open access publishing kind of generally that are of importance to libraries. If you've been looking at all at kind of library news headlines, particularly, you've probably seen a lot of stories, especially out of the big universities, on this trend of canceling or dramatically renegotiating

these kind of big deal publisher contracts, and entering into what you've probably heard described as transformative agreements. These are aimed toward ensuring open access to the scholarly output. Generally, we're talking about journal article output here to the to the of the output of that institution's own faculty and researchers. So this is kind of a trend that we're seeing in open access started several years ago by the National Institutes of Health back in 2008. Actually, more and more government funders, and more so commonly private funders, and even to some regard institutions themselves are requiring open access to scholarship by policy. So this is a situation where if you get a grant, so almost all of the federal government agencies, and a lot of state agencies are doing this now and even some private funders, such as like the Gates Foundation, are now requiring by a matter of policy that if you receive funding from them, your scholarship has to be made available in an open access repository, or under a specific Creative Commons license, either at the date of publication or within some prescribed period of time after publication. And this is something that authors have the responsibility of ensuring is incorporated into their author agreement should they then publish with a commercial publisher that ordinarily doesn't permit open access. We've also seen a huge uptick in the development and support of various tools and resources that help authors make their scholarship openly available or help presses such as such as us make open access publishing more readily available or readily done. And so also tools that help readers find the this open access scholarship. So there's tools on both sides that both support the production of open access scholarship and support the location of open access scholarship. Generally, this is an eye nose chart, it's kind of hard to see I tried to make it bigger, so it would render better on screen. So this is kind of a trend. I mean, again, this is this is this is done on really open access journals, there's a lot more data out there on open access journal publications, then there is books, although open access book publishing is certainly becoming more relevant, or, you know, more prevalent in 2018, which I realized, wow, that, you know, it didn't seem like it was that long ago, that should have been last year, there was a really great article that I highly encourage you check out about kind of the state of open access publishing. And that's where, you know, for the last 20 years, we mostly thought of open access publishing as being gold or green. And it's in this article that they introduced bronze as another color, another way of making scholarship available, open access, which is free to read on the publisher site with no discernible license. So there's a lot of open access publishers out there that for whatever reason, are not making licensed terms available. And they're just putting the content out there. It might be maybe through a blog, or through an institutional journal site or something. So there continues to be what this trend shows that over the last, you know, however many years on these, this this chart, which comes from that article shows actually going back to 1915, you can see this really strong uptick in about 2000, which is when we had the three on kind of global statements on open access be released. So there has definitely been an increase in time over over an increase in time of open access scholarship. And now of all articles that are assigned a DOI, which is a digital object identifier, you all probably have experienced those, especially if you've gone to any of our press sites. So nearly 30% on 27.9, to be exact, as of this 2018 report, our open access. So this is a significant dent being made, I think in in scholarly publishing. One of the resources that we frequently recommend for locating open access scholarship, especially in journals is the directory of open access journals. If you haven't been to that site recently, I highly encourage that you do so they did a major renovation, a lot of improvements, not only in just kind of the user display, but also in the results and then the filtering. So if you haven't checked it out lately, I encourage that you do so there's other evaluation tools and criteria for all journal and book publishers out there as well think check submit is one Sherpa Romeo. And I always tell people that you should not just be evaluating open access publishers, you also should be applying these criteria using these evaluation tools on traditional commercial publishers as well. It's not just open access publishers that engage in what has unfairly been labeled predatory practices, you can find plenty of commercial publishers that also engage in this kind of context. So you should be evaluating all of them. Also, I think attributed was a as I've already said to the you know, the increase in open access publishing is is this increase of investment and availability of the infrastructure, open source infrastructure to support that work, I think is allowing more and more entities, whether it be libraries, or library associations, or other nonprofits to engage in to engage in publishing. So now let's just talk more specifically about the at low price. So I had the scope statement here. So this is for the press. And so whether we're talking about books, journals, or other serials the focus of Atla open process that we are publishing works that are on subjects that fall at this intersection of librarianship and religious and theology, theological studies that have the potential to impact libraries that guide and support innovative library services and enhanced professional development for religious studies and theological librarians. Sometimes these may represent very specialized topics that are of interest in religion and theology, but they still

have relevance to the work of libraries in supporting the work of the faculty and students and researchers in the institutions where they work and where they serve. So this is kind of an overview of the Atla Open Press. You can see our primary inputs here, which of course includes everything from theological librarianship, to Books at Atla Open Press, and even the Proceedings. We also have a number of association publications, which in some way that Atla Open Press does provide some kind of technical support, whether it be through hosting in OJS, and so forth, we do provide some support to the publication of. Atla Open Press, of course, is run by Atla staff. But we do have an advisory council as well, that is made up of the four editors and chief of those publications listed here, as well as two at large members, one who comes from within Atla membership. But we also bring in someone who has perspective on humanities scholarship on open access scholarship in a much broader scope to also provide expertise. Also, in addition to our publishing our own imprints, we also offer a variety of publishing services to our members. And this includes open access journal hosting, which we do through ojs. So if you have looked, you'll know that we for a long time we have published and SLAs. So the Australia New Zealand theological eyebrow Association, their journal as well as the Journal of Wabash, as well. So we do open access journal hosting, consulting. So I know some of our members have come to me with questions about, you know, author's rights and copyright with respect to scholarly publishing. So that would fall within consulting, but as well as professional development, so webinars like this, or LibGuides, things that provide educational opportunities for members on scholarly publishing. So a little bit more on our open process, structure and staffing. So the thing I often say to people that open access publishing is free to read, but it is not free to produce it, you probably would be surprised how costly it can be in terms of staff time, and maintaining a you know, even though the publishing software is open source, there's still time involved in hosting it on servers and doing backups and doing updates. Atla, we pay, we pay out, you know small stipends to our editorial boards, and we pay honorariums to authors. So this is part of the reason why you see frequent business models of APCs. Why, especially in book publishing, with a lot of with a lot of folks, entities out there that are doing open access book publishing, they are usually charging authors anywhere from five to sometimes \$15,000. To be able to publish their book open access. So Atla, because of we have the revenue from Atla products, that's what helps fund the work that we do at Atla. Open press. So that is, that's the business model that we have. So our journals, we don't have APCs at all. All of our content is licensed under a Creative Commons non commercial license. As I already said, We paid modest author, honorariums, and editor honorariums, as well. All of our content is available free online to read, with the exception of the books, those are free online. But if you do want a print copy, we try to offer this for a reasonable charge if a print copy is desired. And again, journal hosting is a service that we also provide for a small fee. I already talked about the various publications and publishing services that we offer, as well as kind of our governance model, which is all of our major publications have editorial boards, exception of proceedings, which just has an editor in chief, as well as the Advisory Council. Other kind of structural or staffing notes to note is that I direct the Atla open press, but we also have a newly hired digital publishing specialist, who will be responsible for coordinating all the layout and design for all our publications. In addition to providing training to authors and editors, and doing other kinds of educational activities, as well as working on documentation, we usually contract out. So for books, all of our book covers, we do not do that in house, that's usually done by a designer. And I mentioned open source software. So we utilize the public knowledge projects, open journal systems, and open monograph press to run our press. And those are all hosted on Atla's own AWS servers. So that's just a really quick overview of kind of the structure of Atla open press. So since our panel today is specifically for representing books, I want to talk really quickly about the books process. And I have the three covers here representing our three panelists. So if you haven't checked these titles out, make sure that you do so. So all of these three titles and our three authors as well as several other titles, were published under so books that low prospect I have three buckets, for lack of a better term, three buckets of content. So scholarly editions, which is what all these titles fall under scholarly editions is overseen by the editorial board. they oversee the selection of content as well as the writing and editing of the books that come out as scholarly additions. The board is specifically seeking new and creative research on topics The impact what theological and religious studies librarians do, and how they do it. Consideration of a book as a scholarly edition require submission of a proposal. They don't accept unsolicited manuscripts, you have to do a proposal, although sometimes the board itself will come up with topics if they wish to see be developed, and they may seek out someone to serve as editor, which is the case with both Bobby and Pat, who then in turn, work to recruit submissions through a call for proposal for submissions to though as chapters to those individual edited works. The two other buckets of books are Association additions and reprints. So Association additions, those are

works that are kind of done at kind of at the direction of or in consultation with Atla staff as well as committees, task forces or other external kind of groups that we work with. These are books that again, are geared towards assisting theological and religious studies librarians in their day to day work and with their professional development. The best example of this is the theological librarian Handbook, which we now have two volumes out on. So again, I encourage you to check those out if you have not, with a third volume currently being written to be published next year. reprints are just that they are digital open access online reprints of books that were once in print. Many of these are books that were published and are copyright held by Atla itself. So you'll see some of those titles, but we also have done agreements with different kinds of partner organizations, the most recent being Abilene Christian University Press who received a federal grant to digitize about 25 titles of their backlist, we partnered with them to provide another point of access for those open access reprints of those books, we have some other titles as well, that kind of fall within this, within this bucket of reprints. So this is not new work. This is work that were previously in print, with whom we have gotten permission, or we ourselves are the rights holder to make available open access. So with that, I am going to turn it over to our first panelist, who is Bobby Smiley, who's going to talk more about his experience and his perspectives on open access publishing.

B

**Bobby Smiley 17:31**

Well, thanks so much for inviting me Christine, I really appreciate the opportunity to chat with everyone today. And to talk about this. Just a brief bit of background, the genesis behind the book that I edited, "Theological Librarianship and Information Literacy," was a conversation that I actually had with Matthew Collins, what now seems like a million years ago, but it was at Atla Annual in 2018. And that was based on a presentation that my colleague, Keegan Izinski, and I gave on Information Literacy and putting together a course around thesis writing. Matthew, and I talked about this volume, and then he followed up a few months later. And throughout the process, it's when I worked closely with him and Christine, to put submit a call for proposal we recruited a fair number of contributors. And the volume itself came out in 2019. One of the I, when I was thinking about my remarks today, though, I'm thinking about it, of course, in the context of the content of that volume, which is information literacy, but specifically, looking at information literacy from the perspective of the acrl framework, there hasn't been really much written. Indeed, we didn't know of anything written specifically on theological librarianship and the framework. And because of the kind of open nature, the framework itself, this seemed like a great opportunity to combine both of those things. So as I was organizing my thoughts today, I was thinking about it and in terms of both open access as far as in dialogue with information literacy, which is sort of what I was thinking about an open access club and access. And so in terms of books, pedagogy, and audiences. And so as far as books are concerned, one of the things that I think most of us who work in higher education and work in theological librarianship are familiar with is that most humanities scholarship takes place within books. And I mean most a lot of humanities scholarship, I should say, a lot of the kind of important canonical stuff takes place within books and not necessarily journal articles in the same way that it doesn't other fields. And so open access publishing is one of those things that I think for humanities folks, they tend to think first, perhaps it's just restricted to journal publications, but in fact, this was an opportunity to illustrate that it is And it was a great opportunity for us to really showcase Atlas open presses and commitment to making sure that that open access material was available in a book form. And to me that, that, that that certainly that certainly is one of those kinds of important things that I think tends to get skated over. And we don't think about books as the as as a principal mode for openness publishing. But as far as pedagogy is concerned, because the volume itself concerned information literacy, and because it's surveyed broad approaches to information literacy across different sites, but also different approaches. I felt it that it was important that because because it's inherent utility, that it'd be available to all, because one of the difficult things with any kind of instruction is coming up with a way of approaching novel novel questions, novel situations. And so what each of the chapters provided was either a theoretical exposition or some kind of case study that could be that could be used in a variety of contexts. And again, there's something about this kind of ethos of both the framework and, and information literacy instruction that lends itself to being available and being available without very many barriers. So too, it's it's sort of in the same vein as the trend toward open educational resources. So thinking about how not only the content of what gets taught in the class is an open educational resource, but also the pedagogy behind what how that content is taught



or, or thought about, as far as information literacy is concerned. And finally, there were audiences and for me, this was important because theological librarianship is a fairly mean, you know, it's a subfield within within a larger field. And oftentimes, these conversations can be pretty hermetic or at least segregated to our communities. And so to the extent that an open access volume would enable not only our peers to, in theological librarianship, to look at these explorations with these explorations meditations on on IRL and theological librarianship, but also folks who aren't within our field who may not, may not have may not think, to look at theological library, what theological librarians have to say about information literacy, and may find a lot of utility in not only the not only the kind of theoretical conversations we were having, in the first part of the book, but also a lot of the case studies. So the kind of more applied components. Overall, I would say that what open access publishing provide, provided my volume, the volume that I don't, that I edited and work with others to put together is, really, it's an expansive way of ensuring that something that is so ingredient to the work that we do is theological II brings information literacy is disseminated to the widest possible audiences. And, and to that extent, I think, and I'm sure this is true of everybody's volume, it just really enriches, enriches and kind of animates, I know the spirit of, of why we, why we do the kind of research and writing we do within the areas we work in. And I think it's also sort of, at the same time, consonant with the generous spirit of generosity, generosity, and hospitality that does also undergird a lot of the approaches that folks take toward how they view their own practice within theological librarianship.

C

Christine Fruin 24:12

Thank you, Bobby. Now we'll hear from Pat Graham.

P

Pat Graham 24:17

Thank you, Christine. Bobby, that was a wonderful presentation you just made and that sets me to thinking about that rather than my own topic I was going to talk about well, first of all, I would like to say at the outset, that I've been retired now for four years. And so I feel a little bit out of the loop with a lot of the things that are going on in theological libraries. And with all of the challenges arising with the COVID pandemic and all the rest, I'm really very glad to be retired and to turn over the heavy lifting to colleagues who are handling it, so well. Well, I was very pleased to accept Atlas invitation to edit a collection of essays dealing with special collections. In my work at Emory University at the Pitts library, I was heavily involved in acquisition of special collections that are trying to use them to support teaching and all the rest. And so it was an area that I really cared a lot about. When the topic of this volume was a risk was originally introduced. I think the idea was for probably a volume with maybe five essays or so in it, we ended up with 10, which I interpret as a very positive statement about the interest of Atla members in special collections. And there were just lots of good proposals for the as with the other speakers today, I've been asked to comment on two things. One is my experience working with Atla. editing and collaborating on this special on the particular volume I worked on. And then secondly, the topic of open access and why I think it's important. The first thing I would say is that, I've always found that editing a volume was a very educational experience for me, and not only learned a lot about the specific subject matter that was in the book, but also learned the peculiarities of house style from the publisher and all the rest kind of returning to high school or college grammar and paying attention to things that maybe I hadn't worried about so much in day to day life of the world of libraries. I've also always enjoyed collaborating with colleagues. And so in this particular volume, I enjoyed collaborating not only with a TLS, staff, Christina and others that were involved in the project and being sure it moved along well and had a happy outcome, but also collaborating with the 10 contributors to the volume. And I always enjoy the personal interaction, they're making new friends, and also having a chance to work with colleagues I've known for many years. And then third thing, which is really the most important one, and that is the opportunity to work on a project that had as its go to enrich scholarship and disseminate the results. That is always just a fantastic thing. And it gives nobility to our lives and to the work that we could get and all the rest. And then perhaps a bit more of a personal thing I would add to this something that I enjoyed quite a bit is the opportunity to work with an Atla project that allowed me to support an institution that I really love. I've been a member of Atla since probably around 1987 or not to 98. And so it's

something that I really, it's an organization that I really believe in and support. And so whenever I can do something to support Atla I'm, of course willing to do that. And in the process of this particular project, it was also very engaging and rewarding, I would say, to be introduced to Atlas, digital tools, they had to support a kind of collaborative technologies to carry out the open press initiative that that Atla has underway as site is well designed, very efficiently run and a very pleasant experience for me. Now, in terms of the project itself, that I worked on dealing with special collections. It's my understanding that this project would easily be classified as achieving the kind of gold open access standard, since it makes articles of the volume in their final forms available online to people without the natural legal or technical barriers. And it seems to me that all of us in Atla as an organization should be very proud about this. Whenever we're able to do something like this of course, we can easily see how it serves to advance the aims of researchers and their scholarly communities to advance knowledge. it maximizes the impact of the research work that is done and the research programs that have been formulated. It also, of course, stimulates further research by allowing each of us to build upon the work of others. And then, of course, it supports educational objectives, generally, for us and for our parent organizations. Now, this particular volume, the one on Special Collections has 10 different essays. These are really not related to one another in any way except the general topic that we're working on. And so as a result, the volume will be able to benefit people who are working on a specific topic that each article deals with. So you could say that there would really be no reason for someone to go out and plunk down whatever the cost is of an individual volume of book, and then sit down and read it cover to cover that is not the kind of thing that would happen with a collection like this. And so what people are going to want is access to individual biomes, or individual essays in the biome, and consult that when it's useful and beneficial for them and proceed on that on that basis. And so with the 10 volume with the 10 essays that are in the volume, the first collection of essays for essays, they really deal with historical topics, certain collections, certain libraries. And so it makes it possible for Atla as an organization to capture the individual stories and histories of member libraries and collections within those libraries. And that, it seems to me is really incredibly important, because otherwise, the people who were involved in, those are going to pass from the scene, those stories will be lost, and they won't be preserved for posterity. So these I think, are very useful for sharing stories of success, but also a sharing the difficulties that we have, and maybe some of the shortcomings along the way. The second collection of essays really deal with the engagement of libraries, in the institutional missions of the schools that they serve. This also it seems to me is increasingly important. Libraries and their budgets come under increasing scrutiny from their parent organizations, raising questions such as Why are we spending so much money on all of these things? What is the benefit? And so whenever librarians theological librarians religious study library and sit down to assess in a kind of systematic way, how do we fit into the institutional mission? How have we been advancing that mission? How can we contribute to it in the future, this is really just incredibly important. And we need to let our deans and presidents of our institutions know what it is that we've discovered there, and then also to look for ways to collaborate with one another, on how we can do a better job at this. And then, thirdly, I would would say the third collection of essays in this volume, were three essays that do in some way with the future of special collections. And so Steve Crocker's article in this volume, for example, could also have been included in the first collection of historical essays since it discusses his work with a couple of collections. They're at Princeton Theological Seminary. But the orientation and focus of Steve's article is really on the future. And what can we learn from the experience Princeton's experience with those two essays. But the final essay in the volume was really comes out of SMU and was more of a futurist. Look at how we can envision the future of special collections in theological libraries and in university libraries for that matter as well. And I found it just incredibly evocative and creative and very, very worthwhile. Now, what I would add as close my comments today is something from a recent experience that I have had with a couple of friends. One is a retired tax attorney. That worked. All of his career for one of the largest Tech's are one of the largest law firms in Atlanta. The other person worked in industry managing a plant dealing with floor coverings and such a such a lot. Both of these folks are very interested in topics of theology, and religion and all the rest. So the three of us decided to start meeting for lunch once a month, and we would take the syllabus of a Emory college sociology professor, and we would start working through the readings in that syllabus. So each class period, we would take those readings, and we would divide them up and then at our next lunch time, we would discuss those, what became very apparent was that these were readings that assume that you had access to the resources of Emory University, and the other two guys didn't. And so my job was either to figure out some way to make this material available to them without violating restrictions on use of the collections or for them to purchase a book now and then, but especially to look

online, and to try to find where this information may be interviews with the authors and whatnot were available. What this drove home to me in a very concrete way was that when people in our world today, look for information about their own health care about legal matters about topics of theological interest in all the rest, what they will do is to first go to the web, find what is most easily accessible, that's not behind a paywall. And things also that kind of pass scrutiny of the algorithms that have been created, because nobody wants to work through 100 screens of hits, in order to find something. So what people do is to get what is free, and to get what is most easily available. Now, I don't think that any of us today would want our physicians or our attorneys to be using those criteria. If they dealt with us, we want them to use the very best and the most recent research and advances and so that's that's something that, it seems to me really underscores the effort of Atla and other organizations to advance open access and to make things available. If we have time. Perhaps at the toward the end of this webinar, I have two or three things I would like to flag that I see is really specific challenges that in higher education that we have to deal with. So there you go, Christine, I'm all done.



Christine Fruin 37:52

Oh, Pat, that was wonderful. And hopefully we'll have time to come back to you cuz I know I'm I would like to hear it. I would like to hear that. So our final panelist speaking today is Tim Lincoln. Take it away, Tim.



Tim Lincoln 38:06

Thank you, Christine. It's wonderful to get to talk about my experience with Atla Open Press, specifically, to produce the ginormous book that came out of all of this, I want to kind of divide my talk into my process that I experienced, and then talk more specifically about the benefits and virtues of open access for a book like mine. So once again, all roads lead to a conversation with Matthew Collins, who at the time was the editor, and I had an email exchange with him about the possibility of a press devoted to theological librarianship, publishing a book about qualitative research methods. And he quickly said that that made sense. Since librarians are actively involved in helping students often doctor of ministry, students at seminaries work on their, on their projects. So quickly, we got to an agreement with a rather long lead time for me to complete the manuscript based on when I was privileged to have a sabbatical. The process of working with with staff and with Kelly Campbell, who read the whole book and offered me helpful notes was quite streamlined and straight and straightforward. Others may have had different experiences, but I think it all went rather rather well. I will point out that as the book got closer to production, and as a textbook with the parentheses in it up, the initial setup in a six by nine page format resulted in the satanic length of 666 pages. It was observed that this was less than optimal. And so discussions ensued about reformatting the book to make the pages larger, more like a textbook. And that served other helpful purposes as well, because there's several tables in the book that are much more legible to middle aged and older eyes, if they are on a larger format page. So I was very pleased with with all of that. Also, I had opinions about the cover design, and was able to use some artwork from an artist I know who happens to be my wife. And that was the origin of the cover art for the book. So the process went up quite straightforwardly, I'm skipping over the part about feeling like a pregnant elephant while you're writing a book. That's a different conversation. So not want to say a little bit about the virtues of an open access format for this kind of book. In my shop, professors constantly have conversations about the price of textbooks. And it's very easy in theology and Biblical Studies kinds of courses, to imagine students reading four or five books that could cost you know, over \$100 or more, and then you multiply that times a full load of courses, and students are spending a lot of money for books. So a clear virtue of a book like mine, which is a textbook is that it can be had for free, if one wants to download it. And if one goes to Amazon, you can get the paper and the bigger format for the cost of \$50. Now, that is not the cheapest textbook in my world. But in my graduate experience, there were a lot of really good social science textbooks that were published by a press whose name rhymes with rage. And books published by rage, typically cost 6070 100 \$120 or more for a book that you might might want. Even at \$50, it's a good value for money. Me, thanks to buy the book from Amazon. I checked this morning, Christine, I know you're always checking on Amazon. And my book is up to number 277. bestseller in social science research says there's a steady positive slope in

Amazon sales that I'm sure is making everyone on staff at Atla very happy. So I guess for me, the primary virtue of the open access format is that it allows me to reach the audience that I would like to read, which is a lot of professors who don't know that much about social science but need to know something because they're helping students, and a lot of Doctor of ministry, students in particular, who want to do some kind of human subjects research and are looking for approachable books that will help them with that task. So that's, that's enough from me, I think. Thanks, Christina.

C

Christine Fruin 44:00

Thank you, Tim. So at this point, um, we have a few, we have a few minutes left, so we would like to open it up for questions. And I actually I see I see one already in the chat. But if you do have questions, please feel free to either drop them in the chat or you can also use the q&a box as well. I'm I'm keeping, I'm keeping an eye on both of those. So the question from Kate, catalog systems aren't my forte so apologies. If this is something I should either already know or should know to ask out what elsewhere but is there indexing from the Atlas side that would allow us to include the open press catalog in our iOS? So we have just recently in a much more direct and concentrated fashion, Kate been cataloging our outputs, at least the scholarly edition outputs. I think it's I think theological library handbook as well. In OCLC. I am currently investigating about adding an OCLC knowledge base for W ms users for our catalog. But at this point, that's what that is what I can offer you, and I'm not a cataloger either. So I'm just using words that I've been told and understood. So I might not be describing it all correctly. But I can tell you that they have been catalogued, at least in OCLC, and we're looking at an a knowledge base. Good question. Any other questions? Like I said, you can drop them in chat or q&a. Otherwise, I might let Pat, share his additional remarks cuz I kind of want to hear him. Or I don't know if any of our panelists have questions for one another, even one for Bobby, you have one for Bobby, go for it. Okay,

P

Pat Graham 45:49

Bobby, for my reading, it's often been the case that information literacy, as it's been dealt with by college, and university librarians, has a bit of an antiseptic and social science tone to it. And so working with a Divinity School, our seminary, my question would be, is there a way that we can take the central concerns of information literacy, and perhaps deal with them in some way that connects with the theological interests in framework of the institutions that we serve?

B

Bobby Smiley 46:36

Thank you for that question. It's an excellent question. I think one of the things that the acrl framework provides that actually helps maybe point to address some of the concerns or questions you raised. And your question is that it's founded on on this notion of, of what's called a threshold concept, which is these concepts that once you learn them, you can can't unlearn them, like authority is can contextual, and constructive and research as inquiry. scholarship is a conversation. And so one of the approaches that sort of talked about in the in the in the book, but but I've written on to, is to crosswalk disciplinary threshold concepts. So what are those kinds of key things in theology? That, once we learn them, we really can't unlearn them? And what, how did those Connect? Or can those connect to one of the six framework elements and so it's this conversation that takes place between kind of disciplinary knowledge, and what happens when we turn to library instruction as a way of introducing information literacy. So for me, the the challenge, and the kind of productive generative challenge is, is looking at the kinds of things that we we care most about in terms of our own kind of disciplinary interests, and then seeing how to crosswalk those with information literacy concepts. Okay, thank, of course. And I'll just want to I just want to actually embroider something Pat said earlier about, about edited volumes and wanting to just have maybe one or two chapters out of them. And I think that's a really great point. Because oftentimes, what happens is that after looking at one or two chapters, somebody



wants the entire thing. And so, in many ways, the open access format is a great entree, to get people hooked on to some really interesting stuff that's being done that they wouldn't have expected or deliberately sought out in the first place. Thank you both.

C

Christine Fruin 48:50

I'm not seeing any questions in chat or q&a. So Pat, if you want, if you had a couple of things you want to say you certainly have some time to share if you'd like.

P

Pat Graham 48:59

Okay. First of all, one of the things that occurs to me is that higher education generally seems to support the idea of open access, but often basis, this appeal on equity. And so, higher education has come under increasing scrutiny from the population at large from governments and all the rest. And so one of their concerns is, you want people to give higher education, these research publications to you for free, or at very little cost. And yet when we look at the tuition amounts that you charge, you are certainly not giving away your educational benefits. And so this is, I think, a real challenge in higher education there. There are ways this can be dealt with that Nevertheless, that's kind of a challenge for us. And then secondly, the question of who pays. And, Christine, as you noted earlier in your comments, open access allows people to read for free, but it costs a lot to make that a reality. And so the question is, is often one, first of all, acknowledging that information is not free, maybe we would like for it to be, but in fact, it's not free. So someone has to pay for this, it may be an organization like Atla, it may be our colleges and universities are libraries, investing staff resources. So those are a couple of things. So to simply raise.

C

Christine Fruin 50:45

I appreciate that. And I and I do think that is I think that is a point that, you know, those of us who are engaged in open access advocacy work, do try to, to reinforce that. So many times people hear open access. And a couple things come to mind that you automatically think, oh, low quality, which as the three of you and the works, you've done, clearly demonstrate not a case, the amount of time and intellectual energy that went into not only the work that you all did, but with respect to patent Bobby, also the individual contributors, clearly demonstrates it's not low quality is not as and we try in our, you know, on the production side to make sure that the end, the end product looks and pays homage to the work that went into it, we want the rapping to be a special, and the way it reads and the way it renders as much as we are as we are able with the resources that we have to pay, you know, to honor the contents. But people don't realize that, you know, the time that is involved to I mean, there's the writing time, there's the intellectual at time, which whether you are doing a commercial publisher, or an open access that is always there. But generally, most do editorial edit editors of traditional scholarly publications aren't getting paid a lick to do their work, it's purely out of either their love for the field, because they need that scholarly activity for a CV, etc. I'm not saying anyone's going to pay their mortgage or their grocery bill off the stuff we give, but we try to do some try to be a little bit different in that same with paying authors, again, something very unheard of in both in commercial publishing. I mean, even if you are publishing a book with a commercial publisher, the royalties that you typically see if you do a commercial textbook, or a or a typical, you know, nonfiction work. I don't think any authors are again, paying off their mortgages or going on luxurious vacations on book royalties. So, you know, we were trying to you know, I think people don't understand that, you know, open access it you're not, you're not as an author or an editor, realizing any financial benefits publishing commercially, but you are realizing enormous access discovery benefits by publishing open access, you are gonna have more readers, you're going to have more people especially like with Tim, you know, probably more, you know, faculty that might be adopting that as the textbook for their course, because it is readily available in different formats for students, if they have international students. And we're a print copy. I mean, especially with the pandemic, we've been running into this situation, that has really demonstrated how

important open access is where you have students that are, you know, living in other countries who either were not able to travel to the states that as they intended to enroll in their programs, or they are enrolled as students living abroad, and just don't have the means of acquiring books. So that's why we are also doing the OCR grant. So I'm going to put in a plug in for that for the Open Educational Resources grant that we are trying to build and fund a catalogue of openly available educational resources. And Tim, you just happen to be fortuitous. And that that would have been an awesome grant project. Had we had the grant back then. Um, but so just fortuitous that yours kind of also stands that oh, we are even though that certainly wasn't our plan, you know, three years ago, when we first contracted for it. So I mean, there's so many benefits that open access has I don't think people acknowledge but also don't necessarily acknowledge that it's an it's free to read, but there are human and finally, I mean, there's a lot of costs producing it. Same as there is commercial and perhaps it gives a little insight to as to why even some commercially produced products cost what they do, although knowing what it costs for us to produce a book, not quite that much. So that you see where the profit, the profit margin outrageous profit margins that some Elsevier, I won't say I won't hide their name, post. So we have like two minutes left. If there are any other final remarks or questions.

T

Tim Lincoln 55:17

Yes. And an observation, I think of on everyone's to do list who cares about open access is to lobby, the faculty members that you know, who are on editorial boards of scholarly publications, to have them think about the benefits of open access, and to realize that there is no inherent link of prestige between being published by a publisher whose name rhymes with thrill. And the quality of the journal journal would be just as good if it were an open access journal published by published by hosted by by Atla.

C

Christine Fruin 56:05

Thank you, Tim. Thank you. Well, also, you should know it is actually I believe, it's also open access week this week. So this is a double timely presentation. So thank you so much to our panelists, thank you to attendees, or to those also who may be watching the recording. Later, we have posted links to these three fine gentleman's books in the chat. But please do go to [books.atla.com](http://books.atla.com). To look at all the various titles that we have available, please consider maybe writing a book yourself or editing a book yourself. I know the editorial board, our editor in chief is here today as well. We'd love to see your proposals or if you don't have a proposal, but you just like, you know, I've got some ideas. I'm not ready to put a proposal in May I just have some ideas. Um, please contact the editorial board at [openbooks.atmyatla.org](http://openbooks.atmyatla.org) and they would be happy to set up a chat with you about ideas that you may have for a book you want to author yourself as well as an edited collection. So with that, I know we are out of time. Thank you all again, and have a great rest of your week.

P

Pat Graham 57:13

Thank you, Christine.

B

Bobby Smiley 57:14

Thanks so much, Christine.

T

Tim Lincoln 57:19

— Danke.