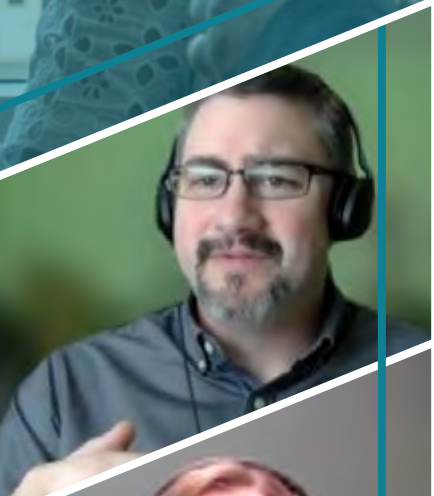


75th

atla  Annual Report



2021

Atla
200 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3100
Chicago, IL 60606-6701 USA
www.atla.com

Atla is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), professional association, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

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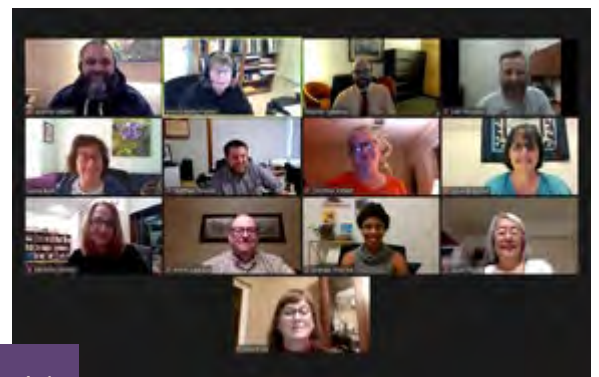
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ATLA has not just happened! There has been a cause, a need, an exploration, an open-ended task library service, instruction, and access were re-visioned at the same time.

Not every Board President can reflect across two years of service to Atla as President; the opportunity to be a presence during two years of Covid, two years of Organizational Ends re-visioning, and two years of work toward diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am very grateful to have had that opportunity while recognizing Atla's long history before my term and following my term of service to the Board.

The world continued to struggle through Covid, understanding the rules, guidelines, and expectations that stemmed from that. Atla, as an association, and our members, were no exception. Navigating Covid, opening collections, and remaining centers for scholarly communication were ongoing conversations on campuses worldwide. Library service, instruction, and access were re-visioned at the same time.

During this time, your Atla Board was hard at work across the year. The Board came together to reflect on a webinar on antiracism and to consider one of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's books. The Board received and discussed a report on the work of the Association on diversity, equity, and inclusion dating back to 1999. The Board was (re-)trained in the model of Policy Governance®. The Finance Committee was tasked with exploring socially responsible investing and whether the Association has a duty to consider these questions.

At the 1971 ATLA Conference, Robert Beach made the assertion, "ATLA has not just happened! There has been a cause, a need, an exploration, an open-ended task." There has been an interest in the work of theology and religious studies in North America since the late-19th-century, and that continues: we went from approximately fifty seminary librarians at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in June 1947 to almost four hundred attendees at an online Atla Annual this year!

ATLA was created by an act of the American Association of Theological Schools in order to strengthen the standard around library and information resources. At the 24th Annual Conference...the proposed purpose of ATLA was "...to bring its members into closer working relations with each other, to support theological and religious librarianship, to improve theological libraries, and to interpret the role of such libraries in theological education. In order to accomplish these objectives." The statement goes on, "the Association shall develop and implement standards of library service, promote research and experimental projects, encourage cooperative programs that make resources more available, publish and disseminate literature, and cooperate with organizations having similar aims."

A most sincere note of gratitude is due to everyone who makes the work of the Association possible. From every single member—retired, emeritus, individual, institutional—to the remarkable Atla staff and their leader Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer. The Association has made it through the 75th anniversary, and we will continue to look to our future as the hub of worldwide scholarly communication in theology and religion.

Sincerely,
Stephen Sweeney
Atla Board President

Fiscal year 2021 was shrouded in pandemic. Although routine online interactions were established, it was disconcerting to be without in-person interactions at meetings, conferences, and member visits.

Nevertheless, members and staff persisted. Committees met online. Professional development opportunities continued via webinars. Member Programs staff expertly managed Atla Annual Online. Staff and editorial boards maintained the flow of open access publishing. Production staff kept products flourishing with new indexed and full text titles. The Board met frequently, in shorter online meeting segments. Members embraced the board's call to action related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism through facilitated listening sessions, webinars, and programs at Atla Annual reflecting on those issues.

It's fitting that during Atla's 75th anniversary year (2021) we transitioned to a new style of working—fully distributed—that will take us into the future. Atla's fifteen-year lease for downtown Chicago office space ended in February 2021. After extensive planning and moving internal operations to the cloud, we left our expansive space for much smaller quarters nearby. Thanks go to Maria Stanton, Director of Production, and Jim Butler, Director of Information Systems, who headed up the move.

Seminaries, colleges, and universities continued to experience the pandemic's financial impact. To help offset the financial stress felt by members, they were offered an option to reduce their FY21 dues. Many did so.

Higher education's health has a direct impact on Atla's product revenue, which was down from previous years. However, the combination of conservative revenue projections and cost savings from decreased travel and reduced rent meant that finances stayed well within budget. The breakeven FY21 budget was set at \$8,257,323. At year end, actual revenue was \$8,412,906 and actual expense \$7,334,546. This included revenue from a forgiven \$685,982 Small Business Association PPP Loan.

The Endowment Committee's short-term goal of a \$1 million Endowment Fund was met. Donations from members, strong market gains, and a transfer of \$100,000 from product revenue brought the Fund to \$1,233,758.

Finally, a note on a staff leadership transition. Director of Financial Services Marie Jacobsen retired after eleven years. We wish her well.

Last year I expressed hope that the Atla ecosystem would never again experience the catastrophe and loss seen in the first year of the pandemic. Sadly, it continued. But once again we proved our agility and resilience. Thank you to everyone who, despite continued obstacles and troubled times, helped Atla maintain its equilibrium.

Sincerely,
Brenda Bailey-Hainer
Atla Executive Director



It's fitting that during Atla's 75th anniversary year (2021) we transitioned to a new style of working—fully distributed—that will take us into the future.

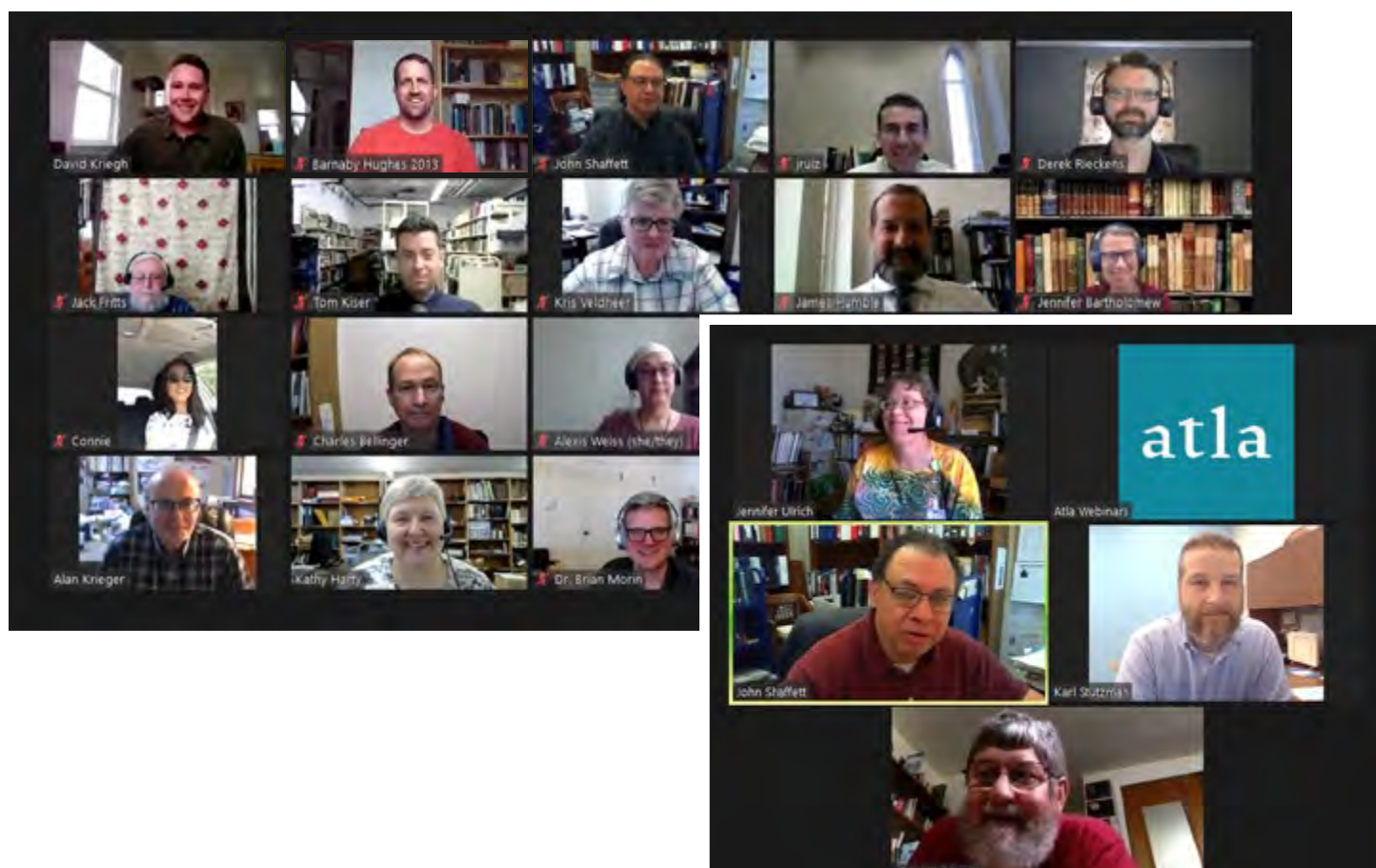
Atla is a membership association of librarians and information professionals, and a producer of research tools, committed to advancing the study of religion and theology.

About Atla

Established in 1946 as the American Theological Library Association, 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. Our membership includes more than 800 individuals and libraries at academic institutions from diverse religious traditions and backgrounds. As a community of collectors and connectors, Atla works to promote worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers.

We provide resources, professional development offerings, collaboration opportunities, and publications for our members. We create trusted research tools for the scholarly study of religion and theology, including the *Atla Religion Database*[®] (*Atla RDB*[®]), *AtlaSerials*[®] (*Atlas*[®]), and *AtlaSerials PLUS*[®] (*Atlas PLUS*[®]). Our association and our members play a critical role in the cycle of scholarly communication as curators, disseminators, and aggregators. Our librarians, libraries, and research tools provide access to and preserve scholarship in religion and theology.

Atla is governed by an elected board of directors, and for the past seven decades, we have built a rich history of excellence in library collections and services, community, collaboration, and innovation.



We exist so that:

Librarians and information providers in theology and religion are connected in a sustainable and diverse global community at a cost that demonstrates good stewardship of resources.

This is further defined to include but not limited to the following:

1. Users have access to quality academic and professional resources.
 - 1.1 Open access resources and special collections are available and discoverable by librarians and information professionals.
2. Institutional leaders have an awareness of the trends impacting the religion and theology library ecosystem.
3. Librarians and information providers are growing in their competencies and skills.
 - 3.1 Librarians and information providers demonstrate competencies in diversity, inclusion, equity, and antiracism.
 - 3.2 Information professionals are able to successfully navigate the changing landscape.
 - 3.3 Librarians and information providers have access to professional development in technical and digital skills.
 - 3.4 Information professionals have opportunities to innovate.

Celebrating 75 Years

We spent the year celebrating the past
and looking to the future.

For 75 years, theological librarians have come together to learn, collaborate, & connect.



Spotted at the Atla Annual 2003 conference, here is Kris Veldheer, Library Director at Catholic Theological Union, and her 10-month-old son, Griffin, attending his very first Atla Annual!

[Read our interview with Kris.](#)



At Atla Annual 2019, we find Ephraim Mudave Kanguha, University Librarian at Africa International University; Yasmine Abou-El-Khei, Director of Lapp Learning Commons at Chicago Theological Seminary; and Yesan Sellan, Chief Librarian at the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS).

[Read our interview with them.](#)

For 75 years, we have produced premier products from databases, collections, and alumni tools.



Gregg Taylor
Licensing Manager



Margot Lyon
Director of Business
Development



Lavonne Cohen
Senior Business
Development Analyst

We sat down with Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development, Gregg Taylor, Licensing Manager, and Lavonne Cohen, Senior Business Development Analyst, to talk about the history of our products, the shift from print to digital, and how we strive to listen to our community.

We've talked about a lot of changes over just the last twenty years, and even more over the last seventy-five years. What do you think it says about Atla, that our products have changed so much?

ML: I would say that we're good listeners. We're good listeners to everyone involved in the value chain, including our end users, the alumni, the students, the faculty, the librarians, business partners, and publishers. We're also adaptable or agile. When I joined, we had CD-ROMs, print, five aggregators – it was like managing all the different plates in the air! But I think it also speaks to our mission. Lavonne and I come from the corporate world where creating shareholder value is the only goal. And one reason why I left the corporate world and continue to be at Atla is because of that mission, knowing each and every day that you're making a difference in the world. That's one of my core values. Knowing you're going to wake up each day and make a difference in higher education and beyond is something that's deeply meaningful to me, along with lifelong learning.

[Read the full interview.](#)

We ended our 75th anniversary looking to the future.

We asked a few of our members their thoughts on the future of theological librarianship, and they responded with incredibly thoughtful and insightful answers.



Q: We've celebrated our 75th anniversary this year. In the next 25 years, leading to our 100th anniversary, what do you hope the future of theological librarianship will be?

Karl Stutzman

Director of Library Services, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

I am catching up on my reading this summer and recently read this thought-provoking article: "Re-Localizing the Library: Considerations for the Anthropocene" by Amy Brunvand (Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies, v. 3, no. 1, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.24242/jclis.v3i1.94>). Brunvand's concept of re-localizing the library of the future, by paying attention to our immediate surroundings and adapting our collections and services to our location, makes me think about the uniqueness of theological libraries and the ways our libraries have collected and preserved materials based on their traditions and places of origin. I hope that in the next 25 years, theological libraries can continue to reflect their local character and be more than just gatekeepers to an infrastructure of licensed, closed-access content. I also hope that we can share this uniqueness with each other so that we can be enriched by our diversity.

[Read more interviews](#)

Kellie Barbato

Director of Lineberger Library, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

I see a lot more engagement with online resources and taking theological resources more online than they have been. Don't get me wrong, I'm a very, very bookish librarian. I love books – my personal collection is very big. But I also feel we need to be able to reach more people. We can reach people all over the world by digitizing more resources. I'm looking forward to seeing institutions engage with institutional repositories and online archives so that we can see the unique things that each institution has to offer. But making things available online that previously have only been in print, I think, is an exciting opportunity for people all over the world. Because a lot of people are pursuing theological education online. I also look forward to seeing what some of these things look like when more Gen X-ers and Millennials become the library directors at Atla institutions. I'm excited to see what they have to bring to theological libraries.

[Read more interviews.](#)



Meet Pat Graham

Pat Graham was the Margaret A. Pitts Professor of Theological Bibliography and Director of the Pitts Theology Library at the Candler School of Theology. He retired in August of 2017.

AC: What brought you to librarianship?

PG: Well, I was teaching college courses in biblical studies and was the faculty liaison with the school's librarian. Since a university library school was just across the alley from my office, I decided to begin taking courses there. I'd always loved libraries but never worked in one. It dawned on me that this would be a pretty good profession. This would have been back in the mid-1980s when the job market was still pretty tough for theology and biblical studies professors. There were not many theological librarians that I knew of who had PhDs in the discipline and also had a library degree.

I inquired about an opening back at Emory where I'd done my PhD, and the librarian encouraged me to apply. He said they had an opening in cataloging — and that was the one area of library work that I had had no interest in. But as it turned out, I absolutely loved it. I cataloged mostly non-English language materials for a couple of years, and then moved to Reference for four years. When the director retired, I applied for the post, was hired, and so continued for twenty-three years.

AC: I love that you ended up enjoying cataloging even though you weren't interested in it at first.

PG: Oh yeah. At the end of the day, you knew exactly what you had accomplished.

AC: I know you've done a lot of mentorship over the course of your career. Could you tell me about that?

PG: The library had a staff of around fourteen and I was very interested in seeing what our library could do. Every person, whether a half-time general staff person or a full-time professional librarian, was important for the library to achieve its mission.

I was always looking for new staff. For a good part of my career, we would lose maybe one staff member per year, sometimes more than that. At Atla meetings, I would be particularly interested in welcoming new librarians, finding out about their interests and training, and getting some sense of whether they might be able to make a contribution at Pitts. If we already knew we had an opening, or one came up, and the person seemed terribly promising, well, I would try to get in touch with them to see if they were interested in applying.

For many of the librarians we hired,

their job at Pitts was their very first full-time professional librarian job.

They were typically enthusiastic and really interested in the profession and in showing what they could do. This was important, since in a small staff, everyone has to do more than one thing and work together with colleagues. It was such an encouragement to see how new staff could develop skills and make contributions that had not even been expected at the time of hire.

Several of our new hires became department heads after three or four years. Some left to become directors of other theological libraries or to begin families. One did an MBA at Emory before being hired away by a library. Others found a special niche at Pitts and became experts in their roles. As for those who left Pitts for another post, I was always proud of their accomplishments and that another institution had recognized their excellence.

Read the full interview on the [Atla Blog](#).

Member Spotlight is a series on the Atla Blog featuring interviews with individual Atla members about their journey in theological librarianship.

Committees & Task Forces

Atla's committees and task force work to achieve Atla's Mission and Organizational Ends. They are appointed by the Executive Director and are an integral part of the Association. Here are some highlights of their work this year.



Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

In order to realize and live the core values of hospitality, inclusion, and diversity and to fulfill the Atla Mission and Organizational Ends, the Committee for diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is committed to advancing Atla's culture that affirms the intrinsic value of all members regardless of racial, cultural, age, career stage/professional experience, sexual orientation, gender expression, expression of religious tradition, disabilities, or socioeconomic differences.



[First row] Daniel Baek, Gillian Harrison Cain, Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir
[Second row] Race MoChridhe, Alice Song, David Kriegh
[Third row] Kenneth Litwak, Alexis Weiss

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir *Chicago Theological Seminary, Chair*

Daniel (Bonggun) Baek *Vancouver School of Theology*

David Kriegh *Saint Mary's College of California*

Kenneth Litwak *Gateway Seminary*

Alice Song *Fuller Theological Seminary*

Alexis Weiss *Loyola Marymount University*

Gillian Harrison Cain *Staff Liaison*

Race MoChridhe *Staff Liaison*



Committee Awards Three Diversity Scholarships to Laurier Lynette Cress, Yahm Shelly Reichart & Ryan Zohar

LAURIER LYNETTE CRESS *University of Denver*

Laurier is currently pursuing her MLIS degree at the Morgridge College of Education, with a specialization in digital collections.

“I believe both of these aspects [open access and decolonizing archival descriptions] of LIS are necessary in order to make information access more equitable.”



YAHM SHELLY REICHART

University of Alabama

Yahm is currently pursuing her MLIS at the University of Alabama Online.



RYAN ZOHAR

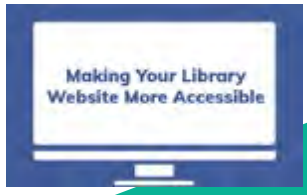
Long Island University

Ryan is currently a student in the dual MA/MLIS program between New York University & Long Island University.

Thank you to the generous Atla Members who donated to the Atla Scholarships & Grants Fund (see page 50), helping make this generous scholarship possible.

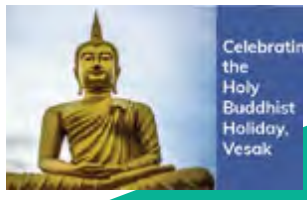
Committee Publishes DEI Series on the Atla Blog

The committee published articles to the Atla Blog highlighting different diversity, equity, and inclusion themes and how members can bolster their collection and meet the needs of various constituencies in their institutions.



Making Your Library Website More Accessible

by Kenneth D. Litwak



Celebrating the Holy Buddhist Holiday Vesak

by Alexis Weiss

Committee Curates New DEI LibGuide

The Committee created a [LibGuide](#) for resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion maintained on the Atla LibGuides platform.



Committee Attends Antiracism Training

In March 2021, the DEI Committee attended, Equity in Action: Fostering an Antiracist Library Culture hosted by the Library Journal.



Committee Member Presents at Atla Annual

Kenneth Litwak presented a workshop entitled, “Accessibility is in the Eye of the Beholder: Creating a More Accessible Library.”



Conference Committee

The Conference Committee is the strategic and long-range planning agent for the Association’s annual conferences. This committee also identifies and responds to needs for continuing education of Atla members at Atla Annual.



[First row] Denise McFarlin, Gillian Harrison Cain, Oliver Schultz, VanceThomas

[Second row] Kris Veldheer, Craig Kubic, Jessica Boyer, Megan Welsh

[Third row] Jamie Lin, Cindy Aalders

“The pandemic world shows that there is not less connection, but more connection,”

shared Closing Plenary Speaker Dr. Elías Ortega said. And we agree.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Megan Welsh Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder, Chair

Cindy Aalders John Richard Allison Library, Regent College, 2019 Local Host Committee Representative

Jessica Boyer Mount St. Mary's University, 2022 Local Host Committee Representative

Kraig Cubic Christian University

Oliver Schulz Shumaker Library, Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Vance Thomas Shumaker Library, Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Kris Veldheer Paul Bechtold Library, Catholic Theological Union, Editor in Chief of Atla Summary of Proceedings

Derek Rieckens Paul Bechtold Library, Catholic Theological Union, Editor in Chief, Atla Summary of Proceedings

Gillian Harrison ex-officio

Denise McFarlin Staff Liaison, Logistics

Jamie Lin Staff Liaison, Logistics

Atla Annual 2021 Online continued to be an innovative event for staff and attendees.

We moved the 75th Atla Annual from Forth Worth, Texas, to a three-day online event. The Conference Committee and a host of members and Atla staff members came together and implemented new technologies to improve the online conference experience.

ATLA
ANNUAL
2021

363

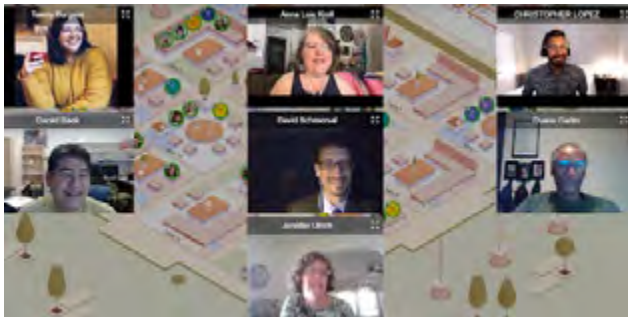
attendees

43

sessions

3

days



Attendees Connected Over Remo During Social Hours

New Members & First Time Attendees Met Over Zoom During the President's Welcome



ATLA ANNUAL 2021 ONLINE SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors for making this conference possible!





Attendees enjoyed a snack break from the comfort of their own space!



BRILL





Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee informs the membership of the purpose of the Endowment Fund, the cultivation of donor relationships, and the solicitation of major gifts through planned (estate) gifts and other funding sources.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pat Graham *Retired, Chair*

Eric Benoy *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary*

Craig Kubic *Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary*

Sharon Taylor *retired*

Brenda Bailey-Hainer *Staff Liaison*

Marie Jacobsen *Staff Liaison*



[First row] Pat Graham, Brenda Bailey-Hainer
[Second row] Craig Kubic, Marie Jacobsen
[Third row] Eric Benoy, Sharon Taylor



34
donations totaling
\$2,782.50

\$20,000
contribution from EBSCO

for a total contribution from FY21 funds of
\$22,782.50



57
donations totaling
\$6,454

\$10,000
contribution from Atla

totaling
\$16,454

Endowment Fund Reaches Goal of 1 Million!

As of August 31, 2021, the fund had a balance of **\$1,233,758!**



\$1 million

+\$233,758

75th Anniversary Endowment Campaign

“I think the one way that we can make the future generations have the wonderful resources, the services, and the fellowship, their professional development, all of that is by giving to the Endowment Fund.”

—Dr. Kelly Campbell



We “sat” down with Dr. Kelly Campbell, Associate Dean & Director of the John Bulow Campbell Library, and asked her four questions about her experience with Atla and the importance of donating to the Atla Endowment Fund.

**Why is the
Endowment Fund
important?**

atla

[View on Vimeo](#)

**What does the
Atla community
mean to you?**

atla

[View on Vimeo](#)

**How have Atla's
services helped you &
your library?**

atla

[View on Vimeo](#)

**How can Atla help
future generations of
theological librarians?**

atla

[View on Vimeo](#)



Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) fosters the development of librarians and related information professionals who serve theological and religious studies scholarship and study.



[First row] Patricia Yang, Jamie Lin
[Second row], Karen Clarke-Keesing, Rebecca Givens
[Third row] Andy Lofthus (Not pictured: Christine Wenderoth)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karen Clarke-Keesing *Pacific Rim Christian University*

Rebecca Givens *Covenant Theological Seminary*

Andy Lofthus *Western Seminary*

Christine Wenderoth *Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

Patricia Yang *Gateway Seminary*

Jamie Lin *Staff Liaison*

A Year of Webinars & Conversations

To respond to the prolonged isolation and feelings of disconnection brought on by the realities of COVID-19, an informal series of Conversation Groups was arranged to invite members to talk freely with their colleagues. Topics revolved around the effects of COVID-19 on workplaces, morale, and planning for the future.

Library Presence When Students Are Not Present

How are you engaging with students in a remote environment? How are you getting students to engage with you?

Experimenting with a New Series

PDC launched the new “Elevator Pitch Series,” designed to allow participants to collaboratively create talking points to engage institutional leadership in conversation around specific topics.



[View the Elevator Pitch Series On Demand](#)

Brad Ost, the Theology, Religion and Philosophy Librarian and Head of Reference Services at Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, led a conversation about some best practices in advocating for OERs to your institutional leadership.



Conversation Group: What Happens Next?

Kim Herndon, Dean of Samford University Library, and Tim Lincoln, Library Director and Associate Dean at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, discussed their current realities and the envisioned future for their libraries.



Colloquial Conversation: Quirky Cataloging and Rare Books Well Done

Hosted by the Technical Services Interest Group, Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, librarian at the North American Center for Marianist Studies (NACMS), and Armin Siedlecki, Head of Cataloging and Rare Book Cataloger at the Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, discuss “Quirky Cataloging” and rare books.

Scholarly Communication Committee

The Scholarly Communication Committee's mission is to advance scholarly communication in theology and religious studies by providing librarians, archivists, and other information professionals with a disciplinary framework and by implementing strategic initiatives.



[First row] Melody Diehl Deter, Matthew Davis
[Second row] Michael Hemenway, Barbara Jenkins
[Third row] Melissa Chim

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Melody Diehl Deter Duquesne University, Chair

Michael Hemenway Iliff School of Theology

Barbara Jenkins University of Oregon

Matthew Davis Davidson College

Melissa Chim General Theological Seminary

Christine Fruin Atla Staff Liaison

Committee Awards Two Open Educational Resource Grants

Two libraries received funds to support open educational resources.

Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center Consortium

African Traditional Religions: Ifa is available through Atla LibGuides

This text and course is an introductory presentation of one of several sacred West African spiritual traditions. It is commonly known as Ifa. More specifically, it is called Isele. It originated in modern day Nigeria among the Yoruba people. It is a spirituality that spread during the transatlantic slave trade throughout parts of the African Diaspora in the Americas (Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico) in different forms (e.g., Candomble, Lucumi, Santeria, Haitian Vodou, etc.)

St. Mary's University Blume Library

Theological Questions, an open textbook, is available through Books@Atla Open Press

This open textbook was used at St. Mary's in the first of two required core theology courses. It is designed to give a broad historical overview of theological questions from the perspective of the Catholic tradition.



“By supporting the development of OERs in religion and theology Atla is addressing a great need for open texts in this field,”

explained Melody Diehl Detar, chair of Atla's Scholarly Communication Committee.

Committee responds to Member Interest on Institutional Repositories

The committee hosted a panel at Atla Annual 2021 Online on Institutional Repositories with Melissa Chim, Matthew Davis, and Melody Diehl Detar, alongside Amanda Hurford from PALNI. They created [a new LibGuide](#) to provide resources and advice for libraries at all stages of the institutional repository (IR) process including considerations for selecting a platform and strategies for implementation and marketing.



International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force

The mission of the International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force (ITLETF) is to strengthen and connect theological and religious studies librarians worldwide by identifying resources, creating educational opportunities, and developing skill enhancement materials through collaborative efforts.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Kelly Campbell *Columbia Theological Seminary, Chair*

Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir *Chicago Theological Seminary*

Carisse Berryhill *Abilene Christian University*

Kerrie Burn *University of Divinity*

Matina Ćurić *Missio International*

Elizabeth Greentree *Brisbane School of Theology*

Seoyoung Kim *World Mission University*

Ephraim Mudave Kanguha *Africa International University*

Cynthia Peleña *Central Philippine University*

Álvaro Pérez *Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana*

Marta Samokishyn *Saint Paul University*

Yesan Sellan *South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies*

Brenda Bailey-Hainer *Staff Liaison*

Jamie Lin *Education and Professional Development Manager*



Task Force Publishes Second Volume

In August 2021, the second volume of the Theological Librarian's Handbook: Administration in Theological Libraries was published open access. The Theological Librarian's Handbook is a multi-volume guide to the practice of theological librarianship intended for library staff who do not possess professional training in the field of library and information science. It offers perspectives and advice from leading experts in the field and best practices from theological libraries all over the world.



Meet Dr. Carisse M. Berryhill

Dr. Carisse M. Berryhill is the Special Assistant to the Dean for Strategic Initiatives at the Brown Library in Abilene, Texas.

AC: How did you get involved in theological librarianship?

CB: I was working as an English professor, and I reached a point in my career where it just didn't look like there were any steps further. There wasn't really any research support; I had made a commitment fairly early in my career to pursue research when given an opportunity to choose a fork. So, I began looking around for possibilities to do research in the field. And I learned that a library was going to have a position in two years that was connected with their religious collection, which was in my research field.

The same week I learned that I also learned that a library school in Texas was opening an extension program in my city. I thought, "Okay, it looks to me like God is at work here." I entered the program, not knowing what would happen. After library school, I had an opportunity to apply for, and eventually was hired for, a cataloging job at a standalone seminary connected with my religious tradition. The history of the Stone-Campbell Movement is my research field.

That took me to Memphis to work in the library. I had never expected to work as a cataloger. I had thought because I've been a teacher, I would probably work in a reference kind of position. But working as a cataloger was a great theological education. It was amazing because everything went through my hands. So I learned and watched. Through

that library, I learned about Atla and about the Tennessee Theological Library Association, and that got me started on new opportunities for leadership and service.

I just loved Atla, especially the Tennessee group, which contributed so much to my opportunity to grow and learn. After I had been in Tennessee for twelve years, I moved to Texas, partially for family reasons. I made another kind of remarkable change by moving from cataloging to Archives and Special Collections.

I really didn't know anything about Archives and Special Collections, except from the perspective of a scholar who used those materials. And the religious tradition that I'm part of—an upper south denomination called Churches of Christ—is a fairly conservative community. It has a radical polity in that there is no denominational structure above the local congregation. There's no diocese, there's no presbytery, no synod, no convention. There's no supra-congregational organization, which gives individual congregations a great deal of freedom. But it also means that certain kinds of conserving institutions that you might expect, like a denominational archive, don't exist. So, it falls to institutions affiliated with a denomination, like a college where I work now, to build this kind of institutional memory and resources.

It was then my job to deepen those collections, extend them, and recruit new collections. We now have above

600 collections of personal papers now. I think about 140,000 cataloged items, and those are primarily focused on our denomination's history. We also have about 40,000 digitized items that have generated about two million total downloads worldwide.

I have also taught the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign iSchool course on theological librarianship now for seventeen years. I was recruited in 2004, at the Atla summer conference. It was a new course. Atla decided to use it as a means to achieve one of its aims at the time, which was that there would be a supply of qualified librarians. So, they worked out a deal with Illinois to offer this course as an online-only course. Illinois was doing a lot of hybrid work at that point. It was very early when we first started doing the course; we didn't even have video streaming. We did it by dial-up and chat. We had voiceover from the instructor, and maybe a guest, but the students had no voice input; they just had the chat. It's been interesting to watch it grow. I enjoy teaching; I'm really happy to come to Atla conferences and see former students—that's just wonderful.

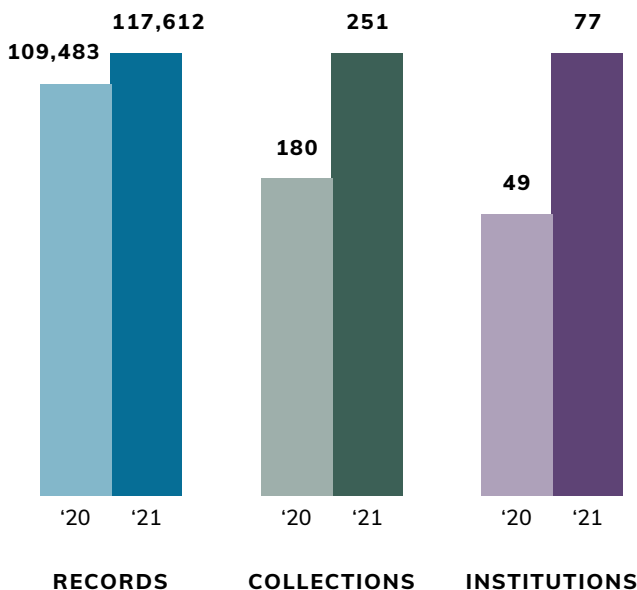
Read the full interview on the [Atla Blog](#).

Member Spotlight is a series on the Atla Blog featuring interviews with individual Atla members about their journey in theological librarianship.

We provide programs and resources for members to learn and collaborate on librarianship and scholarship in religion and theology.



We support a digital repository that contains metadata from Atla member libraries and archives and collections of other libraries and institutions.



Meet the Newest DL Contributors

- Anderson University
- Brooklyn College Library
- Butler University
- Christian Theological Seminary
- DePauw University
- Earlham College
- Fordham University Libraries
- Franklin College
- Grace College & Seminary
- Hanover College
- Haverford College Quaker and Special Collections
- Huntington University
- Manchester University
- Marian University
- Meadville Lombard Theological School
- Oakland City University
- Saint Joseph's University Archives and Special Collections
- Saint Mary's College
- Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library
- Saint Paul School of Theology Library
- Samford University Library
- Sounding Spirit
- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections
- Swarthmore College Friends Historical Library
- Taylor University
- University of Saint Francis
- Wabash College



Dive Deeper

Christy Karpinski, Atla Digital Projects Coordinator, highlighted our newest contributors' digital collections on the Atla Blog.

Collection available in the Atla Digital Library

Collection available in the Atla Digital Library

Collection available in the Atla Digital Library

Collection available in the Atla Digital Library

Collection available in the Atla Digital Library

Collection available in the Atla Digital Library

Collection available in the Atla Digital Library



22 institutions have submitted
278 abstracts to RIM

INSTITUTIONS WHO SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS TO THE DATABASE:

Aquinas Institution of Theology
Atlantic Coast Theological Seminary
Bethel Seminary (Saint Paul, Minnesota)
Campbell University Divinity School
Catholic Theological Union
Columbia Theological Seminary
Dallas Theological Seminary
Denver Seminary
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Gateway Seminary
Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology
Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Missio Seminary
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Reformed Theological Seminary
Southern California Seminary
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry (Ambridge, Pennsylvania)
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Tyndale University College and Seminary
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Wesley Theological Seminary

Grants

Consultation Grant

Atla awarded one consultant grant to St. John Vianney Seminary for an assessment and evaluation of the library's rare books collections.

Member Product Loyalty Program

94 individuals from 43 institutions received discounted conference registration with the Member Product Loyalty discount. The total amount awarded was \$7,012.50.

Conference Grant

Awarded conference grants to 17 Individual and Student members to attend Atla Annual Online 2021. Also awarded 3 grants to individuals from partner organizations CRRA, CLA, and AJL.

Consortial Purchasing Program

We offer discounted purchasing of several products and services.

Atla/EBSCO – **97** subscribers

Atla/OCLC – **31** subscribers

OCLC WMS Group – **41** libraries

OCLC SCS – **7** libraries



87

Member Libraries

7,653

Posted

308

Items claimed

Webinars

Atla's professional development offerings included webinars, workshops, and conversation groups.

28

Webinars

1,000+

Registered attendees

Atla Expands Webinar Offerings with the Professional Development Alliance

Our partnership with the Professional Development Alliance of Library Consortia resulted in an additional 80 webinars offered to Atla members throughout this fiscal year.

4.3/5

Attendees scored the content useful

Funnel Projects

The Funnel Projects, including NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program), SACO (Subject Authority Cooperative Program), and CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials Program), are component parts of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). The Funnel Projects are sponsored by the Professional Development Committee.

NACO:

- Member **1**
- New Name records **712**
- Modified Exhibiting records **231**
- Represented Institutions:
 - Andover-Harvard Theological Library
 - Belhaven University
 - Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University
 - Catholic Theological Union
 - Columbia Theological Seminary
 - Concordia Seminary
 - Concordia Theological Seminary
 - Covenant Theological Seminary
 - Dallas Theological Seminary
 - Emory University, Pitts Theology Library
 - Fordham University
 - Louisville Presbyterian Seminary
 - Murray State University
 - North Park University
 - Salvation Army College for Officer Training
 - Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
 - Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
 - University of St. Mary of the Lake
 - Westminster Theological Seminary
 - Wheaton College
 - Woodstock Theological Library

CONSER:

- Member **1**
- New Original Serial Records **278**
- Modified CONSER Records **332**
- Represented Institution:
 - Harvard Divinity School

SACO:

- Members **7**
- New Subject Headings **4**
- Changed Subject Headings **1**
- New/Changed LC Classification Numbers **2**
- Represented Institutions:
 - Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University
 - Catholic Theological Union
 - Columbia Theological Seminary
 - Concordia Theological Seminary
 - Emory University, Pitts Theology Library
 - North Park University
 - Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
 - Waynesburg University



Interest Groups, Committees, Denominational Groups, and Atla staff produce subject resource guides for librarians, staff, and students at religious and theological libraries and archives.

3

New LibGuides

8 guides with

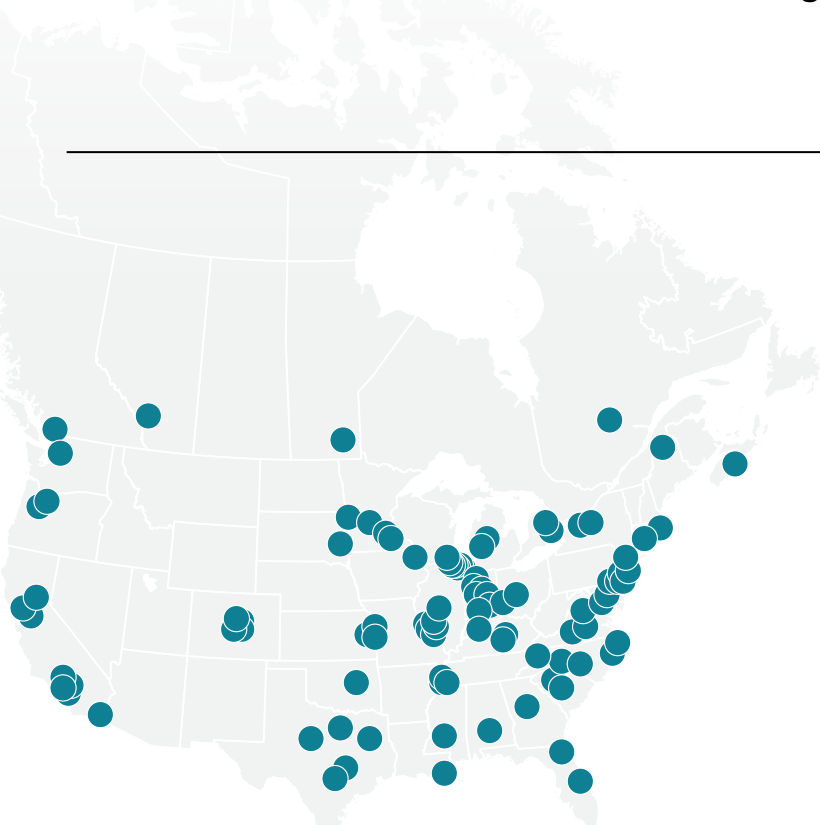


27,492

Views

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Atla Dei Committee** by the DEI Committee
- **LibGuide focused on Institutional Repositories** by the Atla Scholarly Communication and Digital Initiatives Committee
- **African Traditional Religions: Ifa** This guide, created by the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library with funding from the Atla OER Grant Program, exists as an Open Educational Resource.

Most Viewed LibGuide: Websites on Religion with 15,881 views!



The program creates an arrangement between participating North American Atla Institutional Members and Affiliate Candidate Libraries to grant check-out privileges to each other's patrons/students.

123 libraries took part in the program.



We publish and host original scholarship from theological and religious studies librarians, scholars, and others.

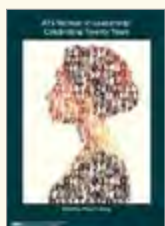
ASSOCIATION EDITIONS

Administration in Theological Libraries



Published on
8/2/2021
261
Downloads

ATS Women in Leadership:
Celebrating Twenty Years



Published on
11/24/2020
233
Downloads

Theological Questions



Published on
6/3/2021
as part of the Atla
OER Grant Program
66
Downloads

SCHOLARLY EDITIONS

Claiming Notability for Women Activists in Religion, volume one of Women in Religion



Published on
10/23/2020
755
Downloads

Preserving the Past &
Engaging the Future: Theology & Religion
in American Special Collections



Published on
6/1/2021
321
Downloads

REPRINTS



In April 2021, we completed upload of 25 reprint titles that had been digitized by Abilene Christian University Press



Atla Open Press Serials

**2 ISSUES OF
THEOLOGICAL
LIBRARIANSHIP**

69,212
Views

October 2020



April 2021



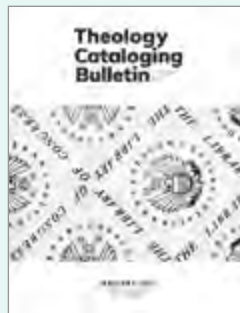
**4 ISSUES OF
THEOLOGY CATALOGING BULLETIN**

1,671
Views

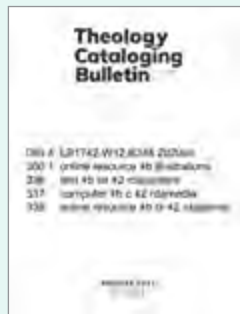
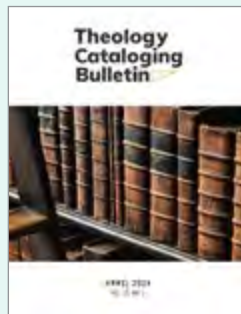
October 2020



January 2021



August 2021



**SUMMARY OF
PROCEEDINGS**

5,311
Views



**ATLA ANNUAL
YEARBOOK**

1,934
Views



Allison Gammons

**Winner of 2021
Theological Librarianship
Student Essay Contest**

**Theological
Librarianship**

Theological Librarianship Editorial Board selected Allison Gammons as the Student Essays Contest Winner. Read her published essay in the October 2021 issue of TL, [At the Intersection of Justice and Faith: Exploring the Information Seeking Behaviors of Religious Leaders Working for Social Justice](#)

Hosted Titles



The ANZTLA EJournal is the official serial publication of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association.

13,323

Views

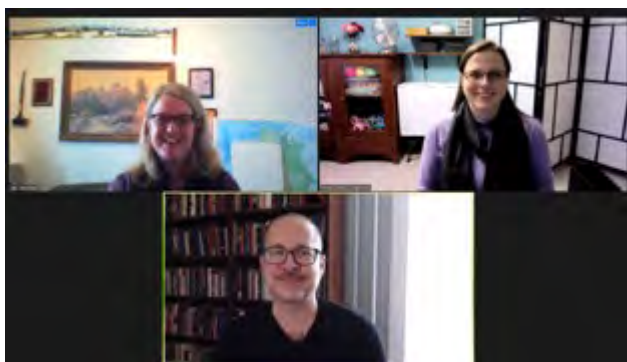


The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching launched in 2020 and is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed quarterly journal on teaching in the fields of religious and theological studies in higher education.

18,884

Views

Editorial Boards



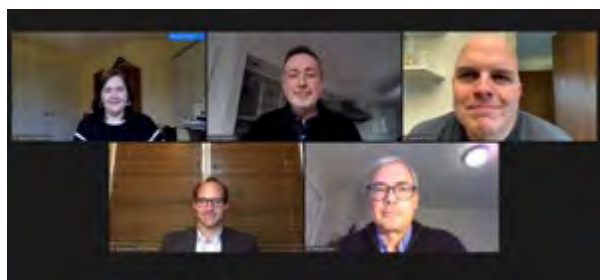
Books@Atla Open Press

[Left to right] Kelly Campbell (Columbia Theological Seminary), Myka Kennedy Stephens (Lancaster Theological Seminary), James Estes (Library of Congress)



Atla Open Press Advisory Council

[Left to right] Kris Veldheer (Catholic Theological Union), Cynthia Snell (Columbia International University), Myka Kennedy Stephens (Lancaster Theological Seminary), Doug Gratt (Harvard Divinity School), Nicky Agate (University of Pennsylvania), Garrett Trott (Corban University)



Theological Librarianship

[Left to right] Kaeley McMahan (Wake Forest University), Chris Anderson (Yale Divinity School), Garrett Trott (Corban University), Bo Adams (Candler School of Theology at Emory University), Jesse Mann (Drew University)

Theology Cataloging Bulletin (not pictured)

Cynthia Snell (Columbia International University), Anna Appleman (Columbia Theological Seminary), Christa Strickler (Wheaton College)



Meet Daniel Smith

Daniel Smith is the Research, Instruction, & Digital Services Librarian at the Styberg Library at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

AC: How did you get into librarianship?

DS: It was something I never considered until I went off to seminary. I was lucky enough to get a job in the library as a student worker; I spent my whole time in seminary there. I was at Garrett, where I work now, for seven years while I was doing a couple of master's degrees, and during that time, I was able to work in a variety of positions. I started out with the circulation desk and then moved on to technical services, ILL, and different places around the library. I've worked some in Archives and Special Collections. I got a really good opportunity to sample around and see what was happening in the library, and I discovered that I like it.

It wasn't really something I had thought about. Going to seminary, my thought was that I wanted to be working in some sort of ministry setting, probably in a church or something like that. But then by working in the library, I thought, "Well, this is actually really interesting." There were a number

of librarians who encouraged me to consider going to library school. They said, "You know, you seem to really enjoy this, and it seems to be something you're pretty good at, so why don't you consider it?" And I thought, "Well, you know, maybe this is where I am called and what I should be doing."

After graduating, I spent some more time thinking about it; I didn't immediately commit. I took about a year off and was working as a church administrator close by, and I discovered the LEEP program through the University of Illinois. I knew that they offered the Theological Librarianship class, so I was already somewhat familiar with them. But when I explored the program and realized it was an asynchronous, online program, I thought, "Well, why not? Let's give this a try." And I guess the rest is history! In the midst of finishing that up, I received a job offer, and I'm back where I was working originally, at the seminary. It's been a lot of fun to be back in the new position.

AC: When did you find out about Atla?

DS: I suppose it was sometime when I was working in the library. I probably saw a *Proceedings* or something on someone's shelf and may have asked about it; I did know that some of the librarians presented at the conference when I was there. I think I really became most familiar with Atla when I was taking the Theological Librarianship class with Dr. Carisse Berryhill at the University of Illinois in the LEEP program. She really spent a lot of time introducing us to different folks who worked at Atla, but also different things that Atla does and has done over history. So that's when it became really of interest and something I knew I wanted to be more committed to once I became a professional librarian. My first conference was at the conference in Indianapolis.

Read the full interview on the [Atla Blog](#).

Member Spotlight is a series on the *Atla Blog* featuring interviews with individual *Atla* members about their journey in theological librarianship.

Atla produces trusted research tools for the study of religion & theology.

A look back on the year, including milestones and advances in our offerings.

We increased open access titles in our subscription databases.

ATLA RELIGION DATABASE



ATLAS



ATLAS PLUS



 Total Titles  Newly Added Titles

337 subscribers from **39** developing countries received discounts to our subscription databases.

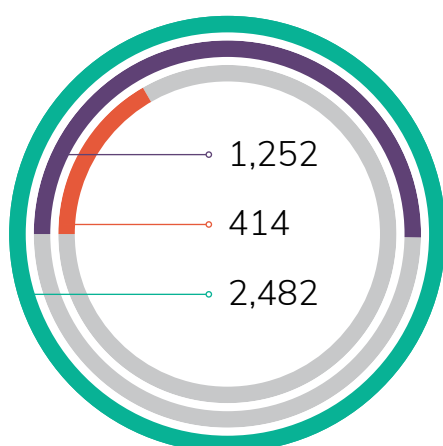
301 publishers from around the world have licensed content with Atla.

134 institutions offer their graduates access to our subscription databases.

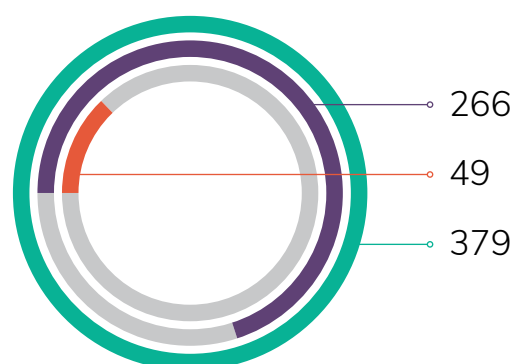
Atla Research Tools

New titles have been added to our research tools, which are made available to students, scholars, researchers, faculty, and religious leaders by thousands of libraries in more than 75 countries*

ATLA RELIGION DATABASE



ATLAS PLUS



ATLAS



Total
Titles



Peer-
Reviewed



Open
Access

*We periodically take steps to clean and update our serial records. This may affect accurate reporting from year to year.

OLD TESTAMENT ABSTRACTS (OTA)

Atla produces Old Testament Abstracts (OTA) in partnership with the Catholic Biblical Association.

76,700+ records

10,400 book summaries

NEW TESTAMENT ABSTRACTS (NTA)

Atla produces New Testament Abstracts (NTA) in partnership with Boston College.

90,000+ records

24,800 book summaries

PRODUCTS

Atlas Atlas PLUS

Atlas and Atlas PLUS are online full-text collections of major religion and theology journals used by libraries, librarians, scholars, students, and religious leaders.



FY21 Newly Appearing Titles

Atlas

Artistic Theologian
Biblische Zeitschrift
Christian Journal for Global Health
Churchman/ The Global Anglican
Conspectus
Islamic Africa
Journal for the Study of
the Historical Jesus
Journal of Confucian
Philosophy and Culture
Journal of Muslims in Europe
Journal of Religion in Japan
Oriens
Religion & Gender
Religion. Church. Society
TheoLogica

Atlas PLUS

Africanus Journal
Al-Fikr al-islāmī al-mu'āšir
[Contemporary Islamic Thought]
American Journal of
Islam and Society
Cultic Studies Review
(preceding title)
Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal
Ecclesial Practices
Evangelical Review of Theology
International Journal of Cultic Studies
Journal for Baptist
Theology & Ministry
Journal for the Evangelical
Study of the Old Testament
Journal of Religion & Society
Journal of Religion & Society:
Supplement Series

Journal of Sufi Studies
McMaster Journal of
Theology and Ministry
New Theology Review
NTT: Journal for Theology and
the Study of Religion
Roczniki Biblijne (preceding title)
Roczniki Teologiczne (preceding title)
Roczniki Teologiczno-
Kanoniczne (preceding title)
Studia Islamica
Studia Religiosa
Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations
The American Journal of Islamic
Social Sciences (preceding title)
The Bible & Critical Theory
The Biblical Annals
The Wheel

Full-Text Products Now Include Journals Covering 24 Languages



Atla Religion Database

Atla Religion Database is the premier index of articles, reviews, and essays in all fields of religion and theology, and offers significant breadth and depth of subject areas and languages covered.

Index Coverage Expands to 62 Countries

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
|  Argentina |  France |  Kenya |  Poland |  Taiwan |
|  Australia |  Germany |  Lebanon |  Portugal |  Tanzania, United Republic of |
|  Austria |  Ghana |  Malaysia |  Romania | |
|  Belgium |  Guatemala |  Mexico |  Serbia |  Thailand |
|  Brazil |  Hong Kong |  Netherlands |  Singapore |  Turkey |
|  Canada |  Hungary |  New Zealand |  Slovakia |  Ukraine |
|  Chile |  India |  Nigeria |  Slovenia |  United Kingdom |
|  China |  Indonesia |  Norway |  South Africa |  United States |
|  Colombia |  Iran |  Pakistan |  South Korea |  Vatican City |
|  Croatia |  Ireland |  Papua New Guinea |  Spain |  Zimbabwe |
|  Czech Republic |  Israel |  Peru |  Sri Lanka | |
|  Denmark |  Italy |  Philippines |  Sweden | |
|  Finland |  Japan |  Switzerland | | |

FY21 Newly Appearing Titles

- African Journal of Gender and Religion
Annual of the Japanese Biblical Institute
Asian American Theological Forum
BABELAO
Black Theology Papers Project
Canadian Jewish Studies
Church, Communication and Culture
교회사학 [Church History]
Claritas
Contacts: Revue Française de l'Orthodoxie.
Contemporary Jewry
De Medio Aevo
Documentatieblad voor de Nederlandse kerkgeschiedenis na 1800
Efemérides Mexicana
Global journal al-thaqafah
Great Commission Research Journal
Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies
Indologica Taurinensia
International Journal of Latin American Religions
Interreligious Relations
ISJS Transactions
Jain Journal
Jewish Historical Studies
Jewish Political Studies Review
Jnanadeepa
Journal for the Study of the Religions of Africa and its Diaspora
Journal of African Christian Biography
Journal of Biblical Perspectives in Leadership
Journal of Daoist Studies
Journal of Dharma Studies: Philosophy, Theology, Ethics, and Culture (succeeding)
Journal of East-West Thought
Journal of Ministry & Theology
Journal of Sikh Studies
Journal of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies
Journal of the Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions
Journal of the Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions
한국교회사학회지 [Journal of the Korean Association of Church History]
Judaica Petropolitana
Judaica: Neue digitale Folge
Les Cahiers de la Mémoire Contemporain
문학과 종교 [Literature and Religion]
道風: 漢語神學學刊 [Logos and Pneuma: Chinese Journal of Theology]
Materia Giudaica
MAVCOR Journal
Mishkan: a forum on the Gospel and the Jewish people
臺大佛學研究 [National Taiwan University Buddhist Studies]
Ökumenisches Forum
Online--Heidelberg Journal of Religions on the Internet
Open Theology
Perspectivas
Pharos Journal of Theology
Philippiniana sacra
Quaderni di Storia Religiosa
Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Religions- und Kulturgeschichte
Sikh Research Journal
Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology
St. Tikhon's University Review: Problems of History and Theory in Christian Art
Studia Etckie
Studies in American Jewish Literature
Tel Aviv
신학논단 [Theological Forum]
The Journal of CESNUR
The Journal of Education in Muslim Societies
The WATS Journal: An Online Journal from West Africa Theological Seminary
Vidyottama Sanatana
Wrocławski Przegląd Teologiczny



Meet Carol Jarvis

Carol V. Jarvis is a Contractor Cataloger of Middle East Materials at Brigham Young University.

AC: Do you remember what your first impression of Atla was? Do you remember when you first encountered Atla?

CJ: Yes. I actually joined in the spring of 2016. I kind of felt all along that I'm making a comeback. Starting from nothing, for all those years, and trying to emerge again. I'm always thinking, "Okay. What might be the best way to meet people and have them understand me and be able to help me get work?" The best way possible. I had to make a choice between attending the American Library Association, a big huge association, that it is, or Atla, which is obviously a lot smaller and specialized. I don't remember exactly how I discovered Atla, but I did. It was in 2016 after I started doing the work for BYU.

Then in 2017, my partner and I actually attended the Atla conference in Atlanta, Georgia. I remember that conference. I was talking with Iskandar Bcheiry. I missed him at this virtual conference, I didn't see him there.

But I met him face to face at the 2017 conference. I really loved being around him and practicing my Arabic with him. I remember him saying that my Arabic speech was quite slow but clear, and I thought, "Well, I guess I like that okay!"

I also met Brian Shetler from Drew University also in person. He thought his institution had a backlog in Arabic and Persian, but it turned out they didn't, so that didn't quite pan out. Then after that, I just maintained my membership every year, and I read the newsletters and so forth. And then, of course, I attended the virtual conference this past June.

AC: Is there a project or something that you're most proud of when you look at your career as a cataloger?

CJ: Well, I already mentioned that I've been working for BYU for over five years. I think there's one other thing I'm going to point out that I have a lot of pride in. I'm on Facebook and I have a few friends that are from the Middle East, from the country of Qatar. It turns out that there was one person that works for a company

called Global Access Limited that has subsidiary companies, and one of them is called Fihrist, located in Cairo, Egypt. A colleague of one of my Facebook friends works at the national library of Qatar, in Doha, Qatar. My friend actually sent me a message saying that one of his colleagues was looking for somebody who could catalog in Ottoman Turkish and he wanted my permission to give my name to this project manager. So I said yes, and this past April I actually cataloged twenty-eight book scans in Ottoman Turkish for a client here in the US but through that company, Fihrist, located in Cairo, Egypt. So that means that my reputation as a Middle Eastern cataloger has gone international now..

Read the full interview on the [Atla Blog](#).

Member Spotlight is a series on the Atla Blog featuring interviews with individual Atla members about their journey in theological librarianship.

Board of Directors

Atla is governed by an elected board of directors, and for the past seven decades, we have built a rich history of excellence in library collections and services, community, collaboration, and innovation.



Board of Directors [First Row] J r mie LeBlanc, Brenda Bailey-Hainer (Executive Director), Stephen Sweeney, Karl Stutzman [Second row] Kerrie Burn, Matthew Thiesen, Christina Torbert, Leslie A. Engelson, [Third Row] Michelle Spomer, Armin Siedlecki, Shanee' Yvette Murrain, Susan Ebertz, [Fourth Row] Ellen Frost

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Ellen Frost *Vice President, Head of Technical Services, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology*

Christina Torbert *Secretary, Head of Continuing Resources and Bibliographer for Philosophy and Religion, University of Mississippi*

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kerrie Burn *Library Manager, Mannix Library, Catholic Theological College at the University of Divinity*

Susan Ebertz *Director of the Library, Reu Memorial Library, Wartburg Theological Seminary*

Leslie A. Engelson *Metadata Librarian, University Libraries, Murray State University*

Jérémie LeBlanc *Chief Librarian, Jean-Léon Allie Library, Saint Paul University*

Shanee' Yvette Murrain *Community Manager, Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)*

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

Matthew Thiesen *Director of Library and Information Services, Cline-Tunnell Library, Western Seminary*

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Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Treasurer and Chair

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Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

Jérémie LeBlanc
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University of Mississippi

Karl Stutzman
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

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Carey S. Thomas Library, Denver Seminary

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Reeves Memorial Library, Moravian Theological Seminary

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Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Chair

Kerrie Burn
Mannix Library, Catholic Theological College at the University of Divinity

Susan Ebertz
Reu Memorial Library, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Leslie A. Engelson
University Libraries, Murray State University

Nominating Committee

Jennifer Ulrich
Sadie Hartzler Library, Eastern Mennonite University, Chair

Jason Fowler
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Library

Michelle Spomer
Clifford E. Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

ATLA LEADERSHIP



Staff Directors August 2021 [Back, left to right] Jim Butler, Gillian Harrison Cain, Margot Lyon, [Front, left to right] Maria Stanton, Marie Jacobsen, Brenda Bailey-Hainer

ASSOCIATION STAFF LEADERSHIP

Brenda Bailey-Hainer
Executive Director

Margot Lyon
Director of Business Development

Marie Jacobsen
Director of Financial Services

Jim Butler
Director of Information Systems

Gillian Harrison Cain
Director of Member Programs

Maria Stanton
Director of Production



Meet Jim Pakala

Jim Pakala is the retired former Library Director of J. Oliver Buswell, Jr. Library at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

AC: What led you to librarianship? Did you always see yourself working in this field?

JP: Like many in Atla over the years, I never envisioned being a librarian. In January 1973, I went to complete my Master of Sacred Theology (STM) at Biblical School of Theology. I began working part-time in the library, which already had about 30,000 volumes thanks to the acquisition of the core of another seminary's collection. A professor who oversaw the library had to go to the Netherlands for a year to complete a doctorate and recommended me for that oversight because I had my Master of Divinity (MDIV), was pursuing my STM, and had some university grad courses in philosophy. Meanwhile, we had been pursuing Pennsylvania accreditation, and a full-time library director was required. I began a course at a time with my tuition paid for, later completing both my STM and a Drexel University library degree. With accreditation, we could use "Seminary" in our name, as Pennsylvania forbids that use otherwise.

So yes, I was at Biblical, which is now Missio Seminary. I went there in January '73, and I was there until '91. I got a call, actually, in August of '90, from the dean at the time, who later became the president of Covenant, saying, "Your name has been given to us as one who knows a lot of different

librarians." I said, "Yeah, I've been very active in the Theological Library Association. And I do." Then I paused, and I said, "Well, you know, I may be interested in that position at Covenant." And he said, "Well, actually, we're after you. But we didn't want to pose it that way in case you had no inclination whatsoever of leaving Biblical."

I went for the interviews in October of 1990, accompanied by Denise and our son Kent. Nice surprises occurred, such as when I met with the president and we discovered that both he and someone who had worked with me at Biblical's library knew one another from First Presbyterian in Duluth, Minnesota, and at my meeting with the whole faculty, an elderly member greeted me saying that he taught my sister Greek in the early 1950s in New York! Committed at Biblical until summer 1991, we moved in late July but Covenant brought us out earlier to find a house.

Now, the main mandate was to complete a retro-conversion. They had taken ten years to do half. I said, "I can't take this position if Denise isn't hired." As it turned out, she completed it in eighteen months. By God's preparation, her work at Westminster was mainly retro-conversion. That even included the huge OCLC systems migration (to Passport & Connexion) in progress before we moved, so she knew both old and new and needed

both, as PALINET had migrated before MLNC, which I saw that Covenant joined. We left the awful mix of card and fiche catalogues once the retro-con and barcoding were done and computers introduced.

AC: You've been with Atla for a long time, and you served on the Board as well. Could you tell me about that?

JP: It was a wonderful experience. Dennis Norlin was the Executive Director at the time. In fact, I went up to Chicago for his memorial later, and people who were there could make remarks at this little reception they had. It was wonderful because I was able to tell from that board experience about the incredible job he had. When the association moved from one building over to the other building in Chicago, it was extremely difficult. A lot of people were kind of wide-eyed because they didn't know what he'd been through. But being on the board, I was very aware of how difficult that time was and how well he navigated that whole situation..

Read the full interview on the [Atla Blog](#).

Member Spotlight is a series on the Atla Blog featuring interviews with individual Atla members about their journey in theological librarianship.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
American Theological Library Association

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of American Theological Library Association (the "Association"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of August 31, 2021 and 2020 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of American Theological Library Association as of August 31, 2021 and 2020 and the changes in its net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Plante & Moran, PLLC

February 8, 2022

American Theological Library Association

Statement of Financial Position

August 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 937,892	\$ 1,765,782
Investments	8,458,169	6,912,516
Accounts and pledge receivable - Net	1,082,195	719,604
Prepaid expenses and other assets	310,789	307,497
Contract costs - Net	7,080,170	7,143,556
Property and equipment - Net	532,763	742,607
	<u>\$ 18,401,978</u>	<u>\$ 17,591,562</u>
Total assets		
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 168,278	\$ 268,366
Contract liabilities	5,248,028	4,769,161
Deferred rent	-	34,355
Accrued liabilities and other:		
Accrued compensation	275,073	260,214
Accrued interest	-	2,312
Accrued royalties	850,089	837,638
	<u>1,125,162</u>	<u>1,100,164</u>
Total accrued liabilities and other		
SBA loan payable	-	685,982
	<u>6,541,468</u>	<u>6,858,028</u>
Total liabilities		
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	10,630,237	9,773,071
Board designated	605,259	449,824
	<u>11,235,496</u>	<u>10,222,895</u>
Total without donor restrictions		
With donor restrictions	625,014	510,639
	<u>11,860,510</u>	<u>10,733,534</u>
Total net assets		
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 18,401,978</u>	<u>\$ 17,591,562</u>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

American Theological Library Association

Statement of Activities

Years Ended August 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021			2020		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenue, Gains, and Other Support						
Subscription databases	\$ 7,182,368	\$ -	\$ 7,182,368	\$ 7,094,822	\$ -	\$ 7,094,822
Membership (conference and dues)	192,509	-	192,509	179,942	-	179,942
Contributions	57,724	2,817	60,541	-	7,157	7,157
Other	65,133	-	65,133	75,417	-	75,417
Gain on debt extinguishment	685,982	-	685,982	-	-	-
Investment income - Net	144,100	131,308	275,408	114,309	39,198	153,507
Net assets released from restrictions	19,750	(19,750)	-	8,000	(8,000)	-
Total revenue, gains, and other support	8,347,566	114,375	8,461,941	7,472,490	38,355	7,510,845
Expenses						
Program services:						
Products	3,859,637	-	3,859,637	3,735,239	-	3,735,239
Member programs	1,400,386	-	1,400,386	1,572,667	-	1,572,667
Total program services	5,260,023	-	5,260,023	5,307,906	-	5,307,906
Support services:						
Management and general	2,066,361	-	2,066,361	2,037,198	-	2,037,198
Fundraising	8,581	-	8,581	11,854	-	11,854
Total support services	2,074,942	-	2,074,942	2,049,052	-	2,049,052
Total expenses	7,334,965	-	7,334,965	7,356,958	-	7,356,958
Increase in Net Assets	1,012,601	114,375	1,126,976	115,532	38,355	153,887
Net Assets - Beginning of year	10,222,895	510,639	10,733,534	10,107,363	472,284	10,579,647
Net Assets - End of year	\$ 11,235,496	\$ 625,014	\$ 11,860,510	\$ 10,222,895	\$ 510,639	\$ 10,733,534

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

American Theological Library Association

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended August 31, 2021

	Program Services			Support Services			Total Expenses
	Products	Member Programs	Total	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	
Salaries and benefits	\$ 672,716	\$ 795,548	\$ 1,468,264	\$ 1,361,756	\$ 8,537	\$ 1,370,293	\$ 2,838,557
Royalties to publishers and partners	1,085,927	-	1,085,927	-	-	-	1,085,927
Information and telecommunication	210,391	54,759	265,150	23,057	-	23,057	288,207
Depreciation and amortization	1,493,455	388,708	1,882,163	163,666	-	163,666	2,045,829
Travel	1,488	19,592	21,080	15,377	-	15,377	36,457
Marketing	-	16,676	16,676	18,419	-	18,419	35,095
Occupancy	225,708	49,732	275,440	107,116	-	107,116	382,556
Office expenses	1,686	6,856	8,542	107,655	44	107,699	116,241
Professional development	9,196	6,510	15,706	23,372	-	23,372	39,078
Professional services	158,593	8,083	166,676	211,259	-	211,259	377,935
Educational services	-	2,460	2,460	-	-	-	2,460
Conference	-	20,241	20,241	-	-	-	20,241
Awards	-	25,299	25,299	19,750	-	19,750	45,049
Audio visual	-	-	-	108	-	108	108
Other	477	5,922	6,399	14,826	-	14,826	21,225
Total functional expenses	\$ 3,859,637	\$ 1,400,386	\$ 5,260,023	\$ 2,066,361	\$ 8,581	\$ 2,074,942	\$ 7,334,965

American Theological Library Association

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended August 31, 2020

	Program Services			Support Services			Total Expenses
	Products	Member Programs	Total	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	
Salaries and benefits	\$ 618,522	\$ 804,431	\$ 1,422,953	\$ 1,267,887	\$ 7,869	\$ 1,275,756	\$ 2,698,709
Royalties to publishers and partners	1,027,357	-	1,027,357	-	-	-	1,027,357
Information and telecommunication	258,469	68,207	326,676	32,309	-	32,309	358,985
Depreciation and amortization	1,359,614	358,787	1,718,401	169,952	-	169,952	1,888,353
Travel	32,183	97,871	130,054	83,868	2,199	86,067	216,121
Marketing	5,837	8,509	14,346	22,836	-	22,836	37,182
Occupancy	415,406	91,530	506,936	197,142	-	197,142	704,078
Office expenses	1,797	349	2,146	70,398	1,786	72,184	74,330
Professional development	5,032	1,007	6,039	22,512	-	22,512	28,551
Professional services	10,229	73,073	83,302	159,829	-	159,829	243,131
Educational services	-	35,607	35,607	-	-	-	35,607
Conference	-	6,150	6,150	-	-	-	6,150
Awards	-	24,250	24,250	8,000	-	8,000	32,250
Audio visual	-	40	40	1,513	-	1,513	1,553
Other	793	2,856	3,649	952	-	952	4,601
Total functional expenses	\$ 3,735,239	\$ 1,572,667	\$ 5,307,906	\$ 2,037,198	\$ 11,854	\$ 2,049,052	\$ 7,356,958

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

American Theological Library Association

Statement of Cash Flows

Years Ended August 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Increase in net assets	\$ 1,126,976	\$ 153,887
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash and cash equivalents from operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	2,045,829	1,888,353
Unrealized gains on investments	(287,533)	(52,169)
Additions to contract cost assets	(1,693,232)	(1,723,428)
Gain on debt extinguishment	(685,982)	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities that (used) provided cash and cash equivalents:		
Accounts and pledge receivable	(362,591)	20,045
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(3,292)	(12)
Accounts payable	(100,088)	184,693
Contract liabilities	478,867	(83,537)
Deferred rent	(34,355)	(64,865)
Accrued liabilities and other	24,998	104,816
Net cash and cash equivalents provided by operating activities	509,597	427,783
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(79,367)	(118,580)
Purchases of investments	(7,297,075)	(5,000,000)
Proceeds from sales of investments	6,038,955	3,644,405
Net cash and cash equivalents used in investing activities	(1,337,487)	(1,474,175)
Cash Flows Provided by Financing Activities - Proceeds from SBA loan	-	685,982
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(827,890)	(360,410)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of year	1,765,782	2,126,192
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of year	<u>\$ 937,892</u>	<u>\$ 1,765,782</u>

The complete FY21 Atla Audit, including the notes, is available on the [Atla website](#).

Donations

Thank you for supporting Atla with your generous donations this year!!

Endowment Fund

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide long-term sustainability for the Association.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer	Ellen Frost	Brad Ost	Rev. Kris Veldheer
Eric Benoy	Karla Grafton	Matthew Ostercamp	Blake Walter
Dr. Carisse Berryhill	Dr. M. Patrick Graham	Russell Pollard	Matthew Wasielewski
Michael Bradford	Rev. William Hair	Russell Pollard	Dr. Christine Wenderoth
Myron Chace	Tammy Johnson	Craig Rosenbeck	L. Charles Willard (In Honor)
Dr. Anita Coleman	Norm Kansfield (In Honor)	Eileen Saner	Clifford Wunderlich
Dr. Stephen Crocco	Rev. Dr. Timothy Lincoln	Newland Smith	Patricia Yang
Virginia Dearborn	Roger Loyd	Adam Solomon	
Bruce Eldevik	VK McCarty	Michelle Spomer	
Suzanne Estelle-Holmer	Richard and Karen Myers	Dr. Sharon Taylor	
Dr. Julia Foster	Betty O'Brien	Mary Ann Teske	

Scholarships & Grants Annual Fund

The purpose of the Scholarships & Grants Annual Fund is to provide regular support for continuing education and diversification of the theological librarianship profession.

Cheryl Adams	Dr. Anita Coleman	Roger Loyd	Michelle Spomer
Brenda Bailey-Hainer	Virginia Dearborn	VK McCarty	Matthew Wasielewski
Miranda Bennett	Ellen Frost	Melody McMahon	Ferne Weimer
Eric Benoy	Karla Grafton	Shanee' Murrain	Rev. Brian Wright
Don Bordenaro	Rev. William Hair	Brad Ost	Patricia Yang
Michael Bradford	Michael Hofer	Russell Pollard	
Myron Chace	David Kriegh	Craig Rosenbeck	



Meet Melissa Chim

Melissa Chim née Aaronberg is the Reference Librarian at General Theological Seminary in New York, New York.

AC: How did you get into librarianship?

MC: I always had such a strong love of books, which I think is something that all librarians start with. My background is actually in history and philosophy. My first masters is in History and I focused on the history of literature. My thesis was on the literature surrounding the French resistance; I did that as my honors thesis for my bachelors in history, and then I expanded on it for my history masters. After that, I always knew I wanted to work with archives and old books and anything to do with history. My aunt has actually just retired from being a librarian for thirty years. My mom suggested, “Oh, you should get your library degree too,” so I applied, and I got into Saint John’s. I knew I wanted to focus on Archives. I did a dual concentration between archives and academic libraries, because while I was at Saint John’s, I got my first library job as a library assistant in a small college out here on Long Island. I thought, “Oh, I really enjoy this

too.” I wanted to open myself up to working with archives with either historical societies or in academia. My internships were in historical societies and museums too.

After working in that field for a while, I saw the job opening for General Theological Seminary. They specifically said in the posting that they wanted someone with experience in academia, special collections, so I thought, “This is perfect for me.” And now I’m in theological librarianship, which I think is a great culmination of everything that I enjoy about being a librarian!

AC: What’s your impression of theological librarianship since you’re so new to the field?

MC: I find it so exciting because I feel like in my day-to-day job as a theological librarian, I could be an information literacy instructor, I could be an archivist, I could be a linguist – we have a lot of books in French, German, and Latin and a few other languages

too, so whenever I go into special collections, I can always test out my languages. Wearing a lot of hats like that is something I find very fulfilling about being a librarian. I love the idea of how theological librarianship crosses over so often with academia, publications, webinars and conferences, and also archival studies too. I think to be a theological librarian, at some point you have to put on the historian hat and the archivist hat. That’s my favorite part of theological librarianship. Because it’s still so new to me, I feel like I have so much to learn. I’m trying to teach myself Latin because I feel like it’s so helpful. I speak French already, Spanish, and I speak Chinese; I speak Cantonese. So, my thought is, I should add Latin too!

Read the full interview on the [Atla Blog](#).

Member Spotlight is a series on the Atla Blog featuring interviews with individual Atla members about their journey in theological librarianship.