



ForATL News

Newsletter of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians

Volume 6: Issue 1

June 2008

ForATL News

is published twice a year (June and December) by the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians as a channel for updates on ForATL activities, as well as a forum for discussion and exchange in the field of Asian theological librarianship.

Subscription : Free

Editor : Christabel Wong

Address :

STM Library, P.O. Box 175
70720 Seremban
Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

Fax : +60-6-6329766

Email : christabel@stm.edu.my

ForATL Website :

<http://www.foratl.org>

ForATL mailing list : foratl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

ForATL News welcomes contributions related to theological librarianship and the development of theological resources in Asia. All manuscripts or correspondence should be sent to the Editor, who reserves the right to determine suitability for publication.

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| MATLA (Malaysian Theological Libraries Association) | 1 |
| Introduction to Theological Librarianship Course | 1 |
| Brief notes on Archives | 2 |
| Myanmar Theological Libraries after Cyclone Nargis | 2 |
| Aftermath of Cyclone Nargis (cont.) | 3 |
| ForATL activities | 3 |
| Theological library resources | 4 |

This issue focuses on the **Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand & Indochina region** of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians

MALAYSIAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION of the Malaysian Association of Theological Schools

The Malaysian Association Theological Schools (MATS) was formed 1998 in order to "promote cooperation among the theological institutions in Malaysia, enhance the spiritual and academic standards of the institutions concerned, and strengthen the bond of relationship within the theological fraternity for the benefit of the Christian movement in the country and beyond". At present, MATS consists of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Malaysia Bible Seminari, Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Bible College Malaysia, Methodist Theological School, Malaysia Evangelical College, Sabah Theological Seminary, Maktab Teologi Sabah, Alpha Omega International College and the Asia Graduate School of Theology.

Some librarians associated with MATS had their first meeting on 31st May 2007 at the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Malaysian Theological Libraries Association (MATLA), with libraries of MATS member schools constituting its membership. A protem committee was set up, comprising of the Chairperson, Miss Michelle Mah (AOIC); Vice-Chairperson, Miss Tan Sok Choo (BCM), and Secretary, Miss Usun Anyie (MEC).

The purpose of MATLA is to enable networking and resource-sharing among MATS institutions via documentation and reciprocal use of facilities (subject to terms and conditions), thus providing a better range of resources for academic research.

In conjunction with current ForATL projects, MATLA is compiling a postgraduate dissertation union list and a periodicals union list from the holdings of member libraries. The union lists, when completed, will be made accessible to member libraries and ForATL.

In addition to sharing of resources, the formation of MATLA has initiated a closer bond between the librarians, who have agreed to support and help each other in library-related matters. The group also hoped to meet on a regular basis every year or two years in conjunction with training opportunities.

Submitted by: **Michelle Mah**

Librarian, Alpha Omega International College, Malaysia
MATLA Protem Chairman

INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIANSHIP COURSE

Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang

28 May – 1 June 2007



Responding to training and networking issues raised among Malaysian librarians at the 4th ForATL Consultation 2006, MBTS organized an introduction to theological librarianship course, facilitated by Barbara Terry (library consultant, MBTS) and aided by an ATLA grant. The course aimed to provide an overview of Asian theological librarianship and impart basic skills. It also offered the opportunity for beginning a planned programme for cooperation among theological libraries in Malaysia, leading to the formation of MATLA. 18 persons attended the training course. A report by Barbara Terry to ATLA is available online at www.atla.com/international_collab/grantrepts.html.

BRIEF NOTES ON ARCHIVES IN ...

MALAYSIA



- **Seminari Theoloji Malaysia Library** (www.stm.edu.my) collects materials on the history and growth of Christianity in Malaysia and Singapore; including minutes, reports, diaries, church records, photographs, newsletters, scrapbooks, letters, souvenir magazines, memoirs, and oral histories. Local histories of schools, institutions and organizations related to Christianity in Malaysia are also collected.
- Materials on Baptist work in Malaysia are held by the **Ruth & Bill Clark Thomas Library** at Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (www.mbts.net.my).
- The **Assemblies of God in Malaysia** (www.ag.org.my) has initiated collecting archival materials related to their history in Malaysia.
- **Sabah Theological Seminary Library** (www.stssabah.org) collects materials related to the history of the Basel Christian Church in Malaysia.
- The various Annual Conferences of the **Methodist Church in Malaysia** (www.methodistchurch.org.my) and the **Methodist Theological School Library** in Sibiu (www.mtssibu.edu.my) actively collect archival resources on Methodism in Malaysia, including minutes, publications, photographs, church bulletins, missionary correspondence, artefacts, etc.

SINGAPORE



- The Archives and History Library of the **Methodist Church in Singapore** (www.methodist.org.sg) has an extensive collection on Methodist history in Malaysia and Singapore.

- The Library of **Trinity Theological College** (www.ttc.edu.sg) actively collects resources on the history of Christianity in Asia. The **Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia** also lists various useful bibliographies and research aids on their website (<http://www.ttc.edu.sg/csca/csca.htm>).

THAILAND



- Founded in 1978, the **Payap University Archives** (<http://archives.payap.ac.th/>) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, has acquired a large collection of material related to the history of Protestant missions and churches in Thailand.

TONGA



- The **Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga Archives** has resources dating back to 1822, when the first Methodist missionaries arrived. These include official documents, minutes, photographs, diaries, the church monthly newspaper, etc. (www.tongatapu.net.to/tonga/convictions/christianity/fwc/fwc.html).
- **Sia'atoutai Theological College** (www.siaatoutai.to) has a small room set aside for archival resources, mainly on the College and the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. The room also holds the students' theses collection.

VIETNAM



- At present, the archives, journals and other Christian publications are not officially collected by the church, or church libraries, or the library of the Bible Institute of the **Evangelical Church of Vietnam**.

Information contributed by:

Fakaanaua Talamai Havea, Le Vinh Phuoc, Michael Mukunthan & P. Sakhthivel.

MYANMAR THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF NARGIS

A report by Alan Po (Head Librarian, Myanmar Institute of Theology)



About libraries and librarians in Myanmar

This is a mixture of disorganized information gathered from various member schools of the Association for Theological Education in Myanmar (ATEM, www.atemm.org), but there are many seminaries and Bible colleges not affiliated to ATEM all over Myanmar.

Three seminaries are located on our campus namely Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT), Kayin Baptist Theological Seminary (KBTS), and Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology (MICT). Other major seminaries in Yangon area are Holy Cross Theological College (HCTC) and Pwo Kayin Theological Seminary (PKTS). All are member schools of ATESEA and accredited except for PKTS.

As you may know, we were expecting an accreditation visit this year and were busy preparing the whole summer. All were wiped out by the cyclone. Although we're glad that no visitation will take place this year, there is still a lot to do for next year's visit. PKTS is affiliated to MIT and was expecting accreditation this year but now ... maybe next year.

All seminaries have their own libraries with librarians and reasonable collections. The Associate Librarian of MIT and the Librarians of HTCT and PKTS are graduates of LTS (Hong Kong), trained by Mr. Tang Sui-Tung. The first two

(Continued on page 3)

AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE NARGIS ...

(continued from page 2)

NOTICE: Those who would like to help supply books for the affected libraries named in this article may contact the Editor (christabel@stm.edu.my) for more information.

came back in 2003 and the last this summer after Nargis. There are two more LTS products: the Librarians of Tahan Theological College (TTC) (2003) and Zomi Theological College (ZTC) (199?, unsure of date).

We all use the Dewey Decimal Classification system, most use Sears List of Subject Headings and a few use Library of Congress Subject Headings. MIT, KBTS, PKTS and HTCT libraries have an open stacks system, whilst MICT's stacks are closed. Card catalogs are still used although we are trying to computerize our library systems. MIT and TTC use the CCNet library management system from Hong Kong. KBTS has its own software for a stand-alone workstation. HTCT, MICT and PKTS are using ISIS (UNESCO). Since electricity is not stable in our country, MIT has its own power generator and our library computers have UPS units, so we manage the best we can. I do not know how other libraries use their computers. We all still have a long way to go, but hope to develop a standard library software that is bilingual/multilingual for our theological libraries in order to share and communicate with each other. Many theological libraries in Myanmar also lack qualified librarians. These are the challenges we are facing now.



Photo: Homes destroyed ... a town devastated by Cyclone Nargis in the Irrawaddy Delta region / AFP

Effects of Cyclone Nargis in May 2008

Our library team was overwhelmed with countless tasks after Nargis. Repairing and reconstruction of damaged resources, both material and human (mentally), took time.

The KBTS Library is located on the first floor of a four-storey building, above the Chapel and classrooms. The cyclone did not cause much damage to that building so Library was spared. There was only water leakage from the windows, thus their collections were safe. Some buildings were damaged by fallen trees and the roofs of some staff residences were blown off.

The MIT Library is located in a separate building, of which the ground floor is used as a Chapel like KBTS. Although only one sheet of the MIT Library roofing was blown away, the damage was extensive.

Leakage of water caused a lot of damage to our workroom, where books were in process and some waiting to be bound. The carpet was soaking wet and is no longer useable. Books on one shelf from Reference section and two shelves from reading room were all wet, but we managed to save some. Four computer workstations provided for students in the Library were out of order. Our library server was also damaged a little, but we could recover almost all our database. As a blessing in disguise, we now have a new server that is much better than the old one. We also completed a new network installation in the library. Thanks to Nargis!

The MICT Library was the worst victim among the three on campus. Their library is located on the upper floor of a two-storey building. The ground floor is used as offices. A tree fell on the roof and caused much damage inside the Library. Two shelves full of books were totally damaged. Since their collection was not much, the loss was severe. PKTS library is on the ground floor of a two storey building, so apart from a little leakage from the windows it did not suffer, although other buildings on their campus were severely damaged by fallen trees.

The worst damage caused by the cyclone Nargis in the Yangon area was to the HCTC Library. A tree fell on the Library, which is on the upper floor of a two storey building, and broke the side wall. This damaged the carpet, books, shelves, computers, etc. The building has now been rebuilt ten feet wider than its original size, which means more space for the library!

There are seminaries and Bible schools in the Irrawaddy delta area where the cyclone hit hardest. However, I only managed to get information from Ko Tha Byu Theological Seminary, another ATESEA accredited seminary in Patheingyi, a capital city of the Irrawaddy Division. Apart from a few soaking wet books, the cyclone did not cause much damage to the Library and other buildings, but the library served as a temporary shelter for cyclone victims. What a service!

FORATL PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- **5th ForATL Consultation & Workshop** to be held from 10-14 March 2009 at Trinity Theological College, Singapore. Theme: *Asian theological librarians moving on and reaching out : professional development and collaboration in the light of emerging technologies.*
- **Directory of Asian Theological Librarians, 3rd ed.** - the project has been revived and a new survey form has been drawn up. Your help is urgently requested to submit updated data by 31 December 2008.

More information on the ForATL website (www.foratl.org)

RESOURCES FOR THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES

1. A THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY MANUAL by Jannette E. Newhall

This classic out-of-print text is now available online at <http://www.atla.com/sources/PDFs/newhall-toc.htm>.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">A THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY MANUAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By JANNETTE E. NEWHALL <i>Professor of Research Methods and Librarian, Emerita Boston University</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">With a Foreword by Raymond P. Morris</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Librarian, Yale University Divinity School</i> ~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LONDON THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND 1970</p> | <p>Contents</p> <p>FOREWORD</p> <p>PREFACE</p> <p>GUIDE TO THE USE OF THE MANUAL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BEGIN WHERE YOU ARE 2. ADMINISTRATION OF THE LIBRARY 3. THE LIBRARY AS A CENTER OF SERVICE 4. ORGANIZING THE BOOK COLLECTION IN A SMALL LIBRARY 5. BOOK SELECTION AND ORDER PROCEDURE 6. CATALOGUING 7. A SURVEY OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS 8. CLASSIFICATION IN PRACTICE 9. SPECIAL USES OF THE DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION 10. SUBJECT CATALOGING 11. FILING ARRANGEMENT IN CARD CATALOGUES 12. HANDLING PERIODICALS 13. COLLECTING AND HANDLING RARE BOOKS AND ARCHIVES 14. THE CARE AND PRESERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS 15. THE LIBRARY BUILDING <p>APPENDICES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GLOSSARY 2. SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES 3. BIBLIOGRAPHIES <p>INDEX</p> |
|--|---|

2. THE LIBRARIAN'S MANUAL (2008 revised & expanded ed.) edited by Ferne Weimer and Kenneth Gill

This text for beginning librarians in developing countries was first published by the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL) in 1994 (see picture). The long awaited, new and expanded edition now includes information on computer-assisted cataloging, choosing an automated system for a small library, and other electronic resources. At present, publication is "on demand" through a print-on-demand company. Ordering information may be found on the ACL website at <http://www.acl.org/librariansmanualorderform.cfm>.

