

# ForATL News

*Newsletter of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians*

Volume 6: Issue 2

Dec 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

5 <sup>th</sup> ForATL Consultation .....	1
5 <sup>th</sup> ForATL Consultation (cont.).....	2
Coming from near and far! .....	2
Librarians' Training : a report .....	3
Check these out! .....	4
DABOH Balaton 2008 .....	4

## NOTICE

**This is my final issue as Editor of ForATL News. A new Editor will be appointed at the coming ForATL Consultation 2009. Thank you for all your support and contributions.**

## 5<sup>TH</sup> ForATL WORKSHOP AND CONSULTATION -- Singapore, here we come!

Three years have flown by in a blink of an eye since the 4<sup>th</sup> ForATL Workshop and Consultation 2006 in Seremban, Malaysia. Theological librarians from all over Asia will gather again this year to learn, plan and fellowship, this time in the island nation of Singapore!

### Details

Dates : 10-14 March 2009 (Tuesday to Saturday)

Venue : Trinity Theological College ([www.ttc.edu.sg](http://www.ttc.edu.sg))  
490 Upper Bukit Timah Road  
Singapore 678093

Cost : approx. US\$175.00 (or S\$250.00)



### Theme

***"Asian theological librarians moving on and reaching out : professional development and collaboration in the light of emerging technologies".***

This theme expresses needs raised by participants at the 2006 Consultation, and which can be summarised in the twin foci of reaching out and moving on.

#### a) *Reaching out :*

- To establish links between Asian theological librarians with related bodies in Asia and beyond.
- To explore possible East-West dialogue and cooperation on projects of mutual benefit.
- To further strengthen theological librarianship networking and collaboration in Asia.

#### b) *Moving on :*

- To consolidate resource-sharing projects and plans from the ForATL Consultation 2006.
- To look at trends and issues in information communications technology (ICT) and its implications on Asian theological librarianship.
- To prepare Asian theological librarians to manage advances in technology and digital librarianship.

## Programme



**1. Keynote address** by Dr. Paul F. Stuehrenberg, Librarian of Yale University Divinity School and Assoc. Professor (Adjunct) of Theological Literature. Among other interests, Dr. Stuehrenberg is active in the American Theological Library Association, the Documentation of Christianity in Asia project and the IAMS Documentation, Archives, Bibliography & Oral History Study Group

*Ed's note:* Dr. Stuehrenberg's address to the 5th ForATL Consultation is timely as 2009 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1959 Southeast Asia visit of Raymond Morris, the former Librarian at Yale University Divinity School, to assess the situation of Asian theological libraries and its implications for the Church. Morris' report to ATLA was published in *SEAJT* 1:3 (1960): 8-16; viewed online at [www.ttc.edu.sg/csca/rart\\_doc/te/morris1960.pdf](http://www.ttc.edu.sg/csca/rart_doc/te/morris1960.pdf)

(See page 2, col.1)

## 5th ForATL Consultation ... (Continued from page 1)

### Programme (2)

#### 2. Training workshops

##### a) Workshop 1 : Library automation

Topics include: basics of library automation, preparing for automation, evaluating and selecting library integrated systems, available software and samples.

Facilitator: Mr Yesan Sellan -- Chief Librarian at the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS), Bangalore, Yesan is responsible for Library Administration and Information systems. He is currently Executive Secretary of ITLA, and the Secretary of Joint Library Committee, Bangalore. Yesan has a Post Graduate Diploma in Library Automation and Networking from the University of Hyderabad.



##### b) Workshop 2 : Website design

Topics include: Theory and practice on website planning, design, creation, evaluation and maintenance; with examples given.

Facilitator: Miss Hilda Putong -- Head Librarian at the Theological Seminary of Eastern Indonesia (INTIM), Makassar, Hilda serves as the ForATL Secretary and is responsible for the ForATL website. She holds a Master of Science in Information Technology for Libraries from the Faculty of Computer Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia.



##### c) Workshop 3 : Digital librarianship and emerging technologies

Topics include: Managing digital libraries and institutional repositories; as well as advances in library automation and emerging technologies, including demos.

Facilitator: Liauw Toong Tjiek (Aditya Nugraha) -- Head of the Library at Petra Christian University, Surabaya, Aditya has spearheaded various digital projects (e.g. "Desa Informasi"; see ForATLNews 2005) and has written several papers and articles, both published and unpublished. He is active with ICADL and holds a Master of Science Degree in Library and Information Science (Fulbright scholarship) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



#### 3. Business sessions

- Election of the ForATL Executive Committee
- Amendments to the ForATL Constitution
- Reports from delegates, task forces and representatives (including those for sister associations and sponsors)
- Discussion and follow-up on ongoing and future projects

### THANK YOU!

- to Trinity Theological College Singapore for their hospitality and generosity.
- to the United Board for Christian Higher Education Asia for their grant towards Consultation expenses.

### For more info ...

An invitation letter, together with timetable and registration form, can be viewed on the ForATL website ([www.foratl.org](http://www.foratl.org)).

**See you in Singapore!**

### Coming from near and far!

The 5<sup>th</sup> ForATL Consultation aims to establish links within and beyond Asia, to explore East-West dialogue, and to strengthen ties with our sponsors. As such, representatives from various library associations and organisations, and delegates from different countries will be converging on TTC for the event in March 2009.

The related associations and sponsor organisations represented include ...

- The American Theological Library Association (ATLA); [www.atla.com](http://www.atla.com)
- The Association for British Theological and Philosophical Libraries (ABTAPL); [www.newman.ac.uk/abtapl/](http://www.newman.ac.uk/abtapl/)
- European Theological Libraries / Bibliothèques européennes de théologie (BETH); [www.theo.kuleuven.be/beth/](http://www.theo.kuleuven.be/beth/)
- The Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia (FTESEA); [www.ftesea.org/](http://www.ftesea.org/)
- The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia; [www.unitedboard.org/](http://www.unitedboard.org/)
- The Documentation of Christianity in Asia Consortium (DCIA); [www.ttc.edu.sg/csca/arch-pres/ciacon.htm](http://www.ttc.edu.sg/csca/arch-pres/ciacon.htm)
- The Documentation, Archives, Bibliography and Oral History Study Group (DABOH) of IAMS; [www.missionstudies.org/archive/4groups/DABOH/daboh.htm](http://www.missionstudies.org/archive/4groups/DABOH/daboh.htm) (temp.)

At time of writing, delegates from these countries have registered, or have indicated their interest to attend:

- Australia
- China & Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Taiwan

So, don't miss out on this exciting event – the more the merrier!





## Librarians' Training : a report

Alpha Omega International College (AOIC) Malaysia hosted a Librarians' Training from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008, with the objective of training librarians from seminaries and churches in Malaysia, as well as Southeast Asian countries. In attendance were a total of 21 participants from Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Myanmar, representing 17 institutions, i.e. 9 seminaries/bible colleges, 2 AOIC extensions, 2 church libraries, 2 international schools, 1 Christian organisation and 1 local university.

The team of trainers was sent by the Commission for International Library Assistance (CILA), which are a part of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL).<sup>\*</sup> Team members consisted of Georgi Bordner and Leanne Strum from Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Ferne Weimer from Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, Dallas, Texas; Gary and Glenna Flokstra from 4 the World Resource Distributors,<sup>\*</sup> Springfield, Missouri and Muriel Teusink from Bingham Academy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The 6-day training covered administration and technology/systems by Leanne; descriptive cataloguing/MARC, subject headings, and introduction to classification by Georgi and Ferne; collection development, processing, care of materials and space planning by Gary; reference and library instruction by Muriel; circulation and computer-assisted cataloguing by Ferne, and serial collections by Glenna.

Each morning began with half an hour of devotions led by Glenna. We ended our sessions with laboratory sessions, which gave us opportunities to practise cataloguing, subject headings, classification and book repair. For the subject heading and classification lab sessions, the class was divided into Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal Classification groups. Book repair materials brought by the team were sponsored by the Assemblies of God World Missions, Springfield, Missouri.

The group visited Malaysia's National Library on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008. The Librarians at the National Library showed us their Monograph Collections, Serial Collections, Malaysiana Collections and Special Malay Manuscript Collections. The National Library has a department to repair books and manuscripts. The department staff showed us how book and manuscript repairs are done.

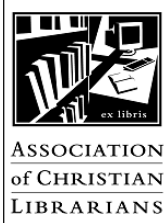
On the last day of the training, the participants were presented a certificate of attendance.

On behalf of AOIC, I would like to express our appreciation to the CILA team and to all who have made this training event possible. Our thanks also go to ForATL for providing a grant to AOIC for participants from poorer countries in Southeast Asia to attend the training. Christabel Wong, the ForATL Treasurer, was given an opportunity to share about ForATL with the participants at the event.

Reported by: Miss Michelle Mah  
AOIC Librarian

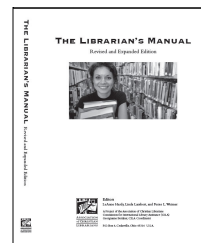
(\*see *Check these out!* on page 4 for more details.)

## Check these out!



### 1) The Association of Christian Librarians

The ACL had its beginnings in 1956 and today has more than 500 individual and nearly 150 institutional members from many different denominations. ACL's mission "is to empower evangelical librarians through professional development, scholarship, and spiritual encouragement for service in higher education." Among ACL's publications are the Christian Periodical Index and the Librarian's Manual. Part of ACL's activities include providing consultancy and help to Christian institutions of higher learning, especially outside the United States and Canada, through the Commission of International Library Assistance (CILA) and the Foundation of the Advancement of Christian Librarians (FACL). More information on ACL can be found on their website at [www.acl.org](http://www.acl.org).



### Oops! I made a mistake ...

The editors of *The Librarian's Manual*, 2008 revised and expanded edition, are LeAnne Hardy, Linda Lambert, and Ferne L. Weimer;

not Ferne Weimer and Kenneth Gill as stated in the previous issue of ForATLNews (6:1, June 2008). This time, I've managed to get a picture of the revised edition, too!

Some good news! ForATL members may buy copies of *The Librarian's Manual*, 2008 ed., at the 5<sup>th</sup> ForATL Consultation – another good reason why you should register for the Consultation (and as a ForATL member)!



### 2) 4 The World Resource Distributors (4WRD)

According to their website (see [www.4wrld.org](http://www.4wrld.org)), 4WRD is "a nonprofit charitable ministry [that] exists to enhance the effectiveness of ministry training and religious education (formal and informal) by providing resources, distribution, bibliographic expertise, seminars, networking connections, and publications" to church communities in needy areas of the world. 4WRD ministers in the belief that "information resources are vital for a healthy, mature, and growing church and that Bible school education includes adequate resources to be effective" and, hence, endeavours to meet the need for such vital resources through affordable means. Based in the United States, 4WRD also has a ministry contact representative in the Philippines.

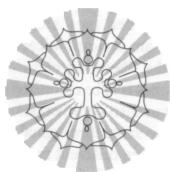
## Mission and Memory: Documenting World Christianity in the 21st Century Balaton, Hungary, 18-23 August 2008

The DABOH (Documentation, Archives, Bibliography and Oral History) Study Group of the International Association for Mission Studies recently held a Consultation on "Mission and Memory: Documenting World Christianity in the 21st Century" from 18-23 August 2008. Held in Balatonfured, Hungary, in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> IAMS General Assembly, the purpose of this Consultation was to follow up from the 2002 Rome Consultation, and "to explore the issues and strategies for documenting world Christianity in the radically changed geopolitical and ecclesiastical contexts in the 21st century." The Consultation gathered around three themes: (1) Survey of key depositories; (2) Issues and strategies for establishing national and regional partnership; and (3) Issues and strategies for Open Access.

Elizabeth Pulanco and Christabel Wong were invited to represent ForATL at the Consultation and to present a report, giving a brief introduction to ForATL and its initiatives towards the documentation of Christianity in Southeast Asia. Their participation in the Consultation was made possible by subsidies from IAMS and ForATL, and their experience enriched by discussion with colleagues "committed to finding ways to "Rescue the memory of our peoples" and to ground critical and theological reflection on the mission of the church in the historical and cultural experiences of the people of God." For more information about DABOH and the Balaton Consultation (including papers delivered), see <http://www.missionstudies.org/archive/4groups/DABOH/daboh.htm>.



DABOH Group at Ráday Library, Budapest (Balaton Conference, 16-23 August 2008)



*ForATL News*  
*Newsletter of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians*

