

## Update on

### American Theological Library Association (ATLA)

Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Executive Director  
7<sup>th</sup> ForATL Workshop and Consultation  
Bangkok, Thailand  
3 May 2015



## A brief history...

- Mid-1940s -- theological librarians from United States and Canada gathered to discuss common interests
- Two primary concerns:
  - number of important books in theology going out of print
  - need for better bibliographic access to scholarly research materials in religion and theology



## A brief history...

Initiated two projects:

Preservation project

- libraries loaned monographs and journals from their collections to ATLA
- used to create microform copies for permanent preservation purposes

Indexing project

- Initially librarians volunteered to index journals
- Later hired staff to continue the work



## A brief history...

Officially formed as professional membership organization in 1946

- Two arms: preservation and indexing
- Continued annual conference
- Merged a single organization in early 1990s



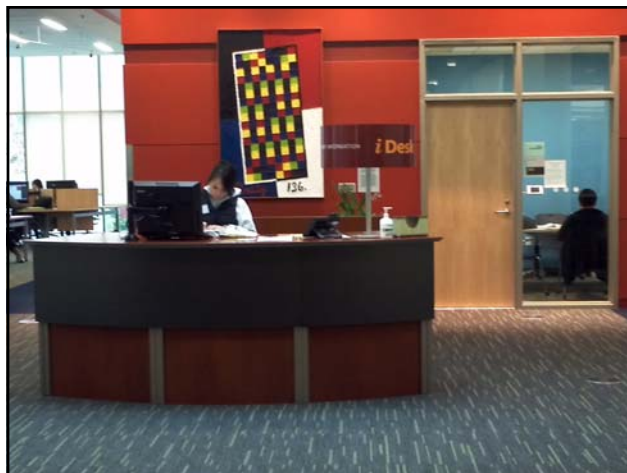
## Mission

To foster the study of theology and religion  
by enhancing the development  
of theological and religious studies  
libraries and librarianship



## Current Membership

- Around 840 members primarily in U.S. and Canada
- 295 organizations
- 547 people





## ATLA Committees/Task Forces

### Current:

- Annual Conference Committee
- Diversity Committee
- Endowment Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Professional Development Committee

### Planned:

- ATLA/ATS Library Statistics Task Force
- Digital Initiatives Task Force
- Scholarly Communication Task Force



**ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®)**  
1.8 million+ records

**ATLASerials® (ATLAS®)**  
302 online full-text journals

**ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index® (ATLA CPLI®)**  
529,900+ records

**New Testament Abstracts (NTA)** In partnership with Boston College

**Old Testament Abstracts (OTA)** In partnership with the Catholic Biblical Association

**ATLA EBSCO Historical Digital Archives**

- *African American Historical Serials Collection* Named an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Magazine
- *ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 1 & 2*
- *Now Available in 11 New Subsets*

**ATLA**  
American Theological Library Association

**ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®)**

1.8 million+ records

- 1,776 journal titles in total,  
593 which are currently being indexed
- 660,500+ journal article records
- 266,400+ essay records
- 602,500+ review records
- 299,700+ book records

**ATLA**  
American Theological Library Association

**Selected Journals Indexed in ATLA RDB®**  
**Published in Asia**

- *Asia Journal of Theology*
- *Asian Christian Review*
- *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies*
- *Bangalore Theological Forum*
- *Ching Feng*
- *Christian Orient*
- *East Asian Pastoral Review*
- *Hill Road*
- *Japanese Religions*
- *Jian Dao*
- *Sevartham*
- *Sino-Christian Studies*
- *Taiwan Journal of Theology*
- *Theologies and Cultures*
- *Theology & Life*
- *UBS Journal*

**ATLA**  
American Theological Library Association

**ATLASerials®**

**Total number of records: 496,900+**

**302 journals**

**with more coming**

**ATLA**  
American Theological Library Association

## Journals in *ATLASerials*® Focusing on Historically Eastern Religions

- *Asian Ethnology*
- *Buddhist Studies Review*
- *Eastern Buddhist*
- *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*
- *Journal of Chinese Religions*
- *Journal of Korean Religions*
- *Pacific World*
- *Religions of South Asia*



## *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*® (*ATLA CPLI*®)

Indexing of periodicals, essay collections, church documents, papal documents and electronic resources expressly addressing the practice and intellectual tradition of Roman Catholicism.

**Total number of records:** 529,900+

- Indexing from 1981 to the present
- Content selected for indexing based on enduring scholarly merit



## ATLA ALUM Product Offerings

*ATLA RDB*® for ALUM  
participating schools

*ATLASerials*® for ALUM  
participating schools

*ATLA CPLI*® for ALUM  
participating schools

ATLA ALUM product offerings make it possible for academic institutions to provide alumni/ae remote access to the same ATLA databases used as students, including the *ATLA Religion Database*® (*ATLA RDB*®), *ATLASerials*® (*ATLASer*) and *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*® (*ATLA CPLI*®).

[https://www.atla.com/products/Pages/ATLA\\_ALUM\\_Product\\_Offerings.aspx](https://www.atla.com/products/Pages/ATLA_ALUM_Product_Offerings.aspx)

## *New Testament Abstracts (NTA)*

*NTA* is an electronic collection of abstracts and book summaries, produced in partnership with Boston College.

- Exclusively available online with EBSCOhost
- Abstracts in English

**Total number of records:** 69,500+, including 19,000+ book summaries

**Update frequency:** annually – July



### Old Testament Abstracts (OTA)

OTA is an electronic collection of abstracts and book summaries, produced in partnership with the Catholic Biblical Association.

- Exclusively available online with EBSCOhost
- Abstracts in English

**Total number of records:** 57,500+, including 8,100+ book summaries

**Update frequency:** annually – April



### ATLA EBSCO Historical Digital Archives

**ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 1 (13th Century to 1893)**

**ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 2 (1894 to 1923)**

- 29,000+ monographs covering religion and theology
- 10+ million pages of content



### ATLA EBSCO Historical Digital Archives

#### Now Available in 11 New Subsets

- *ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 1 (13th Century to 1893)*
- *ATLA Historical Monographs Collection: Series 2 (1894 to 1922)*
- *Biblical Research Perspectives, 1516-1922*
- *Catholic Engagements with the Modern World, 1487-1918*
- *Christian Preaching, Worship, and Piety, 1559-1919*
- *Global Religious Traditions, 1760-1922*
- *Global Theological Perspectives, 1322-1922*
- *Islam in the Modern World, 1804-1918*
- *Jewish Studies Perspectives, 1800-1918*
- *Missions and Missionaries Around the World, 1611-1922*
- *Perspectives on Ancient Civilizations, 1200-1922*
- *Religion and Social Change, 1723-1921*
- *Religious Leaders and Thinkers, 1516-1922*



### New Production System

Significant investment in a new internal production system

- Allows preservation of the original languages within records and products
- Better treatment of diacritics



## Languages Covered by ATLA Indexer-Analysts

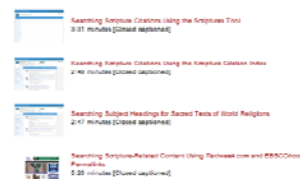
Language	Number of Indexers	Language	Number of Indexers
• Afrikaans	6	• Hebrew (Classical)	2
• Akkadian	2	• Italian	7
• Aramaic (Biblical & Imperial)	1	• Lao	1
• Bulgarian	1	• Latin	5
• Catalan	3	• Norwegian	1
• Croatian	1	• Old Scots	1
• Czech	1	• Polish	1
• Danish	2	• Portuguese	4
• Dutch	6	• Romanian	1
• English	10	• Russian	1
• French	9	• Scandinavian languages	1
• German, Germanic languages	10	• Serbian	1
• Greek (Classical & Koine)	1	• Spanish	8
• Greek (Koine)	7	• Swedish	3
• Greek (Modern)	2	• Thai	1
• Hebrew (Classical & Modern)	1	• Ugaritic	1

As of Spring 2015



## Video Tutorials on www.atla.com

ATLA Databases on EBSCOhost <https://www.atla.com/products/support/pages/producttutorials.aspx>  
 ATLA Religion Database and ATLASocialB Specialized Searching



Tutorials Created by EBSCO

Advanced Search—Guided Style (3 minutes)

Basic Search (8 minutes)

Creating a Journal Alert (2 minutes)

Creating a Search Alert (2 minutes)

For other EBSCO database tutorials, please see the [tutorials page](#) on the EBSCO support site.



## ATLA Selected Initiatives

- Expand global access to scholarly resources
- Open access publishing
- Research in future needs of students and scholars
- Future of libraries in theological education



## ATLA/EBSCO Developing Countries Initiative

- Significantly discounted subscription prices
- Increasing subscriptions in eligible countries
- *ATLASerials*® available without a prerequisite subscription to *ATLA RDB*®
- Subscription sponsorships help underfunded schools and libraries
- eligible countries include India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand



## Global Access to Resources

- Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grant

“In Good Faith: Collection Care, Preservation, and Access in Small Theological and Religious Studies Libraries.”

Understand collection care, preservation and access practices in small theological and religious studies libraries, archives, and cultural institutions.



## Global Access to Resources

- Support projects like DPLA (Digital Public Library of America)
- <http://dp.la>



## Open Access Publishing

- *Theological Librarianship*
- *Annual Conference Proceedings*
- *ATLA Press*

*Subdivisions for Biblical Studies, Theology, and Ministry:  
Making Search Terms Do the Work*

<https://books.atla.com/index.php/atla>



## Researching Future Needs

- Rely on external reports:
- --*2015 Horizon Report - Higher Education Edition* – annual publication of New Media Consortium and Educause
- [www.nmc.org](http://www.nmc.org)
- --*ACRL Environmental Scan 2015* – periodically published by Association of College and Research Libraries
- [www.acrl.ala.org](http://www.acrl.ala.org)





## Researching New Needs

### Human Centered Research

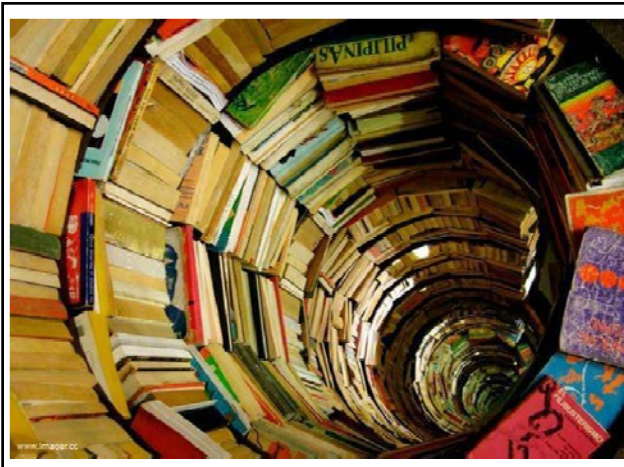
- Ethnographic research conducted by Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology



## Researching New Needs

Ethnographic research conducted by Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology

- Identified 15 students and scholars from several different schools in Chicago area
- Interviews, shadowing, logs



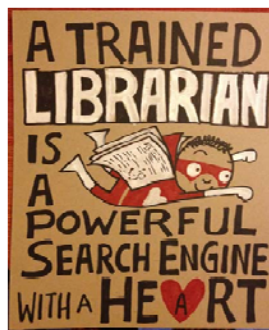
## Researching New Needs

### Results:

- Career stage over age
- Convenience
- Interdisciplinary
- Seamless access across devices



**The Future of Libraries in Theological Education, June 24, 2014**



38

## Questions

- ATLA and BETH forming international group to address theological librarian education – any interest from ForATL?
- ATLA and BETH considering creating an international theological catalog on OCLC WorldCat – any interest from ForATL?
- How could ForATL and ATLA collaborate in other ways?

Thank you!

Brenda Bailey-Hainer  
ATLA Executive Director  
Bbailey-hainer@atla.com



## Theological Book Network (TBN)

Provides quality print materials to libraries at seminaries and theology schools in the Majority World.

[www.theologicalbooknetwork.org](http://www.theologicalbooknetwork.org)

## Center for South Asia Research (CSAR)

Collaborative project of TBN, South Asia Institute for Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) and ScholarLeaders International

- Scholars with doctorate receive up to 4 months to research and write
- Purpose: publishing materials for dissemination to the church and academy in Majority World and the West
- Selected scholars will be fully funded, including generous stipend, travel costs and room and board.
- Apply: [www.saiacs.org/CSAR](http://www.saiacs.org/CSAR)