



# *Libraries in the Majority World: A Collaborative Survey Sponsored by Atla and TBN (Theological Book Network)*

*by Maria Stanton*  
Atla

## Libraries in the Majority World

A collaborative survey sponsored by Atla  
and TBN (Theological Book Network)



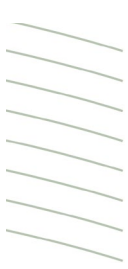
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# Agenda

- ▼ Background & Goals
- ▼ Methodology & Demographics
- ▼ Example Institutions
- ▼ High Level Results
- ▼ Next steps



- ▼ Atla & Theological Book Network (TBN) have a long history of collaboration.
- ▼ Shared interest in supporting access to high-quality theological resources at under-resourced theological schools in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East
- ▼ *Goal: Identify trends & common needs at the libraries associated with these schools*



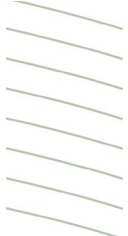
# Methodology

Context for the answers



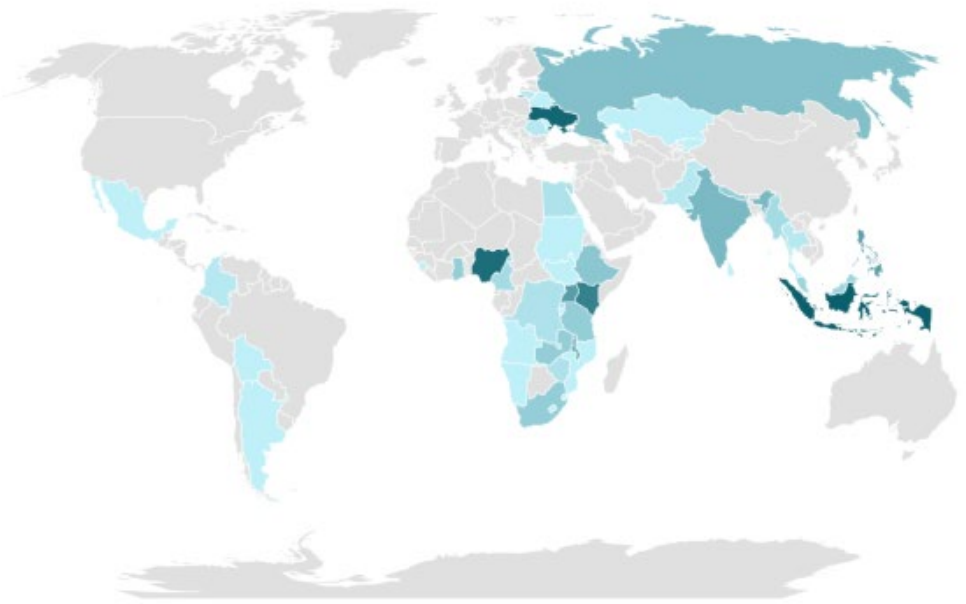
## Methodology

- ▼ English-language survey Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup> [2018](#)
- ▼ Distribution
  - ▽ Associations such as Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA)
  - ▽ TBN partner schools
  - ▽ Listservs / “word of mouth” options
- ▼ 60 questions: holdings, technology, staffing, education programs, & accreditation levels



## Demographics

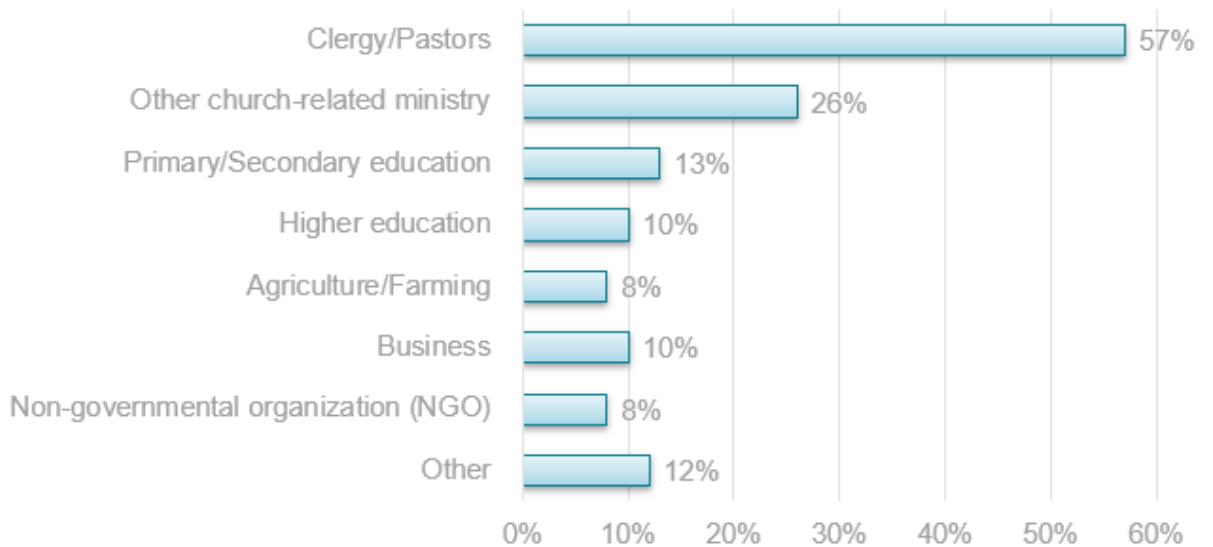
- 228 Institutions
- 47 Countries
- Wide range of Christian denominations



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## Graduates: Employment

Areas in which Graduates are Employed (N=197)





## Few more points to provide context

### ▼ Collections

- ▼ 75%: < 20k print books (26% have < 5k)
- ▼ 78%: < 500 e-books (38% have zero)
- ▼ 73%: between 0-10 print journal subscriptions (32% have zero)

### ▼ Staff

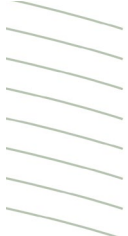
- ▼ 40%: hold title librarian in whole or part
- ▼ 40 responding libraries have no FT staff
- ▼ 46% head librarian has formal training (degree)

### ▼ Supporting

- ▼ 71%: 1-20 faculty (41% < 10)
- ▼ 49%: 0 - 50 FT Theology students (9% have no FT students)
- ▼ 31%: > 100 FT students (most are concentrated in the 101 – 200)

## Example Institutions





# Nepal Bible Baptist College

- Founding 1998
- 31 students in the Bachelor of Theology
- Also offer an M.Div



## NBBC – Library Page

- Mina Rai (Librarian)
- Associate / Certificate
- No PT library staff

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing

Home NBBC Course offered Student Life **Library** Photos Contact Us

### Introduction

Library is the powerhouse of the academic research at Nepal Baptist Bible College. Presently we have about 5,000 books. The NBBC library is member of Aten Library this allows the students to consult resources from their library as well as giving them borrowing facilities. It has a strong base God's mission studies and beside that biblical studies, theology, pastoral theology and Counseling, Religious and youth ministry.


The library is fully computerized using [www.librarything.com](http://www.librarything.com). User can approach our library collection through login our web ID. We follow Dewey decimal classification system and display accordingly and user can login to visit our web library. Most of the books are donated by our well-wisher, visitor and prayer partners who are from different part of the world. We need more books so if you are willing to visit us or thinking to donate your books kindly remember us. You can approach us by following contact:

Nepal Baptist Bible College  
 Mina Rai (Librarian)  
 email: [nbcc.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:nbcc.librarian@gmail.com)  
 G.P.O 8975, E.P.C 1051  
 44600 Kathmandu, NEPAL  
 Phone: +977 (01) 5201593

**Books we need**

- Homiletic
- Church planting
- World religions
- Pastoral care & counseling
- Christians journals
- Christian ethics


Picture



Books



Students in Library



Student in library

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# Nepal Evangelical Holiness Theological Seminary

- ▼ Offer – Bachelor of Theology.
- ▼ 57 FT Students (114 graduates)
- ▼ 14 Faculty



## NEHTS Academic Dean Netra Lal Tamrakar

- ▼ No one who works in the library has formal training
- ▼ Cost of internet affects their ability to support students
- ▼ Offline Catalogue



# Bangkok Bible Seminary

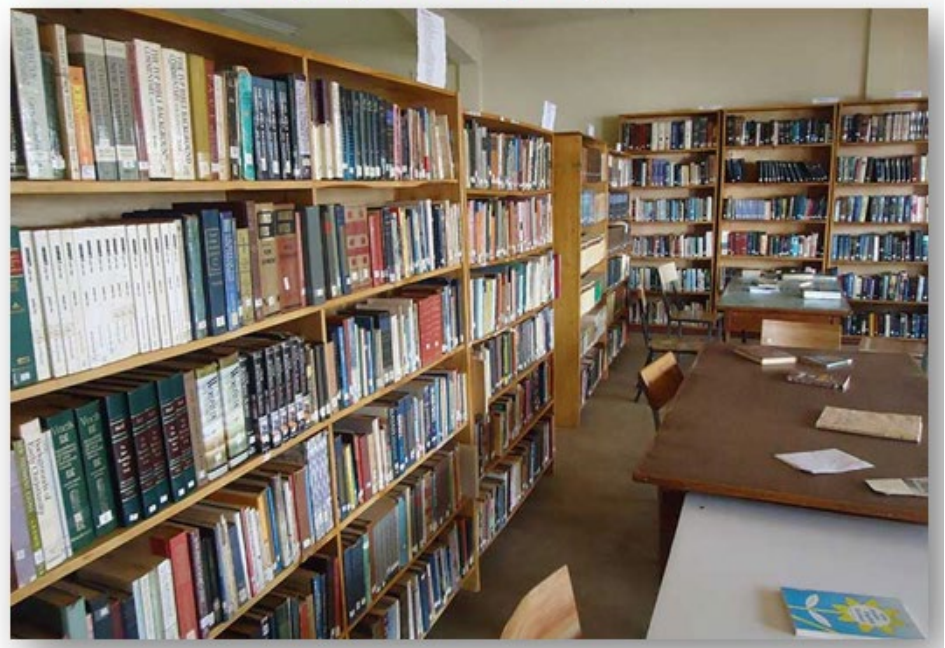


- ▼ Ms. Sommart Sathian (Librarian - Master's)
- ▼ Hosted a Library Training Seminar
- ▼ ~ 35 faculty
- ▼ 688 FT / 100 PT students
- ▼ Bachelor of Theology, Master of Biblical Studies, Master of Ministry, Master of Divinity



# Wolaita Evangelical Seminary (Ethiopia)

- ▼ More than 5k books
- ▼ 220 FT / 100 PT students
- ▼ 7 FT / 33 PT Faculty
- ▼ Print Catalogue
- ▼ Bachelor level







## Morija Theological Seminary, Lesotho

- ▼ Herman Dieterlen (Sehoapa) Library
- ▼ More than 5k books
- ▼ No FT library staff
- ▼ 50 FT students
- ▼ 10 Faculty
- ▼ Bachelors level program
- ▼ Print Catalogue



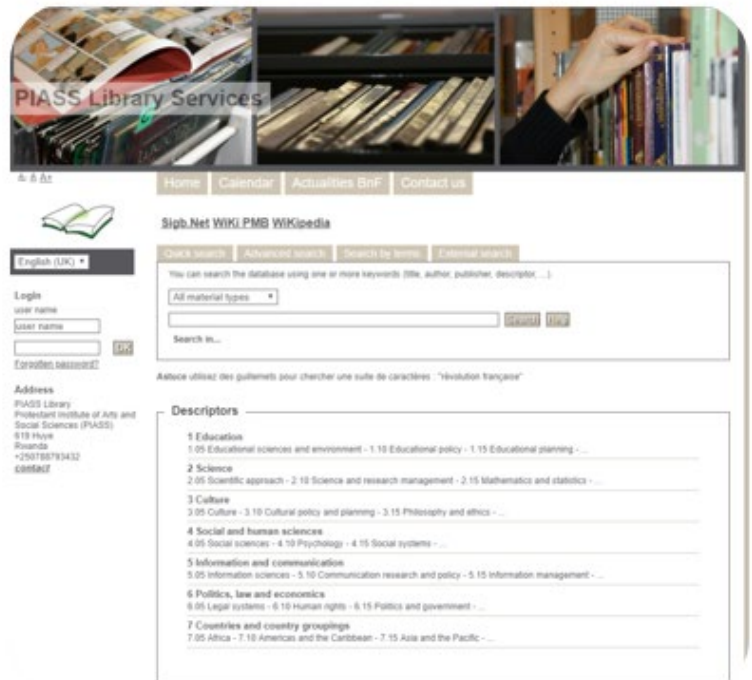
## Protestant Institute of Arts & Social Sciences, Rwanda

- ▼ New Library Building
- ▼ Rev. Damien Nzeyimana (Dir)
- ▼ Masters in Library Science (Moi University, Kenya)



# PIASS Library - OPAC

- Use PMB (3 respondents use this)
- Did not list "Collection Development / cataloguing" as a top need
- Did list: Reference / Research, Archives, Instruction & Outreach

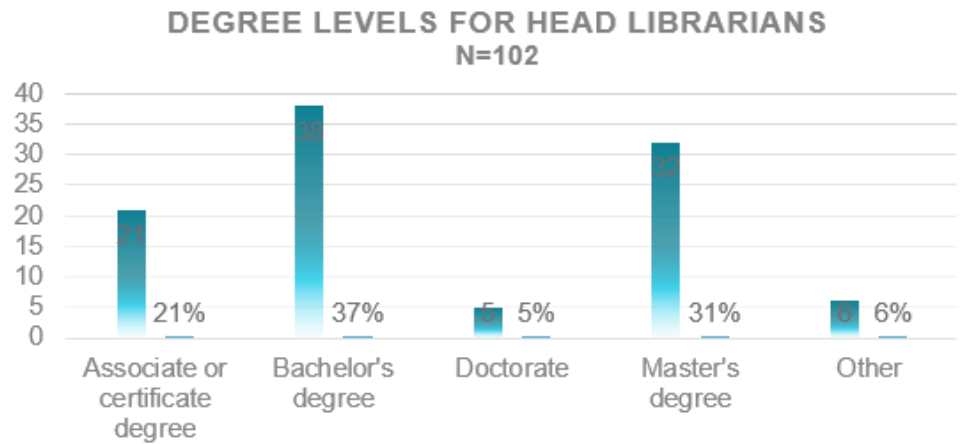


## High level Results



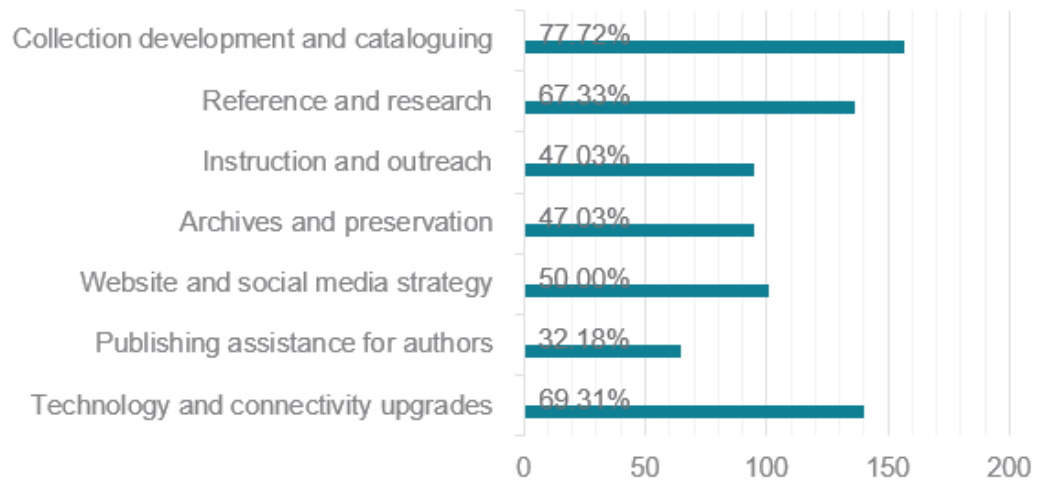
## Education Level

- Less than half of the respondents state the head librarian has a degree in LS.



## Support & Training

Areas where External Support is needed to fulfill Mission & Goals of the Library (N=202)



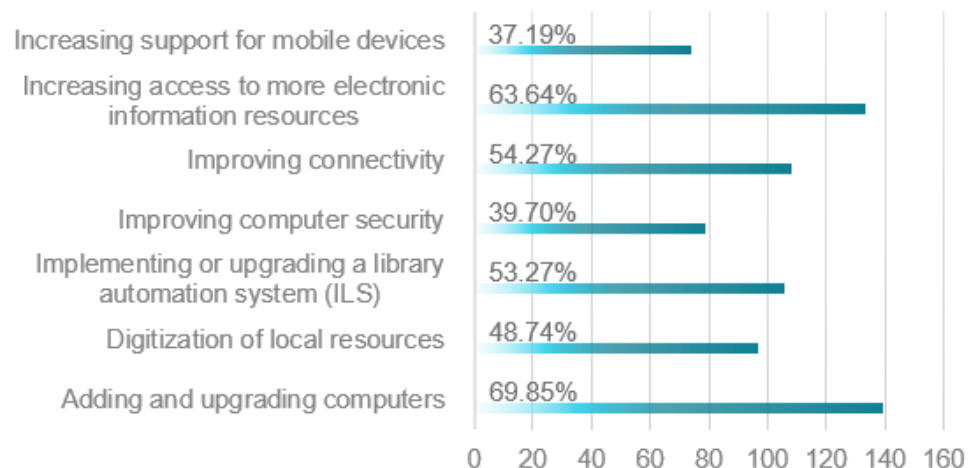


## Responses ...

- ▼ *Publishing in high impact journals, automated referencing & plagiarism detection ...* (Librarian in Kenya)
- ▼ *Teach students research skills and how to access electronic information ...* (mentioned in one way or another by many)
- ▼ *Very, very much so, skills in digital research, ways of encouraging academic staff to integrate the library into course work ...* (Librarian in Malawi)

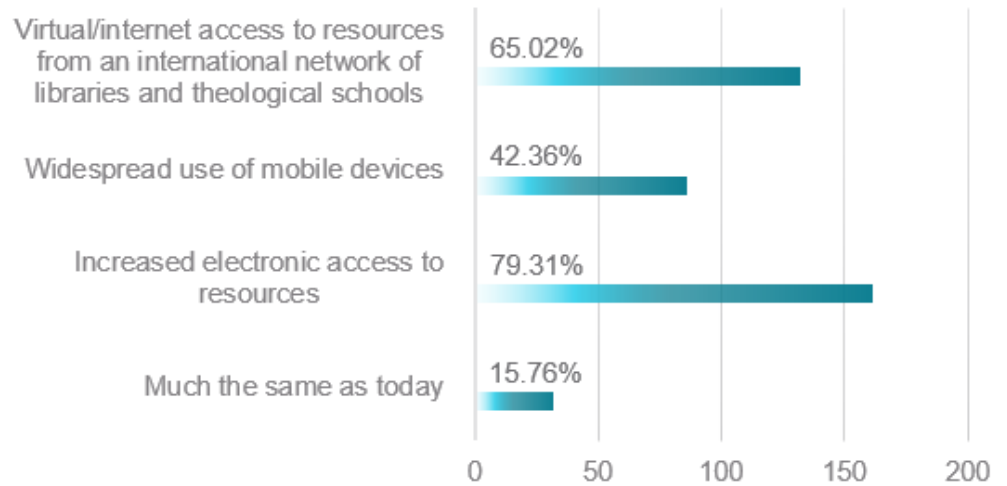
## Technology

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES PLANNED FOR NEXT 1-24 MONTHS (N=199)



# Technology

STUDENT / FACULTY / STAFF WILL RETRIEVE CONTENT IN 5 YEARS (N=203)



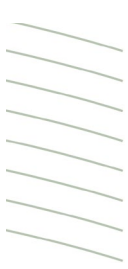
# Publishing / Research

Does your institution publish scholarly content such as academic journals and books in religion and theology?

YES	71	36.04%
NO	117	59.39%
DON'T KNOW	9	4.57%

If yes, what types:

- Journals
- Books, Reference Books, Almanacs, Proceedings
- Multiple Publication Types
- Undetermined Types of Publications



## Summary of Top Challenges

### Content:

- ▾ Academic Resources
- ▾ Theological Resources
- ▾ Books
- ▾ E-Resources
- ▾ Up-to-date Materials
- ▾ Access

### Staffing / Staff skills:

- ▾ More librarians
- ▾ Digital Library Management
- ▾ Library Instruction
- ▾ Professional Development
- ▾ Career potential

## We're really not all that different

Verbatim comments from a question regarding cultural challenges faced by the library:

- ▾ Encourage the love & respect for printed resources
- ▾ Students not reading or they just read what the course required
- ▾ To encourage students and teachers to read more
- ▾ Poor library usage
- ▾ Many users do not understand the importance of the library



## Resulting Actions



# Institutions in Eligible Developing Countries

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As a not-for-profit association of theological libraries and librarians, Atla understands the importance of supporting theological education throughout the world and has worked to make its products affordable for theological seminaries and schools in eligible developing countries. Atla works with EBSCO to offer institutions in countries designated developing by the World Bank, along with other related criteria, a generous discount on all Atla products and partner products.



# Atla Press: Open Access eBook

- ▶ Updated Edition of *A Broadening Conversation*
- ▶ Key areas
  - the character of theological librarianship
  - theological librarians at work,
  - the theological librarian as educator,
  - each section is introduced by a present-day theological librarian.



## A BROADENING CONVERSATION

*Classic Readings  
in Theological  
Librarianship*

EDITED BY  
Melody Layton McMahon  
and David R. Stewart

## International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force (ITLE Task Force)

- ▶ 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, U.S.) Yasmine Abou-el-Kheir (Chicago Theological Seminary, U.S.) Sandy Ayer (Ambrose University, Canada), Carisse Berryhill (Abilene Christian University, U.S.) Kerrie Burn (Catholic Theological College, Australia) Matina Ćurić (Germany) Seovoung Kim (World Mission University, U.S.) Griselda Lartey (Columbia Theological Seminary, U.S.) Ephraim Muldave (Africa International University, Kenya) Cynthia Pelena (Central Philippine University, Philippines) Álvaro Pérez (Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana, Costa Rica) Yesan Sellan (SAIACS, India) Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Staff Liaison





## ITLE Task Force

- ▶ Sponsored the 2019 Atla International Theological Librarian Leadership Institute. A ten-day meeting that provided a rich learning experience for international theological librarians. A classroom setting with a cohort (June 10–11), attended the Atla Annual Conference (June 12–15), and visited local libraries (June 16–19).
- ▶ The International Theological Librarianship Education Task Force (ITLE Task Force) will be publishing a series of 7 handbooks on theological librarianship as open access monographs. The first volume, which is expected to be published by the end of calendar 2019, is an overview of theological librarianship around the world. Other volumes will cover specific areas of theological librarianship and will be published over the next several years.



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Collectors & Connectors  
in Religion & Theology