
Editor's Introduction

AS I PRESENT TO YOU the *Summary of Proceedings* of the 2019 Atla Annual Conference, my thoughts return to vibrant Vancouver, British Columbia, at the height of summer, where colleagues and friends from Atla's worldwide community gathered to impart and receive knowledge, to share stories and laughter, and to recognize and celebrate the organization's transition from the American Theological Library Association to the newly rebranded Atla.

If you attended the conference in person, I hope these Proceedings provide an opportunity to reflect again on presentations that sparked your interest and to enjoy content you may have missed when you had to choose among several appealing sessions—or when the temptations of Vancouver proved too much to resist! For those of you who missed the 2019 conference, this volume will give you a sense of the program and a snapshot of the thoughtful, creative work of theological librarians. I was struck again and again as I read the pieces collected here by their engaging, conversational tone, and I thank the authors for presenting their projects and ideas in distinctive voices that are a treat to read.

With the debut of the new Atla brand identity, I have been thinking about how the *Summary of Proceedings* reflects the idea of being “Collectors & Connectors in Religion & Theology.” It does so most clearly because the authors whose work is compiled here embody these words. We read here about collectors who seek to enhance and expand their libraries' collections areas such as Native American/First

Nations and religion, about scholars whose expertise in subjects like religion and violence enables them to recommend resources to add to collections, and about theologically informed ways of considering “collecting” open access materials. Likewise, we learn about librarians connecting people with resources through cataloging and outreach; connecting people with opportunities by describing their work in digital humanities, writing instruction, and a variety of administrative roles; and connecting people with people by hosting events and creating spaces in their libraries that encourage conversation and collaboration.

Of course, the *Summary of Proceedings* itself also contributes to our work as “Collectors & Connectors.” It collects and preserves the content of the Annual Conference, making it freely available around the world, and it becomes part of your personal collection of professional literature, as well as, perhaps, your library’s collection. I hope that this volume also connects you to interesting projects, provocative ideas, and new insights into theological librarianship two decades into the twenty-first century. Maybe it will even inspire you to connect with a colleague by sharing an article or contacting an author with a comment or question.

I will close this introduction with a farewell. After three years of serving as the first member Editor-in-Chief of the Proceedings, I am grateful to be handing the role over to Kris Veldheer. Many years ago, Kris welcomed me to my first Atla annual conference, and it has been a delight to have her as a colleague and friend. I thank the Atla staff who patiently guided and supported me as we developed the Editor-in-Chief position into a member role. It has been an honor to have been entrusted with this responsibility, and I know Kris will assume it with grace and skill. Please enjoy the 2019 edition and know you have much to look forward to in 2020 and beyond.

Miranda Bennett
Editor-in-Chief