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# Editor's Introduction

**IT IS MY PLEASURE** to welcome readers to the formal record of another wonderful ATLA conference. The 2018 gathering in Indianapolis, Indiana, brought together theological librarians from around the country and the world to listen, learn, and laugh together as they explored topics and themes both cutting edge and timeless. For those who participated in the conference in person, these proceedings will recall sessions they enjoyed attending and offer access to those they regretted having to miss. And those who were not with us in Indiana will find here a taste of the innovative, thoughtful work being done by ATLA colleagues and friends.

The 2018 conference theme, “Connection at the Crossroads: Creative Collaboration in a Changing Landscape,” is reflected in several sessions presented in the *Proceedings*. Many theological librarians place “connection” at the heart of their work, and we find here accounts of connecting graduate students with library resources, librarians with faculty, and users with special collections. Creating and maintaining these vital and vibrant connections call upon knowledge and expertise from across the spectrum of library workers—catalogers, information literacy specialists, liaison librarians, and more.

The theme of collaboration also resonated with many presenters and participants, and readers of this volume will surely find ideas and inspiration in projects that highlight creative, productive partnerships between libraries and a variety of organizations and individuals,

including writing centers, marketing specialists, and community members. Of particular note are sessions presented by our international colleagues, such as Kerrie Burn from the University of Divinity in Melbourne, Australia, and D'Anna Shotts and Anthonia Ahimah from Baptist Theological Seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria. The perspective offered by these presentations made Indiana not just the “Crossroads of America,” but a global meeting point.

The ATLA annual conference and these proceedings play an important role in furthering the association’s strategic goals and upholding its core values. This volume is rich with content that demonstrates commitment to core values such as excellence in library collections and services and creativity, innovation, and transformation. The sessions recounted here showcase, in particular, the outstanding work being done by our colleagues in small libraries, where the challenge of limited resources is transformed into motivation for new approaches.

Just as the smart, interesting content provided by conference presenters addresses themes of connection, collaboration, and creativity, the *Summary of Proceedings* as a document is also responding to the changing landscape. As part of the ATLA Press, it is published on an open access platform, broadening the impact of the annual conference and supporting the ATLA core value of offering the “widest possible access to relevant information and ideas.” The open access format makes the work presented here easy to share widely, encouraging the development of new connections far beyond Indianapolis in June 2018. “Hospitality, inclusion, and diversity,” another ATLA core value, need not be limited to those occasions, such as the annual conference, when we have the pleasure of seeing one another face to face. We can also welcome colleagues at any time, from any place, to be part of the work we see reflected in the Proceedings, and I hope you will consider this volume an invitation to join the ATLA community.

Miranda Bennett