

## ***Theological Librarianship Talks Open Access***

by Jennifer Woodruff Tait, Editor, *Theological Librarianship*

In June 2017, on the ATLANTIS discussion list — a forum for communication, debate, news, and assistance shared among ATLA members and others — conversation arose around a February 2017 article by Jeffrey Beall. Beall, scholarly communications librarian at the University of Colorado at Denver, explained in the article in *Biochemica Medica* (<http://www.biochemia-medica.com/2017/27/273>)<sup>1</sup> why he had taken down his famous blog, Scholarly Open Access, and its equally famous list of supposed predatory open access journals.

*Theological Librarianship* has, of course, always been open access (OA). As you'll read below, a commitment to demonstrating that an OA journal can operate in a non-predatory fashion and publish scholarship for the benefit of a community is woven into the very beginning of ATLA's academic publishing program. So we thought it would be good to continue the conversation here.

Several of our authors focus specifically on issues raised by Beall, his list, and his article. Brad Ost explains how we might come up with better ways to evaluate OA publications than by using Beall's method. Barnaby Hughes tells of his time serving on Beall's appeals board. And Gary Daught seeks to answer this question: just how many religious and theological studies journals are actually predatory according to Beall's list? Andy Keck then reminds ATLA of our own history in birthing an OA journal, and Lisa Gonzalez concludes with lessons learned from becoming the publisher of *New Theology Review* and making it an OA journal.

We hope all of this sparks further discussion in future issues of *TL*, on ATLANTIS, and at our annual conference.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.biochemia-medica.com/2017/27/273>