

## Why Theological Librarianship?

by Ron Crown and David Stewart, Co-Editors

**A**t a time like this—when it could readily be argued that there are already too many journals in publication—nobody should launch a new journal without being prepared to offer an explanation.

Challenge accepted.

*Theological Librarianship: An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association* has before it some unique opportunities:

- a. To provide a clearinghouse or place of exchange for best practices within our profession.
- b. To encourage the *writing* dimension of our vocation.
- c. To create a venue for the publication of original research, bibliographic essays, reviews, opinion pieces, etc.

In any vocation it is at times difficult to avoid the “echo chamber” effect—we understand well enough among ourselves what we do, and how it contributes to the broader enterprise of theological education—yet it is unwise to assume that the value of our work is self-evident outside our circle. We are confident that this new journal will have an influence both in gathering some of the best of what we do as theological librarians *and* in bringing the work we love out of the shadows and into the light. *Absolutely* confident—we’ve seen a good deal of this happen already in the course of putting together our inaugural issue.

Finally, we cannot emphasize strongly enough that this project is the work not so much of individual authors or editors, or of groups or committees (though we are quick to add that our Editorial Team, Advisory Board, and ATLA staff have been *superb* to work with), but of the scholarly and vocational community that is comprised by the American Theological Library Association.

With gratitude and anticipation,

RWC

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