

## A New Era for Theological Librarianship

Dear *TL* Readers,

This issue of *Theological Librarianship* represents the end of one era and the beginning of another. Since its founding in 2008, the journal has evolved into an important part of the American Theological Library Association and has come to play a central role in the scholarly communication of the profession of theological librarianship. As its founders had envisioned, the opportunity to publish peer-reviewed articles, reflective essays, critical reviews, and other work has encouraged the development of a culture of writing among ATLA members, as enthusiastic participation in the editorial board's "State of the Journal" session at the annual conference attests.

The culture of writing has become so robust, in fact, that ATLA leadership and staff have worked with members engaged in writing and publishing activities to create a new model: the ATLA Publishing Program. This program will unite several long-standing ATLA projects — the ATLA *Newsletter*, the ATLA Annual Report, *Theological Cataloging Bulletin*, the *Summary of Proceedings* of the annual conference, the monograph imprint, and, of course, *Theological Librarianship* — and will also create a mechanism for publishing and distributing occasional papers such as white papers and research studies. The ATLA Publishing Program will more clearly define responsibilities for managing different types of publications, with some overseen by ATLA staff and others, including *Theological Librarianship*, *TCB*, the *Summary of Proceedings*, and the monograph imprint, organized under the umbrella of ATLA Press. Each ATLA Press imprint will have its own editorial board and editor-in-chief, and a coordinating council will ensure close collaboration among the ATLA Press editors and ATLA staff.

As the current editors of *Theological Librarianship*, we have had the privilege of shepherding the journal through a time of transition. Like any season of organizational change, the past year has brought both opportunities and challenges, and we anticipate the coming year will present more of both. With its high-level, strategic perspective, the ATLA Publishing Program promises to broaden publishing and editorial opportunities for ATLA members and others interested in theological librarianship, and ATLA's strong commitment to open access platforms will make our association a leader in scholarly communication in the library profession.

Now in its ninth year of publication, *Theological Librarianship* has matured from an interesting experiment with a lot of potential into the keystone of a new publishing paradigm for ATLA. We are proud to have played a role in ushering the journal into this new era and look forward to more opportunities to welcome colleagues both new and old into ATLA's vibrant culture of writing, editing, and publishing.

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