TASK FORCE REPORTS

International Theological Librarian Education

By Kelly Campbell, Chair

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During this past year, the International Theological Librarian Education Taskforce (ITLET) organized. The first task was to develop the ITLET charge. The ITLET's charge is "to strengthen and connect theological and religious studies librarians worldwide by identifying resources, creating educational opportunities, and developing skill enhancement materials through collaboration efforts." The second task was to identify and recruit members to serve on the taskforce. Current ITLET membership covers ten time zones and represents: India, Australia, Canada, Germany, Philippines, Kenya, Costa Rica, and the U.S.

After being officially organized, developing a clear charge, and recruiting willing members, the ITLET convened three times. Before the first meeting in April, ITLET members introduced themselves electronically. At the second meeting in June, three projects were identified, and taskforce members were divided into smaller working groups. The first project the taskforce agreed to undertake is the creation of the Theological Librarian's Handbook. The Handbook will be open access and will include an introductory volume followed by subject specific volumes. The second project is to interpret data contained in a recent survey of international theological libraries conducted by the Theological Book Network. The third project is to pilot an ATLA International Theological Librarian Leadership Institute at the 2019 Annual Conference in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.