
Orthodox

John Thompson, Convener

The Orthodox librarians at ATLA welcomed two visitors from abroad.

KELEM KASSHURUN (Botho University, Botswana) is an Ethiopian librarian who lives in Botswana. She is involved in a research project on behalf of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church titled “Research Knowledge Management Towards an Integrated Research Support-System Framework: The Case of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church” The purpose of this research will be to assess the current research data management (RDM), academic scholarship, and knowledge management system of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and provide a conceptual framework for an integrated research support system. This system will enhance research-based knowledge practices of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. John Thompson and Andy Carter from the ATLA office met with her on Saturday to discuss her project.

JUSSI HYVÄRINEN (University of Eastern Finland) works in the library that serves the only Orthodox seminary in Finland. The 60,000 Orthodox Christians in Finland are dependent on the seminary to supply priests for their parishes. On Saturday morning during the conference, he gave a presentation titled, “East or West: Maintaining an Orthodox Collection Inside a Lutheran-Oriented Theological Library,” in which he discussed how he organizes the Orthodox resources to make them available to the theological students in the Orthodox seminary.

FR. ISKANDAR BCHEIRY (metadata analyst for ATLA) also gave a presentation related to the Orthodox Church at the conference. His was titled, “Digitizing and Schematizing the Archival Material from the Late Ottoman Period Found in the Monastery of al-Za’faran in Southeast Turkey,” and explored documents from 19th and early 20th century Syriac speaking communities. This provided a fascinating look about ordinations, everyday life, and persecution of Christian communities in the last decades of the Ottoman Empire. Fr. Iskandar is a priest in the Syriac Orthodox Church.

John will work with the ATLA staff to set up a discussion list for Orthodox librarians. This will hopefully include librarians from Holy



[Left to right] Gregory Morrison (Wheaton College), Elizabeth Young Miller (Moravian College and Theological Seminary), Iskandar Bcheiry (ATLA), Kelem Kassahun (Botho University, Botswana), Jussi Hyvärinen (University of Eastern Finland), John Thompson (Waynesburg University)

Cross, St. Vladimir's, St. Tikhon's, and Holy Trinity seminaries.

If possible, we would like to arrange for Morning Prayer in the Orthodox tradition at the 2019 ATLA conference in Vancouver. Once the discussion list for Orthodox librarians is set up, we may be able to discuss other projects.

There was one other event at the conference that was of interest to Orthodox librarians. At the business meeting on Friday afternoon, the Association honored ATLA members who had passed away in the previous year. After brief presentations on the lives of the recently deceased members, the ATLA choir under the direction of Ellen Frost (SMU) sang the Orthodox "Kontakion for the Departed." This was a beautiful and moving tribute to those who had served the association for many years.