

BULLETIN

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The image on the front cover is of Hartlebury Castle, courtesy of Chris Penney, clodpoll2001@yahoo.com

THE VICISSITUDES OF HARTLEBURY AND THE HURD LIBRARY

By Christine Penney

The library founded by Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, at Hartlebury Castle enjoyed a peaceful existence for only 33 years after his death in 1808. Since 1841 there have been numerous threats to its continuance in the magnificent room which Hurd had had to build for it in 1782, since there was nowhere else to house his large book collection. The first threat came in 1841, when Henry Pepys became Bishop of Worcester. The see of Worcester originally owned a number of residences in addition to Hartlebury, all over both Worcestershire and Warwickshire, but by then they had dwindled to only two – the castle at Hartlebury and the palace near the cathedral in Worcester. In 1836 the Ecclesiastical Commission (later to become the Church Commissioners) was set up and in 1842 the Ecclesiastical Houses of Residence Act gave it powers to dispose of church property. The Commissioners soon decided that one episcopal residence was quite enough and invited Pepys to choose which of the two he would prefer. His predecessor, Bishop Robert Carr, had died leaving a great many debts, most of which he had incurred on behalf of his extravagant friend King George IV. Bailiffs were busy pursuing these and when Pepys visited the palace he had such a frosty welcome that he decided for Hartlebury. This was in any case far more suitable as he had a young family who revelled in the large grounds, the lake, the village and the fresh country air. His ten-year old daughter, Emily, kept a journal in 1844, recording life at the castle in delightful detail, with some references to ‘Papa’s library’. Had the palace been chosen the castle would have been sold and the fate of the library is hard to imagine. Instead the palace was sold, to the dean and chapter; it became the deanery for some years.

All was well for the next 19 years but in 1860 Henry Philpott succeeded Pepys. The castle again came under scrutiny. Lord Lyttelton of nearby Hagley Hall argued strongly for its retention but other local gentlemen and some of the clergy urged a removal to Worcester. When Philpott was asked for his opinion he visited the castle and rejected the idea of living there outright. He described it as ‘singularly inconvenient’, with not enough bedrooms, but in other respects so big that a large staff would be needed. He also took issue with the location of the railway station. This was (and still is) just over a mile from the castle and it had no waiting room. He also complained that the nearest cab was at Kidderminster, which seems an odd difficulty to raise, as he must have had some form of transport of his own. Perhaps he was worried about his visitors. He advised the Ecclesiastical

Commissioners to abandon the castle and accommodate him in Worcester, in the deanery (which they would now have to buy back). A surveyor was sent along to look at it and reported there were not enough bedrooms there either and the drains smelt. While this was going on and the castle was empty concerns were voiced about the library. An anonymous letter was published in *The Worcester Herald* on 16 March 1861:

This fine collection, I understand, is now, with the Castle, in the care of the gardener and his family, who, no doubt, are attentive to their duties so far as their means permit, but surely so grave a responsibility ought to be better provided for. The library overlooks the ornamental water, and is by no means a dry room; it therefore requires constant fires, and such a supervision as would ensure the preservation of this noble heir-loom to the see entire and undilapidated. Pope's house has long ceased to be, but let at least his library be preserved, or otherwise we may have deeply to regret that the poet did not leave his books to the British Museum, in trust for the nation.

Luckily the dean and chapter saw no reason to sell what they had so recently bought, the Commissioners decided not to proceed and Bishop Philpott had to put up with the castle. He moved in and found he liked it after all, living there happily for the next 30 years. He nearly came to grief one day in the library, in March 1881, when a marble tablet put up in 1810, in memory of Bishop Hurd, fell off the wall, narrowly missing his head – possibly a piece of poetic justice for his initial efforts to get rid of the place. All was now well for another forty years but when Charles Gore became bishop in 1902 the trouble started again. He had an upper class background but was a man of modest tastes and flatly refused to live at Hartlebury, describing it as 'a serious incubus'. He lived instead in a private house. At least this meant the Commissioners did not have to buy him one, but the empty castle was an obvious liability and once again concerns were raised about the library, particularly in the village, as was to happen just over a century later. The Rector of Hartlebury, David Robertson, wrote many letters and his son, Julius, wrote a vitriolic one to him: 'I suppose Gore is satisfied now! I suppose the Episcopal library and pictures will be thrown into the moat. May the ghost of Latimer haunt his successor.' The castle was again looked after by the gardener until Gore left in 1905 to become the first Bishop of Birmingham. His successor, Dr Hyushe Yeatman-Biggs, was happy to move in with his fine collections of furniture and antiques and all was well again until 1955.

In that year Mervyn Charles-Edwards became the 109th Bishop of Worcester. It was now accepted that the castle was far too big for a modern bishop and he was offered a house in College Yard, near the cathedral. Mrs Charles-Edwards visited it and reported it was quite unsuitable, so they were accommodated in a rented house in the country while the Commissioners (now the Church Commissioners) considered what to do. The Bishop and his wife however were very anxious to live in the castle. Hartlebury's position in the centre of the diocese was, in their opinion, far more suitable than Worcester; in any case the dean was in charge there. The previous bishop, William Cash, had lived fairly modestly in the north wing of the castle, but Bishop Charles –Edwards was not keen to follow suit; he was afraid that if they installed themselves there no-one would bother to move them. For the next eight years discussion and argument went on about how the castle might be adapted to provide a more economical residence. Some of the ideas were astonishing. A number of rooms could be converted to flats to bring in an income. The chapel could be demolished and a replacement constructed in the great hall, with a new floor for accommodation constructed above it. Or the north wing could be demolished or gutted and made into garages or flats. The late James Lees-Milne, who visited in 1960, was very supportive of this idea, even of demolition, as long as the walls were retained; ruins, he wrote, made such 'wonderful bones for gardens'. The prolonged debate did not particularly surprise the Bishop, who, in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1956, remarked that 'Worcestershire people do not move fast'. But his frustration found frequent expression as the years crawled by with no solution. Some demolition of 'parts which are not of any use' was, he felt, inevitable and he even proposed the building of 'a pleasant single storey house' on to the west wall of the great hall. In 1961 the Commissioners declared there was now no practical possibility of adapting any part of the castle for a residence. But the Bishop refused to give it up as the see house and compared his resistance to that of Thomas a Becket. Fortunately no action was taken against this latter-day turbulent priest and later that year the county museum came to the rescue. They agreed to lease the whole of the north wing for the display of a large collection, recently acquired, which needed far more space than was currently available. Things then moved fast. A trust was set up to manage the state rooms and the south wing was converted to provide a somewhat more modest house for the Bishop and his family. This did necessitate some demolition – the drawing room had to go in order to provide space for office staff - but it could have been much worse.



The Hurd Library, courtesy of Chris Penney

Bishop Charles-Edwards was finally able to move in in June 1964 and the new arrangement proved very successful. The state rooms, chapel and library were opened to visitors on Wednesday afternoons, the museum flourished, the library was used by scholars and stewarded by volunteers, the Bishop held regular services in the chapel and concerts and wedding receptions took place in the great hall. The castle continued as the see house for three more bishops. But in 2003 it again came under scrutiny. The Commissioners set up a review group to look at the housing and conservation of the Church of England's documentary heritage, which included the Hurd Library. Evidence of the library's importance was submitted by, among others, the British Academy and the University of Birmingham. The group reported in 2005. No recommendations were made with regard to the Hurd Library, but it was eventually understood that the 112th Bishop, Peter Selby, would be the last to live at Hartlebury; he was due to retire in 2007.

In 2006, as had happened in 1902, some of the village residents grew increasingly concerned about the Hurd Library's future in what now seemed the very likely event of the castle being sold. They began to hold regular meetings to discuss how it might be kept in situ. They wrote letters, lobbied influential residents of Worcestershire and sought all the advice they could get from bodies including the National Trust, English Heritage, the Historic Libraries Forum and the Georgian Group. Late in 2007 they formed the

Friends of Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library. The local county council initially thought of buying the entire estate, but this proved unfeasible so in 2008 the Friends set up a Buildings Preservation Trust. Work went on for the next six years to raise awareness of the castle's place in the county's heritage and to demonstrate the international importance of the library. Readers were welcomed, regular tours, concerts and other fund-raising events took place and the Trust submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2011. Although this was unsuccessful they were advised to try again and this time they succeeded. £5m was awarded in October 2014. The castle could now be purchased and the library, on loan to the Trust, be kept in situ. This had been the principal driver all along. The struggle from 2006 -2014 has lasted for nearly nine years – ironically almost as long as the struggle from 1955-1964 - but the solution will, we hope, be more permanent.

Christine Penney, Hurd Librarian

2015 MAGNA CARTA LECTURES

LESLEY SMITH
Archbishop Langton in a
Circle of New Ideas*

Friday 20 February at 7.30pm
Tickets £7 via 01722 424800,
courses@salis.ac.uk or on the door

DOMINIC GRIEVE MP
Magna Carta and
Human Rights Today

Thursday 12 March at 7pm
Free entry, booking essential.
Tickets £7 via 01722 424800,
courses@salis.ac.uk or on the door

CHRIS DYER
Magna Carta and the
Common People¹

Friday 24 April at 7.30pm
Tickets £7 via 01722 424800,
courses@salis.ac.uk or on the door

DICK HOWARD
Magna Carta's American
Adventure

Sunday 7 June at 6pm
Tickets £7 via 01722 424800,
courses@salis.ac.uk or on the door

NEIL MACGREGOR
Making the Magna Carta We
Want: The Unintended
Meanings of an Icon

Friday 6 March at 7.30pm
Free entry, booking essential.

ROBIN GRIFFITH-JONES
Magna Carta: Charter for our
Times or Antiquarian Icon?²

Friday 27 March at 7.30pm
Tickets £7 via 01722 424800,
courses@salis.ac.uk or on the door

NICHOLAS VINCENT
Magna Carta: The Salisbury
Connection³

Friday 15 May at 7.30pm
Tickets £7 via 01722 424800,
courses@salis.ac.uk or on the door

LORD IGOR JUDGE
Magna Carta and the Law

Thursday 10 June at 7.30pm
Tickets £7 via 01722 424800,
courses@salis.ac.uk or on the door

All lectures take place at Salisbury Cathedral
Ticket prices include a £1 voluntary contribution to the Building Fund.
*Speaker to be confirmed
¹Speaker to be confirmed
²Speaker to be confirmed
³Speaker to be confirmed

(Lesley Smith's talk and seminar are now on
24 & 25 July 2015)

REPORT OF THE ATLA CONFERENCE: NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 18TH-21TH JUNE 2014

By Carol Reekie

This year's 2014 American Theological Library Association Conference was held in the lively city of New Orleans, Louisiana or NOLA as it is referred to by the locals. The city was named after the Duke of Orleans who was the Regent (1715-23) for the young Louis XV. It is very obvious that the architecture of the city has been greatly influenced by French and Spanish culture. Many of the existing buildings retain the distinctive wrought iron work of the 17th and 18th centuries. New Orleans is famed for being the birthplace of jazz, festivals such as the Mardi Gras and its delicious unique cuisine. The hotel was situated edge of the French Quarter and just a 10 minute walk from the famous Mississippi river.

I received a warm welcome from our NOLA hosts at the opening reception and had the opportunity to meet the ATLA's new Director of Production, Maria Stanton and listen to a discussion about ATLA's current and future developments. The title of the conference was 'Experience the Extraordinary' and it focused on the developments in education, technology and librarianship and how we, as librarians, can prepare for the future. The programme offered many options, if fact I was spoilt for choice. The conference began with an excellent plenary session by Joseph Lucia, Dean of Temple University. He informed the audience that he had just been told that his university had earmarked \$200 million for a new library! It was heartening to hear that new libraries were being built. Other sessions that I attended included Assessing the future of educational technology for theological education, Helping patrons use the print collections, Libraries and MOOC's, the challenge of library space and many more. There were also some excellent Exhibitors stands which provided an opportunity to see and discuss new products and publications.

One of the sessions that I found particularly useful was Small Libraries – getting organised in the archives, presented by Evan Boyd, Chicago Theological Seminary and Susan Ebertz, Wartburg Seminary. They both recounted their experiences of organising an archive using volunteers, selling duplicate materials, exhibiting the materials retained and ways in which to fund raise. Interestingly they advised against retaining everything and that the focus should be on specific areas of interest. It was quite apparent that willing, highly motivated volunteers played a huge part in ensuring the completion of the projects.

Another very well attended session discussed the use of Google and the ways in which we should try to exploit the treasures that are contained within our print collections. The problem surrounding the evaluation of internet resources was discussed as well as the importance of working with the academic staff to raise their awareness of the available print resources. If only I had the time to implement all the useful suggestions.....

During the conference the international delegates were invited to attend a luncheon hosted by the International Collaboration Committee. We were treated to a tasty packed lunch and good conversation. It provided an opportunity to meet the other overseas delegates and discuss library developments in various parts of the world. We were also able to share our concerns and relate topics of interest.

Another important aspect of the conference was the personal networking that I was able to undertake. I was able to have discussions with Brenda Bailey-Hainer, the ATLA Executive Director and other members of the ATLA team. I also tried to raise ABTAPL's profile by discussing our concerns, aims and achievements with our American colleagues.

A full report of the conference proceedings will be produced by ATLA as it constitutes a permanent record for the association. Meanwhile many items of interest and photos of the event can be found on their website (<http://www.atla.com>). I would like to conclude by thanking the many kind and helpful people that I met, particularly the Host Team, who made my stay so enjoyable. I count myself blessed to have met so many nice people and to have represent both ABTAPL and BETH at the 2014 ATLA Conference.

Dr. Carol Reekie, Chair, ABTAPL & Cambridge Theological Federation

Established in 1946, the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is a professional association of over 800 individual, institutional, and affiliate members providing programs, products, and services in support of theological and religious studies libraries and librarians. ATLA's ecumenical membership represents many religious traditions and denominations. Products include two free databases:

- **Research in Ministry® (RIM®)**, a searchable database of indexes and abstracts for doctoral projects and theses from programs accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).
- **Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative (CDRI)**, a repository of digital resources contributed by ATLA member libraries, made possible by the Henry Luce Foundation.

For more information, go to <http://www.atla.com/products>

**REPORT OF THE VISITS AND PRESENTATIONS AT THE 43RD
BETH ASSEMBLY, WROCLAW, POLAND, 6-10 SEPTEMBER 2014**
By Carol Reekie and Penelope Hall

**Conserving and Protecting Library Collections for the Future:
The Experience of Central and Eastern Europe**

The Assembly began on Saturday evening with a welcome reception hosted by the Pontifical Faculty of Theology. Sunday morning we boarded a bus bright and early to travel to the Krzeszów Monastery where we attended Holy Mass, after which we visited the community church of St. Joseph, where there are some very unusual frescos celebrating St. Joseph. We were then welcomed into the nearby Benedictine convent where they have been doing considerable renovation in order to have a controlled environment archive area, as well as being engaged in some extensive manuscript restoration, the details of which were presented to us by the team of restorers. In the afternoon we visited Świdnica for a service of Ecumenical Prayer at the Church of Peace, a very old Protestant church built in split timber style.

When we met for business in the Faculty of Theology, we had the privilege of meeting a number of people who were joining us for the first time, most of whom were from eastern Europe. These newcomers introduced their libraries to us and shared some of the challenges that they were facing.

On the last full day of the meeting, we took a break for a visit to the Ossolineum Library in Wrocław, an old prestigious library which boasted some remarkable paintings in addition to their extensive collection. During this visit we heard a presentation on the digitalization project of the Ossolineum in Lviv which is virtually unifying two collections.

On the final morning in Wrocław we were taken to the Panorama Raclawicka, a famous 360° painting of a decisive battle in Polish history. The detail in this painting is amazing, but the story of its preservation, even more so.

During the course of the Assembly there were a number of presentations on various aspects of theological librarianship and on libraries in general. Here follows a brief summary of these presentations.

- The Schultz Group, a risk management company located in San Marino, presented its work on analysing risk indexes for public institutions and proposing professional solutions for managing them. Their work is particularly relevant for archives that preserve very old manuscripts and other materials. Among other things, natural disasters – floods, earthquakes – that have happened in Italy and elsewhere in Europe motivate their work. Schultz Group now also sets standards for different kind of risks that may affect libraries. When libraries can evaluate their particular risks, they can better manage their finances and invest the right amount of money on their security.
- An overview of the journal situation in Poland was presented with an explanation about how some church library journals had been established. The representatives of FIDES spoke about Polish ecclesiastical journals, their history and thematic profiles, noting that particularly after the Second World War, it had been very important for the Polish Catholic Church to record its history and cultural heritage. During the communist era, these journals suffered from censorship and many citizens feared to publish their texts in ecclesiastical journals. For almost 20 years, the journal FIDES has published several articles on theological librarianship and bibliographies of Polish libraries. All articles, excepting the most recent ones, are available in digitised format.
- The Digital Libraries Team of Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Centre (PSNC) spoke of their increasing involvement in digital libraries in Poland. Since 2002, the number of digital libraries in Poland has been growing steadily, and now there are about 70 institutional digital libraries and about 40 regional ones. Over 80% of the digitized materials are journals, and over 2 million objects have been digitized. While most users of these libraries are Polish, but they are known and are used in other European countries. Collaboration with Europeana includes common digitisation programs that raise the profile of Polish digitised materials abroad. The majority of the theological faculty libraries in Poland regained their roles in universities after the collapse of the communist rule in 1989; the most important of these theological universities are John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow. The library in

Lublin with its 2.2 million volumes is the most extensive library of these universities.

- The De Gruyter representatives presented an overview of the family owned company and the books, databases and special offers available. It is the official publisher for IFLA and has over 60,000 items in print and e-book format. Many items are available on open access. 80% of the journals and 60% of the books are published in English.
- The OCLC representative reminded us that with the large amounts of data available on line now the role of libraries is changing. Libraries have to adjust themselves to the changing behaviour of students and researchers. OCLC sees it as their task to provide libraries with the right tools for intelligent workflows that are connected to its global data network, Worldcat. In Wordcat, OCLC has amassed - thanks to the cooperative efforts of all its member libraries - a huge collection of data. There are various tools that will exploit library collections and deliver the required data to library patrons. It is also possible to set up a group catalogue for theological libraries within Worldcat. This can be done by expanding the already existing ATLA group catalogue.

(In the discussions that followed the presentation, it became clear that many people were eager to use such a theological subset of Worldcat, although some were uncertain to whether they would add their collections to it.)

- A new bibliography, the New Index Religiosus (IR) has been published by Brepols; it is built on Revue d'Histoire Ecclesiastique and Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses and focuses on the data from scientific publications in several European languages. It includes some 585,000 bibliographical references plus over 120,000 review references. Index Religiosus complements ATLA and IxTheo; the overlap between them is relatively small because they all have their own unique scope. For example, ATLA offers mostly data on texts written in English, while Index Religiosus is much more evenly multilingual. There are external links to the electronic articles on the web pages of the publishers; for biblical texts, there are links to the Latin texts published by Brepols. In the future, there will be also links to Open Access articles and books.

- Index theologicus (IxTheo) was founded in 1975 and has one of largest collection of theological and scientific journals, over 1200. The focus is on the needs of the scientific community. Quality is essential as is Open Access and no license is required. IxTheo is planning and upgrade of the bibliography for Theology and Religious Science for 2015 using a simple file format, similar to Wikipedia. Many new changes will be introduced to make searching easier, including full text articles, the complete archive online, Open-Access journals and internet resources, incorporating 1.41 million titles by next year. In addition, they are moving from German-English subject headings to multi language subject headings including Chinese.
- Greg Taylor from the American Theological Library Association gave us update on the Religion Database, which now includes more than 1.8 million records from different fields of theology and currently ATLASerials includes about 300 journals, including many in German and journals published by small institutions. EBSCO and ATLA have introduced a collection of 150 titles on Islam in the modern world (1804-1913). As ATLA is more and more focusing on the global community they have developed a new production system providing more content and a better treatment of languages. In view of this emphasis, the cooperation with BETH, formally started in 1996, is of increasing importance. ATLA aims at selling its products to developing countries at affordable prices. Its new ATLA ALUM Product will allow subscribers to add their Alumni for a small fee.

(A discussion of the merits of the three databases followed. It was suggested that students do not want to search in 3 places and find it confusing. Perhaps a better way would be to search all three via an aggregator using one platform. It was noted that there was a gap in theological research between Eastern and Western Europe and that some Eastern European countries faced many challenges in this regard.)

- One of our Polish colleagues gave the delegates a presentation on Fundraising. Fundraising is a complete process and relationships are very important. He pointed out that we need to cultivate regular donors, who are more effective than the one-time donor. One

should start with a small request, then after 2 weeks go back and explain how the money has helped. One month later, ask if the donor would like to be a regular contributor. 40 years later, ask if they would be willing to leave a gift to the library in their will.

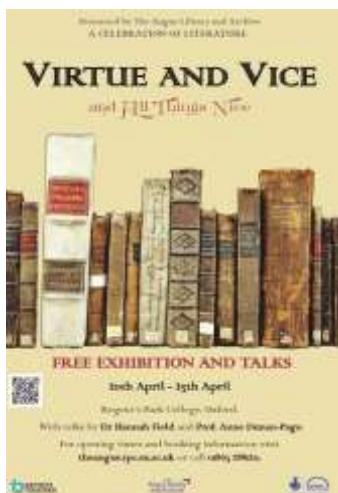
We also need to learn to be creative. For example, if the library has a special object, it could be sold but it might be better to publicise it by having a fundraising event or by selling reproductions; publicity might generate more income than selling the item. It should be noted that there are some costs associated with fundraising. Have a donate button on your website or social media, this will provide a lot of free advertising for your sponsors.

More details about these presentations can be found on the BETH website (www.beth.be).

Our Polish colleagues were most welcoming and hospitable, and we were very grateful for everything that they provided for us during our stay in Wroclaw.

*Dr. Carol Reekie,
Chair, ABTAPL & Cambridge Theological Federation*

Dr. Penelope Hall



PRINT JOURNALS: DOES ANYONE READ THEM?

By Michael Gale

Introduction

If you had asked me ten years ago if I thought we would still be subscribing to a significant number of print journals in ten years' time, I would probably have said no. All the evidence pointed towards the decline of the print journal: searching journals electronically is so much more effective and convenient than browsing hard copy indexes; journal articles – unlike books – can be easily printed off or read online; printed volumes take up so much space on the library shelves. And yet ten years later the figures show that the number of our print journal subscriptions has barely declined at all¹.

The cost figures are even more startling. We now spend nearly twice as much on print journals as we did ten years ago, and even as a percentage of the total library resources spend (books + print journals + electronic resources), the figures for the period show an increase from 21% to 26%².

To justify such an ongoing investment the print journals must be really pulling their weight. But are they?

Measuring print journal use

Measuring how often print journals are used is notoriously problematic given that in most libraries journals are not loaned and therefore no loan statistics are generated. The following is a summary of some of the ways in which print journal use can be monitored:

- The general library survey. We conduct an annual library survey, and one of the questions we ask is: do you use the library's print journals, yes or no? In 2013/14, roughly a third of our students said yes³. This suggests that the print journal collection is moderately well used. The follow up question, "If so, which journals do you particularly value?", has been routinely ignored and has now been discontinued.

¹ In 2003/4 we subscribed to 61 print journals. In 2013/14 we subscribed to 56, but it is worth noting that the figure went up before it went down, peaking at 69 in 2008/9.

² However it should be noted that the print journals figures include "bundled" subscriptions i.e. print and electronic access taken together.

³ This figure represents a decline from an average of c 50% in recent years, but there are some variables – such as a new group of distance learners – which mean that the year on year figures may not be strictly comparable.

- The journals survey 1. I have come across three types of journals survey. One involved inserting a survey form inside the cover of each journal issue or volume, and inviting users to sign up whenever they consulted it. The results were disappointing, and time consuming to gather. Most forms remained blank, and years later were still to be found fluttering mournfully within the collection.
- The journals survey 2. A second form of journals survey involves circulating survey forms and inviting respondents to indicate which journals they use. We tried this a few years ago, but the response rate was poor ⁴, and the results barely more than anecdotal. It also highlighted the problem of defining journal use: it might mean reading a particular article, or it might involve a lot of browsing and superficial scanning ⁵.
- The journals survey 3. Some libraries monitor use of reference materials, including journals, by recording details of items which are left on desks at the end of the day. We haven't tried this. It sounds time consuming, and would not be comprehensive, but nevertheless it could provide useful data.
- The citation survey. A citation survey monitors the number of times journal articles are cited in student essays. We have been sampling student essays for a couple of years, and the results have been eye opening. While it needs to be noted that it is not always possible to establish beyond doubt the original source of a reference (i.e. whether it was the print journal or the online version, where both are available), the evidence clearly suggests that overwhelmingly our students are using online journals in preference to print journals when they use them at all ⁶.

Context: the institution

There are a number of variables which are likely to impact on journal use within any given institution. The student profile is critical. Online journals particularly benefit distance learners and part-timers. Many younger

⁴ 18%. Many of those who did not respond may have felt that they had nothing to say.

⁵ which could have the effect of distorting the figures

⁶ In the latest sample, journal articles were cited in 36% of the student essays, but only 7% of the articles cited were sourced from the print journal collection.

students⁷ will tend to turn to online resources first and may not even consider using the print journal collection. But many of our students – who may be returning to education for the first time for a long time – still find online technologies a challenge, and given the choice between searching a database or taking a volume from the shelf, will prefer the latter. Helping students to overcome these barriers by providing timely information skills training is all part of the mix.

Other variables include the institution's research profile, external membership, and online authentication. Research students require access to a wider range of resources, and are likely to make greater use of journals, both print and online; external members are unlikely to have access to online resources, and will therefore be more dependent on the availability of print journals; and multiple logins and access arrangements are the bane of many library users' lives. In my experience, ease of use is a critical factor in students' use of online journals, and the absence of single online authentication presents a barrier to some.

But perhaps the most critical factor for journal use is promotion. If tutors do not recommend journal articles and include them on reading lists, then many students may remain unaware of their value. I see it as part of my role to promote journals to tutors, which we do by circulating new issues in the staff room as a current awareness service, and by regular journal reviews within the staff group⁸.

Context: the publishers

With one or two exceptions, surprisingly few theological journals appear to have succumbed entirely to economic pressures and closed down. Instead a number of the smaller independents have turned to a major publisher and raised both their academic credentials and their prices⁹. But very few have chosen what might appear to be the more obvious path of publishing exclusively online¹⁰. Clearly the sums just don't add up.

⁷ the so-called “digital natives”, born after 1980

⁸ We review our journal subscriptions every other year. Most of the work is done within the Library Committee, but the full staff group is also given the opportunity to contribute.

⁹ *Modern Believing*, *Rural Theology*, and *Practical Theology* (formerly *Contact*) have all taken this route in recent years.

¹⁰ *Anvil* was relaunched as an open access online-only journal in 2011, though I understand that print copies are available on request.

So publishers are continuing to produce print journals, often alongside the online version¹¹, and they are providing little financial incentive to cancel print subscriptions and rely on the latter¹². A few years ago a new publisher of theological journals proposed a package which involved offering ABTAPL libraries online-only access to a set of titles at a discount, with the printed issues held over till the end of the year. The deal would have enabled us to subscribe to two extra titles at no extra cost, but our tutors weren't convinced that the two extra titles were worth the loss of the current print issues. It was the closest we have come to a financial incentive, and it wasn't enough. The cost of printing copies represents a relatively small proportion of the total cost of producing an academic journal¹³. So publishers continue to print them.

For libraries wishing to cut the cost of their print journal subscriptions, the only alternative is to rely on an online content aggregator such as Ebsco, whose databases include the full text of a wide range of theological journals. We took this path in 2010 when we cancelled six print subscriptions on the basis that our students would continue to have access to the content through EBSCO. But the policy is not without risk. Publishers often impose a moratorium on the release of the full text¹⁴, and may choose to remove their titles from EBSCO entirely at some point in the future. And of course our own subscription to EBSCO may lapse at some stage. We decided to cancel six titles, but we retained many more.

Conclusion

So why do we continue to spend a quarter of our resources budget on print journals despite evidence – from the citation survey in particular – that they are rarely used by our students? I would suggest three possible reasons:

- Our tutors tell me that they continue to value the opportunity to browse the latest print issues, both in the library and in the staff room. This supports their own research, and also enables them to raise the profile of the journal collection with our students. Moreover it suggests that there is still an inherent value in print journals – the

¹¹ 37 of our 56 current print journals are also available online

¹² typically the cost of a “bundled” subscription is not much more than online only

¹³ a precise figure is hard to come by because there are so many variables, but I have come across estimates ranging from 10% to 40%

¹⁴ typically 3 to 12 months in EBSCO’s Religion & Philosophy Collection, and up to five years in ATLA Serials

ability to browse – which cannot be precisely replicated in an online environment.

- We have a significant number of external users of the library who do not have access to our online resources. They are entirely dependent on the print journals, many of which are not available locally elsewhere, and although their response to the journals survey was poor, we have anecdotal evidence that the print journals would be missed. The service we provide to external members, who are typically local ministers, is an important part of our mission, and is part of the rationale for retaining the print journals collection.
- Attention has already been drawn to the provisional nature of much online content, and there is a sense in which a print journals collection acts as a safeguard against the loss of online access in the future. Some publishers offer access “in perpetuity”, but there is something reassuring about a print run, which seems less vulnerable to changing circumstances.

However I would suggest that none of these reasons is sufficient on its own to justify the retention of a substantial print journals collection given the advantages of online provision outlined in the introduction. I would argue that the main reasons are the absence of a critical mass of our titles available online through a single access point and the lack of a significant financial incentive to move to online-only where available. The savings are currently just too marginal and the benefits just not quite convenient enough to compensate for the inevitable losses.

*Michael Gale,
Librarian, Queen's Foundation*

(Just a reminder that Libraries who are members of ABTAPL are able to receive /negotiate discounts from selected publishers for books and journals subscriptions. For a listing of possible discounts, please contact the ABTAPL Secretary, Honor Hania.)

NEWS

Ashgate Offer

Ashgate are offering a 20% discount to ABTAPL members on Ashgate Religion titles (enter the code ABTAPL20 at the checkout stage). For further information, please contact Hattie Wilson, senior marketing executive. Email: HWilson@ashgate.com; tel: 01252 736 600. Their catalogue is at www.ashgate.com.

Patrologia Latina

Allen Hall Seminary has decided to dispose of a complete set of Jacques-Paul Migne's Patrologia Latina. The set comprises 221 volumes plus 18 volumes of the Supplementum. The volumes have not been catalogued individually but most of the volumes probably post date the destruction of the original plates in 1868.

The Seminary is willing to donate the set to any institution which can arrange packing and transport. If that institution was willing, in return, to make a donation to the Diocese of Westminster's Priest Training Fund this would be appreciated.

The Seminary is situated in Chelsea at 28, Beaufort Street, London, SW3 5AA. The Library is on the ground floor and there is a car park (entry code operated). Any institution which is interested should contact Rev. Dr Michael O'Boy, Vice Rector, Allen Hall Seminary. Email: michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk ; tel: 020 7349 5600

Thank-you

A BIG THANK YOU from the (out-going) Treasurer to all who heeded the request to send their subscription renewal payments in time to be included in the distribution list for this edition of the Bulletin.

THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED

Christian Librarian

No 68, Spring 2015

Living like heaven on earth; Faith in Bahrain; The Narnian Christ; Listen With Mother for adults; Telling our stories; A new strategy for Christian fiction.

Please contact the Hon. Editor if you would like to read any of these articles.

EAST AFRICAN MISSION ORPHANAGE

By Emma Walsh

In Kenya many kids are orphaned often as a result of the AIDS epidemic, and with nowhere else to go they end up as street kids, living a life where surviving is deemed a success and the idea of thriving is incomprehensible.



But for some of the kids there is the opportunity to thrive, to learn and to be loved. There is the opportunity to do more than survive.

Almost 20 years ago an Australian couple visited Kenya and were touched by the stories and experiences of the children they met. Initially they fostered a brother and sister. This then grew leading them to set up EAMO (East African Mission Orphanage) in Nakuru, Kenya, which today has over 200 children aged from just a few months old up to 18 years old.



At EAMO the kids are not only fed and nurtured they are also educated. The orphanage places a high value on education and has a school on the grounds. BUT the one thing the orphanage doesn't have is a library. They have a shell of a building which has recently been given a roof, and they have a few thousand books in storage because they have nowhere to house them and no way of organising them.

This is where I enter the story. Valerie May, a volunteer teacher at the orphanage saw the eagerness of the kids to read anything, even if it was the newspaper laid out for craft activities. Valerie wanted to do something to bring all the pieces of the puzzle together and provide them with the library they desired. She also happened to have a daughter who is a librarian, me.

So while Valerie is busy raising funds to ensure the building ready for a library, I am working on ensuring that there will be a library once it is finished. I will be working with EAMO remotely, over the next few months helping them sort the books they already have and find the resources are available in Nakuru such as glue and sticky back plastic. Then in August I

will be flying to Nakuru to help with the physical setting up of the library and to train some of the older kids and teachers in how to run the library.

This is where you enter the story. As you can imagine, in order to do that we hope to achieve we need your help. This help can be in a number of ways:

- 1) Library resources: There are a number of items will be difficult to find in Nakuru such as book pockets and cards, spine labels and cataloguing cards. An email will be sent out with a list of items we will need to take with us, if you are able to provide any of these either because you already have them or would be willing purchase them and send them to us that would be great.
- 2) Contacts: Do you know anyone or any groups that might be interested in the project, such as schools or churches. I would be happy to speak to various groups to raise the profile and possibly raise funds for the project. It would be great to be able to get some schools to be involved with activities such as read-a-thon's or a sponsored non-uniform day.
- 3) Financial: It is going to cost about £3000 for us to undertake this project. Any sponsorship or support would be appreciated. Apart from donating, there are other ways you could raise funds such as holding a book sale, a morning tea or some other event to support the project. Even the smallest amount will help us to set up the best library we can for these kids.

I have been asked why I am involved in this project, to help people I've never met. The answer is simple, I feel blessed to have the life I have and that my kids have the opportunities they have.

If I can use the skills and experience I have to help make a significant difference in their lives and give them a better start in life then I can think of no reason why I wouldn't help.

I hope you can join me in this adventure.

*Revd. Emma Walsh,
College Librarian, Regent's Park College, University of Oxford
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NOTICE OF MEETINGS

2015 ABTAPL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

12 November 2015

Ealing Abbey,
Charlbury Grove, London W5 2DY

2016 ABTAPL SPRING CONFERENCE & AGM

30 March - 04 April 2016

Domus Carmelitana, Rome

www.domuscarmelitana.com

2016 SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

From Alan Linfield

The 2016 conference in Rome is now just a year away and plans are progressing. We have secured what we think will be both a comfortable and convenient base in the Domus Carmelitana, which is located within easy walking distance of St Peter's and the Vatican and there should be no great difficulty in arranging a number of visits to several important libraries in the city. In fact the hardest thing will probably be to decide which to include and which to leave out of the programme.

More pressing at this stage is to finalise the programme of CPD sessions which will be an essential element of the conference. Some ideas for presentations have already been suggested, such information literacy, the use of library space and planning and implementing VLEs. As well as the popular 'open forum' session we also hope to include a 'teach meet' where anyone can give a quick 5 or 10 minute mini-presentation on something they think will be of interest to other librarians e.g. a particularly useful piece of software.

It needs to be emphasised that these CPD sessions need to be as rich and as relevant as possible if employers are to be willing to fund attendance. Also, being in Rome, it's unlikely we will be able to find many external speakers to give the presentations so we will have to rely on our own membership. Can I please therefore appeal to everyone to give serious thought to:

- suggestions and volunteers for the main presentations

- what you might be able to contribute at the teach meet

and to contact either myself or any member of the Committee if you have any ideas. Please don't be 'backward in coming forward'! If we pull together on this, I'm confident that Rome 2016 can be as memorable as Prague 2006 was.

Alan Linfield

alan.linfield@lst.ac.uk

WEBSITES

ABTAPL

<http://www.abtpl.org.uk/>

ABTAPL Bulletin online

http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_abtpl_01.php

ATLA

<http://www.atla.com>

ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials

<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/atla-religion-database-with-atlaserials>

Ashgate

<http://www.ashgate.com>

BETH

<http://www.beth.be>

Domus Carmelitana, Rome

<http://www.domuscarmelitana.com>

Ealing Abbey

<http://www.ealingabbey.org.uk/>

East Africa Mission Orphanage

<http://www.eamo.co.ke/>

Hurd Library

<http://www.hurdlibrary.co.uk/>