Collaboration and Community
Creating the Atla Digital Library for Collecting and Connecting in Religion and Theology

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Who is Atla?

- Founded in 1946 as American Theological Library Association - member association for librarians and information professionals and a producer of research tools in the areas of religion and theology
  - March 2019 - Name change to Atla; update to logo/name/brand to better reflect our role as a global actor in scholarly communication in religion and theology
- Products - several databases and research tools (e.g., Atla Religion Database® (Atla RDB®), AtlaSerials® (Atlas®))
- Member Programs - over 800 individual and institutional members worldwide
  - Professional development
  - Grants and scholarships
  - Consortial licensing
  - Open access publishing program
  - Other digital projects and tools supporting member work
Why We Built a Digital Library?

- 2015 - survey of members to determine digitization, preservation, and access needs
  - Result - need to develop a collaborative subject-focused approach to collection care and access for small theological and religious studies libraries
  - Result - attempted to become DPLA Hub
- 2016 - Decide to develop own digital library
  - Goal - sustainable platform solution, preferably open source and with strong community investment in funding, development, and support
  - Goal - standards compliant, sustainable, and inter-operable hub
  - Goal - promote discoverability, visibility, and access to digital collections of scholarly, historical and cultural significance that are relevant to the study, teaching, and learning of religion and theology
- 2017 - selected Samvera (Hyrax) as platform and partnered with Notch8 to develop
The Atla Digital Library

https://dl.atla.com
How Atla Digital Library Serves Our Members and Its Users
Metadata Harvesting and Searching
Harvest metadata of existing digital collections via OAI-PMH or CSV

- Harvesting tool customized for Internet Archive, Content DM, Omeka, etc.
- Free for Atla members
- Nominal fee for non-Atla members (recruitment tactic)

Increase discoverability, visibility, and accessibility of existing collections through cross-collection search at our Digital Library

- IIIF Viewer capability
- Faceted searching
- Drives users back to original source for full view
Grant Project Support and Marketing

Atla has been named as a collaborator on two recently awarded CLIR grants and on two CLIR grants that are in progress for submission in 2020

- Metadata harvesting
- Viewer
- Marketing

Other Marketing - through our newsletter, blog, and webinars highlight new participants in the Digital Library and unique items in their collections

CLIR Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives
“Digitizing the Records of Philadelphia’s Historic Congregations”

CLIR Recordings at Risk
Digitizing the Sermons of Rev. William Augustus Jones
Training and Documentation

Documentation for Participants

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Metadata Guidelines and Best Practices
- Metadata Application Profile
- Collection Policy

Training

- LibGuide on Digitization
- Webinar Series
  - How to Participate
  - Metadata
  - Rights Management
  - Using the Digital Library

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**Atla Digital Library**

**Collection Policy**

Version 1. March 2019

The purpose of the Atla Digital Library is to provide access to resources in religion and theology. The scope of the collections represented in the Atla Digital Library is interpreted broadly to include all aspects of religious and theological concepts, history and culture; and support research, education, and information needs. A diversity of content, points of view, and treatments is encouraged, including all areas of history to the present, all areas of the world, and the contributions of all types of people.

Collections from religious and theological libraries and archival organizations are included in the Atla Digital Library based on the following criteria:

- The content of proposed collections should be of interest to scholars, educators, and learners, in accordance with the stated purposes of the Atla Digital Library.
- Collections should be housed and be a part of a religious or theological organization or a non-religious library or archive.
- Collections should be in the public domain or permission to digitize and disseminate the collection must have been granted by the holding organization.
- For collections hosted by Atla, the material should be unique and not available through other online digital repositories.
- Metadata and digitization must conform to the Atla Digital Library Guidelines.
- Digital objects are made available for use online without authentication, spreadsheet, payroll, or other restrictions.
- Digital objects adhere to the Atla Digital Library Copyright Policy.
Feature Development: Atla Digital Library Customizations
Bulkrax

- A user-friendly way to import OAI-PMH metadata records.
- Allows metadata record imports by collection with a thumbnail image and a link out to the full work online.
- Allows the addition of a standardized rights statement to be applied on import when needed.
- Imports Qualified and Simple Dublin Core via OAI-PMH and CSV file.
Bulkrax

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base URL</td>
<td><a href="http://commons.ptsem.edu/api/oai-pmh">http://commons.ptsem.edu/api/oai-pmh</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metadata prefix</td>
<td>oai_dc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set (source)</td>
<td>collection:media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution name</td>
<td>Princeton Theological Seminary Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Set a rights statement (with override option)

- Rights statement: Copyright Not Evaluated
- Override rights statement: If checked, always use the selected rights statement. If unchecked, use dcrights from the record and only use the provided value if dcrights is blank.
Breadcrumbs configured to reflect organization of the system.

Trails incorporate individual contributing institutions, parent collections containing child collections.

Dynamic to show the collection that the discovery path is through in a unique search, even if the work is in multiple collections.
Breadcrumb Customization

- Effective navigation to parent collection
Additional Customizations

- “Pretty” URLs for institution and collection pages
Additional Customizations

- Addition of thumbnail images to represent collections instead of default Hyrax icon
Additional Customizations

- Modification of the “file download” button to link out to the full item online.
Samvera Contributions

- Atla work basis for fuller-featured Bulkrax
- Expanded to now support for OAI-PMH (DC and Qualified DC), CSV, Bagit, and XML out of the box.
- Exporter work being delivered very soon
Future Plans

Improvements

• Usability Testing
• IIIF Viewer - transcriptions

Hosting Digitized Collections - early 2021 (sliding fee scale)

Digitization Micro-Grants - training and equipment for small member libraries
Thank you

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