



Volume 57 | Issue 2

Article 2

2014

Letter from the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Robinson, Tami Echavarria (2014) "Letter from the Editor," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 57: Iss. 2, Article 2. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1400>

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Letter from the Editor



**Tami Echavarria Robinson, *TCL* Managing Editor
Whitworth University**

As the new editorial team of *The Christian Librarian (TCL)* acquires a work flow, I am honored to represent the team in expressing our appreciation to you, the membership of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL), for entrusting us with this wonderful opportunity to represent our association through the publication of our journal, *The Christian Librarian*. We follow in the footsteps of previous editorial teams to whom we are grateful for bringing this journal to its current high esteem and value to our membership. We are grateful to the ACL membership for letting us know through the membership survey that you value the continuation of *The Christian Librarian*.

The Christian Librarian once began as a newsletter. The very first issue in 1957 had a hand-written title followed by typed pages. The content was rich with information about what the fledgling association was doing, where it was doing it, and what brought the founding mothers of ACL together to form this association. The various pieces in the newsletter were contributed by those who became ACL's earliest members. Ron Jordahl was *TCL's* first editor. Under his general editorship, the look of the journal changed over time from an association newsletter to a bona fide journal; it became professional looking, with the title in professionally printed font and a cover photo. In 2000 Ron Jordahl passed the reins to Anne-Elizabeth Powell as Editor-in-Chief. By the time Anne-Elizabeth Powell's *TCL* Team began the 21st Century, the look of the journal title became more customized and the cover photo filled the remaining white space to fill the cover with the familiar cover photos to which we have become accustomed. Once more the editorship has now passed on to our new *TCL* Editorial Team, led by Garrett Trott, Editor-in-Chief. We commit our best efforts to you, our members and our readers, to continue the legacy you have entrusted to us to further the reputation of the Association of Christian Librarians and to bring you a high quality association journal, *The Christian Librarian: Journal of the Association of Christian Librarians*.

We serve the Association of Christian Librarians through the publication of this journal and encourage all of you to contribute as you are inspired to write articles, bibliographic essays, book reviews, and news and views of various aspects of ACL. This journal has given and continues to offer Christian librarians a venue to publish their writing and a chance for us all to learn from each other's articles. We welcome your ideas and conversations, so please let us know what you would like to contribute to *The Christian Librarian*.

I have been pondering the theme of this issue, which was also the theme for the 2014 Annual Conference of the Association of Christian Librarians, "Crossroads for Discovery." The obvious and most superficial discovery for me is Indiana, a state I have only been to the edge of once before. For those of you who are Hoosiers or long familiar with this part of the United States, I'll not bore you with my own geographic and cultural discoveries. Instead I decided to begin by asking the ACL Conference Team what this theme meant to them when they chose it. I learned that this phrase comes partly from the motto of the state itself, chosen by the Indiana legislature in 1937 in recognition of important roads, railroads and waterways, "The Crossroads of America." This is reflected in the research queries that Indiana's libraries deal with as library patrons ask librarians questions in the crossroads of their inquiries. Naturally this leads to discoveries for both librarians and their patrons, of the best information, new ways to approach research, or multiple interfaces and formats. Sometimes coming to a crossroads, it is not clear that there is a right or wrong way to go. Perhaps there is a familiar way or an adventurous way to go. On we go with a purpose, with persistence, commitment and tenacity. Answers may not come easily or naturally, so as librarians and educators we attend conferences to discover what others are doing at their crossroads; we network together in pursuit of discoveries.

The Association of Christian Librarians has provided Christian librarians with various venues to discover from each other. Conferences, listservs, and *TCL* all give us avenues to network, learn and share with one another. Because we share a common faith and a common vocation our opportunities to integrate faith and vocation has been exceedingly rich for us. We have indeed met on the "Crossroads for Discovery."

Because of the ACL conferences, listserv and *TCL* our crossroads meet so that despite our different faith traditions, geographical locations and different universities, we are integrated into a community of Christian librarians in the vocation of Christian higher education, sharing our discoveries. To "integrate" means to blend or unite into a whole. That whole is our Christian worldview, the lens through which we

live our lives, practice our vocation and demonstrate an integrated life of faith in Christ Jesus. Our theological beliefs, as derived from careful study of the Bible, are blended and unified with important, reasonable ideas from our profession into a coherent, intellectually satisfying Christian worldview. Our special vocation we have been called to is to be educators in Christian higher education, specifically as librarians.

My own crossroads for discovery began fifteen years ago when I found Christian higher education and left my librarian career in secular research libraries to follow God's calling on my life. That calling began my integration of faith and learning in a vocation of librarianship. It has been an amazing journey, one without equal in my discoveries of living a fully integrated Christian worldview. I couldn't have made this journey without my fellow colleagues at Whitworth University, the many books from our library I have read, and my colleagues in ACL who have shown me the way through sharing our "Crossroads for Discovery."

To all you Hoosiers out there, thank you for your kind hospitality on our visit to your state.



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