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## ACL News & Notes

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# ACL News & Notes



This section of *The Christian Librarian* will be a regular fixture in each issue. It will include updates from the president, announcements from members, and reports from various committees and groups around the Association of Christian Librarians. If you have news or notes to share in an upcoming print issue of *The Christian Librarian*, please send it to [robbie@arbor.edu](mailto:robbie@arbor.edu).

– Robbie Bolton, News & Notes Editor

## From the President.

I recently came across an article in *The Wall Street Journal* entitled, “Coming Soon to the Library: Humanoid Robots.” My first instinct was to contact Homeland Security, but after I read past the headline, I realized that this was a real news story about a pair of actual toddler-sized robots purchased by a public library in Connecticut. Although the heart of the story was about their being used to teach computer programming, the library’s “digital experience manager” speculated that they might eventually be programmed to help patrons locate books or greet school groups that visit the library. Helping patrons locate books sounds a lot like old-fashioned reference work to me – talk about your disruptive technologies.

I don’t know if robot-staffed libraries are in our collective futures, but I do know that thinking about the future, preparing for it, and doing our best to plan for it is a key responsibility of the ACL Board of Directors, and I’d like to share with you a little of our work along these lines. We call it “future casting,” for lack of a better term.

We began our work looking through the lens of Sarah Sladek’s book *The End of Membership as We Know It*, which makes the case that membership organizations are undergoing a generational transformation. Technology, demographics, and the economy have all contributed to create a different kind of environment. The things we could count on twenty years ago we can no longer count on. One example: joining an appropriate professional association was something pretty much everyone did back in the day. Now – not so much.

Sladek led us into a series of discussions on ACL member wants and needs, on current member benefits, and on the leadership role of ACL in the larger community. Our discussions generated a number of important questions: How do we facilitate real community? How can we do a better job of providing members opportunities for service and leadership? And how can we encourage professional growth in general and Christian scholarship in particular?

I don't think it will surprise anyone, however, to hear that all of these questions were framed around the context of our organizational identity, who we are and who we intend to be. This in turn led us into a candid conversation about our mission, our vision and core values – even our Statement of Faith. Most would agree, I think, that our Faith Statement has served us well over the years. Even so, as we discussed our mission, our core values, and the future of ACL, we kept asking ourselves if these key statements of “who we are” are serving us in the best way possible – in the way God would have us lead and shepherd and provide for one another.

I hope this gives you a sense of our discussions. I say “a sense,” because it's really not possible, in the space provided, to give you a detailed description. My goal is to let you know that we're thinking very seriously about the future of ACL, and we invite you to do the same. Yes, it's the Board's special responsibility to do this kind of work, but we need the active participation of our members if we hope to remain a healthy, vigorous association. Anything you'd like us to consider in our future casting, please contact any member of the Board. Let us know. But, please – let's try to keep the robots to a minimum....



– Frank Quinn

### 2014 ACL Long Time Service Award: Carol Reid



Carol was recognized with a service award for her various roles of leadership over the last 19 years. A member of ACL since 1989, Carol has attended nearly every conference since 1992. Carol has served ACL as Board Treasurer, Board Secretary, Director-at-Large of Special Projects, on a conference planning team, nominations team coordinator, FACL executive Board member and a CPI indexer since 1995. She served the association through difficult financial years and years of significant transition. Carol was a key

player in the forging of new territory that created the Foundation that serves as the legal framework for the ACL of today. She is an example of faithful service and perseverance. Never shying away from a hard task, she approached difficult situations with dignity, grace, and truth. It was with sincere appreciation on behalf of the membership of the Association of Christian Librarians that Carol was thanked for her example of leadership and willingness to serve where needed. Carol has been a joy to work with over the years. She was given a plaque and a monetary token of appreciation commemorating the occasion.

– Janelle Mazelin

## 2014 ACL Volunteer of the Year Award: Denise Nelson



Denise really has a heart for serving the Lord and serving within ACL. Denise has served as a director-at-large on the ACL Board, and is currently serving as secretary. A member of ACL for 12 years, Denise has attended the past 9 conferences. She was a vital member of the 2013 conference planning and host team. While these accomplishments are impressive, what most stands out was Denise's willingness to "step up to the plate" this past year as the guest editor for *TCL*. She was willing to do the hard work of gathering articles, proofreading and editing, working with

the layout and design contractor, and many other tasks. Denise worked very well in the absence of a traditional team and coordinated deadlines with the home office staff, layout, membership, etc. Denise's willingness to step in as guest editor allowed *TCL* to have another quality issue and maintain a high standard of excellence for the journal. Her service and expertise is a great asset to ACL and she is greatly appreciated. Over the last year, Denise worked to develop the spiritual encouragement initiative that publishes online monthly member devotionals and a conference prayer service. Denise was given a plaque commemorating her service.

– Janelle Mazelin

## 2014 ACL Barbara K. Nelson CPI Indexer of the Year Award: Sheila Carlblom



Sheila currently indexes the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* along with the *Journal of Psychology and Theology*. She joined the Association of Christian Librarians in 1980 and began indexing for CPI in 1982. If indexing for over 30 years wasn't enough, she has

also been active in other volunteer roles within ACL. Throughout her years of service, Sheila served as conference host, board president, and vice-president. She has faithfully served ACL as treasurer since 2002. Sheila was surprised and honored to receive this award.

– Janelle Mazelin/Robbie Bolton

## 2014 Book of the Year Award

The 2014 ACL Award for Excellence in Nonfiction was awarded to N.T. Wright for his book *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels*, published by HarperOne, and selected for its powerful, moving, and convicting discussion of the Gospels. One member of the selection team stated that the book is “persuasive [and] insightful,” and that the way the author “eloquently unravels [the story of the Gospels] is masterful.” The opening of the purpose and philosophy of the book award reads, “The ACL Nonfiction Book Award should embody excellence in writing and research and inspire serious discussion in the Christian community.”

The selection team is convinced that this book unquestionably meets these criteria.

Only books nominated by ACL members can be considered for this award. Please nominate a book for the 2016 ACL Award for Excellence in Nonfiction at [www.acl.org/form/bookaward/](http://www.acl.org/form/bookaward/).

To learn more about the work of the book award team, see Lori Thornton’s article in this issue of *The Christian Librarian*, “Reflections from a Former Book Award Team Member.”

– Greg Martin/Robbie Bolton

## Christian Library Consortium (CLC) Update

The CLC is off to a good start this year with 191 members. If your institution is not a member of the CLC or if you have not yet renewed, we would encourage you to do so at <http://www.acl.org/index.cfm/christian-library-consortium/>.

The CLC would like to highlight one of its newer services. This past year we have been working on a project to provide an avenue for ACL members, even if not members of OCLC, to participate in interlibrary loan, using an ILL form accessible through the ACL website. It is a work in progress and we are continuing to make changes to improve user experience. We encourage all interested members to participate. Additional information, including the sign-up form, is available under the Consortium link of the ACL website.

The CLC continues to look for ways to make e-books more accessible to its members. This year we are again working on two customized e-book collections from EBSCO. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. We are also in the process of putting together a team that will investigate the feasibility of other e-book models, such as working directly with publishers.

Please visit the CLC pages on the ACL website for additional information on CLC benefits and discount opportunities: <http://www.acl.org/index.cfm/christian-library-consortium/>.

– Beth Purtee

## Commission for International Library Advancement (CILA) Turkey Project Update

Thank you for making the Turkey Project a reality! With your support, we reached our goal of raising \$3,500. The money has been donated to the International Needs Network and will be used by Rev. Behnan Konutgan for the purchase of 100 Bibles and 500 early church history DVDs for teaching Muslim Seminary Students.

Please pray for “good soil” for the gospel, so that those touched by the Good News of Jesus will share with others. Pray for Turkey to be transformed from within. Let the good news of the Gospel be multiplied! Thank you for your part in this project!

– Don Buttersworth/Janelle Mazelin/  
Robbie Bolton

## Blazing a Trail Through the Mountains: ACL Conference, Carson–Newman University, June 8–11, 2015

Many of East Tennessee’s earliest settlers followed the Great Valley Road to their destinations. Personal journals and diaries from these pioneers tell of the hardships and bad roads they encountered along the way. They kept their eyes on their destination, finding ways to overcome the challenges they faced. Their lives remind Christians of a goal each should have in their spiritual life as recorded in Hebrews 12:1, 2:

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NASB)

The ACL 2015 conference team is putting together a conference that will help meet challenges that twenty-first century libraries and librarians face. Just as pioneers like Davy Crockett blazed new frontiers in early America, today’s professionals must navigate a changing and unfamiliar terrain.

**Keynote Speaker:** Tim Bucknall, the Association of College and Research Libraries’ 2014 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year, serves as Assistant Dean of Libraries and Head of Electronic Resources and Information Technologies at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. He founded the Carolina Consortium which enables member libraries in the states of North Carolina and South Carolina to purchase electronic resources affordably through bulk purchasing. He also created Journal Finder, which was the first open source link resolver. Tim will speak on the topic of innovation.

**Pre-Conferences:** There will be two pre-conferences at the 2015 ACL Conference. First, Kathy Dempster, author of *The Accidental Library Marketer*, will discuss marketing for libraries. She is the owner and blogger of *Libraries Are Essential*. The second pre-conference will be led by Regina Mays, Assistant Professor and Assessment Librarian at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She will explore the topic of library assessment. She also serves as Program Manager of a study entitled: *Lib-Value: Value, Outcomes, and Return on Investment of Academic Libraries*.

**Carson-Newman University:** Carson-Newman University, founded in 1851 as Mossy Creek Missionary Baptist Seminary, is located in Jefferson City, Tennessee. The school's affiliation with the Tennessee Baptist Convention allows the library's special collections to house the archives for East and Middle Tennessee Baptists. The university is a short drive from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and from the city of Knoxville.

**Come Early or Stay Late:** Many conference attendees may wish to add a few days onto their trip to take advantage of the tourism opportunities in the area. East Tennessee is a family-friendly vacation area. Jefferson City is located between two of the TVA lakes (Cherokee and Douglas Reservoirs) which provide numerous opportunities for boating and fishing. Panther Creek State Park in nearby Morristown provides additional opportunities for outdoor adventures, including hiking.

The cities of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg provide numerous opportunities for shopping, entertainment, and recreation. Dollywood and its companion waterpark Splash Country are tourist favorites. Other attractions include Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, WonderWorks, and Christ in the Smokies. For those seeking an enjoyable show, the Dixie Stampede, Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Theater, Country Tonite, Comedy Barn, and Great Smoky Mountain Murder Mystery Dinner Show are sure to please. Sevier County is home to numerous outlets, shops, art galleries, craft stores, and other shopping venues. The newest development, the Island, provides shopping, entertainment, and dining. There are numerous hotels, campgrounds, and cabins available in the area.

Animal lovers will enjoy a trip to the Knoxville Zoo, where Jack Hanna began his career, or a trip to the Briarwood Ranch Safari where one can drive through the park to see and feed exotic animals.

Librarians love books, and Knoxville is home to McKay Used Books and CDs, a huge warehouse filled with books at discounted prices. The store sells both fiction and non-fiction books, as well as a large selection of used CDs and DVDs.

It takes about one and a half hours to drive over the mountain to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. This grand home belonged to George and Edith Vanderbilt. The estate consists of the home, gardens, and winery.

The top tourist attraction in the area is Great Smoky Mountains National Park, of course. Cades Cove near Townsend and Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail near Gatlinburg provide glimpses into the communities that were present before the park's existence. Visitors can explore several of the early churches in these loops. Hiking abounds in the park. One may climb to the top of the highest peak or take a trail to a breathtaking waterfall.

**Ya'll Come:** While the East Tennessee area offers some physical stimulation, the ACL conference offers spiritual and professional stimulation. The 2015 ACL Conference will be a time when librarians from around the world come together to find ways to blaze a trail through the mountains they are facing in their work. They will find spiritual encouragement through the devotionals and interactions with fellow Christian librarians. Carson-Newman University and East Tennessee extend a warm welcome to the Association of Christian Librarians. In the words of East Tennessee native Dolly Parton, "Ya'll come."

– Lorie Thornton