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Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library Becomes a Reality

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The Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library (WHDL) was introduced to attendees at the 2013 Annual Conference of the Association of Christian Librarians at Point Loma Nazarene University during an informal dessert reception. Tammy Condon of the International Board of Education (IBOE) of the Church of the Nazarene introduced the project and invited members of the collaborative team to share about the project's formation. An invitation was extended to the librarians attending the reception to participate in the WHDL, either by uploading content to the library or creating metadata for uploaded materials. While librarians within ACL have volunteered to upload, catalog, and create metadata for materials to be housed in the digital library, there is currently no formal initiative or relationship between the WHDL and ACL.

The WHDL was first discussed at the 2012 Annual Conference of the Association of Christian Librarians at Palm Beach Atlantic University by a group of librarians affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene, Tammy Condon (IBOE, Church of the Nazarene), and Bruce Nuffer of the Nazarene Publishing House. In September 2012, this group of librarians met with educators, information/technology specialists, and denominational leaders of the Church of the Nazarene to

devise a framework for an open-access online searchable library, initially to support Nazarene spiritual education around the globe. The long-range vision included enlarging the collaborative effort to include other agencies and entities that identify with the Wesleyan-Holiness theological tradition to contribute materials and resources to the library.

Spiritual architects for the project originated with the Church of the Nazarene's Books for Pastors: Tools for Ministry Taskforce. To celebrate the Nazarene Missions International 90th Anniversary in 2004, an initiative was established with the goal of providing funds to supply pastors with needed resources in their native languages. Many print books were provided to countless libraries worldwide via that initiative. However, it became apparent that digital technology would be a more effective answer, and thus the vision for a digital library with the capability to preserve the past, prepare the present, and provide for the future was born.

Lon Dagley, Computer Services Librarian at MidAmerica Nazarene University (Olathe, KS) was instrumental in providing the early concept of an open-access, online, searchable repository of ministerial training resources. This early concept was expanded as other visionaries came on board. However, the objective remained to create a repository of open and free materials accessible around the world, including remote places with limited bandwidth, limited power, and access solely through mobile devices. The vision included a library filled with digitized materials connecting and supporting students, church elders, and pastors with needed resources in their native languages. Initial seed money for the project came from the International Board of Education, Global Clergy Development, Books for Pastors, Global Mission, and Nazarene Publishing House.



**Wesleyan-Holiness
Digital Library**

The Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library is a multilingual software system of predominantly open-access resources intended to support global education and ministry initiatives. Longsight was selected as the development team because of their use of open source software and willingness to develop a robust system with the capacity to handle over 100 languages. Included in the digitized repository will be articles, books, conference content, theses/dissertations, and other materials important to the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition. The architecture of the software will also allow material to be published directly to the digital library. The significance of such a repository is its model of open access to spiritual materials in multiple languages for spiritual formation, education, and pastoral instruction made accessible worldwide. The interdisciplinary collection will encompass more than just theology and biblical studies. Research resources in the repository will represent conference papers and historical church documents, as well as scholarship within various academic disciplines and subjects.

The site itself is a good promoter of the project, explaining the purpose and scope, as well as the process by which materials are deemed legal to upload. The subject index allows searching by category, and there is even a way for the public to assist with finding lost authors. Help is provided through the guide to the library, and an explanation of file formats is included, as are directions on how to download materials. Initiatives and current projects are highlighted, encouraging the visitor to return and check for new materials. To date, over 2,500 hours have been volunteered from around the world toward the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library.

If you are interested in finding out more about the project or volunteering to help, or if you think that your institution may be interested in participating in this project through the uploading of unique content, please contact Tammy Condon, Curator, Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library (WHDLibrary@nazarene.org) for more information. †

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