



Volume 49 | Issue 2

Article 15

2006

What ACL Means to Me

John E. Shaffett
Baptist College of Florida

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit <http://www.acl.org/>

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Shaffett, John E. (2006) "What ACL Means to Me," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 49 : Iss. 2 , Article 15.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol49/iss2/15>

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolf@georgefox.edu.

I was a librarian for ten years before I heard about the Association of Christian Librarians. Three years ago, a friend asked me if I was a member of the ACL. I asked him what the acronym stood for. I assumed it was a sub-group of the American Library Association. He told me it stood for the Association of Christian Librarians. I looked up their web-site and was impressed.

For a long time, I've been greatly interested in integrating my Christian faith with my vocation. I was surprised to find a book on Christian Librarianship in the library edited by Gregory Smith and Donald Davis. I read the book and thoroughly enjoyed it. Many of the chapters of this book are written by members of the Association of Christian Librarians. This commitment to Christian Librarianship is one of the things I appreciate about the ACL.

Not long after exploring ACL's web-site, I joined the Association and registered to attend the conference to be held at Evangel University in Missouri. My first conference was excellent. One of the first people I met was Woodie Moore. I will never forget my first acquaintance with Woodie and his family. I will always remember how his daughter said that God was the first librarian. I came to love both Woodie and his family.

A second person I met at my first conference was Kevin Woodruff. Of course, he was dressed in a suit. I spent many hours talking to Kevin during my first conference. I came to appreciate Kevin very much. He is funny, witty, kind, open to other faith traditions. He, in some sense, took me under his wing and introduced me to members of the ACL and basically, made me feel welcome. If I haven't told you, Kevin, thank you.

I can list many more people who have spread out the red carpet to me. What does the Association of Christian Librarians mean to me? It means people who love Jesus Christ, who are committed to following Him in their vocation, and are determined to love one another. I am very thankful to be a member of the Association of Christian Librarians.

John E. Shaffett, Library Director, Baptist College of Florida

What ACL Means to Me.

tified lines manually on a typewriter to maintain a professional appearance. Pounding out an average of 22 pages of solid content per issue, Mr. Snezek convinced the Board of Directors that his vision for the publication was viable.

Beginning in 1976 with volume 20, Paul Snezek edited *The Christian Librarian*, thereafter to be identified as the *Journal of the Christian Librarians' Fellowship*. While continuing to print the news of the organization and serving as the official organ of CLF, *The Christian Librarian* took more seriously its role as a professional publication. Book reviews also appeared as a somewhat irregular feature.

Placement ads were accepted free of charge as a Christian service, a practice which continues to be a useful contribution to Christian librarianship. The first commercial ads appeared in volume 20.

Mr. Snezek declined reappointment as editor in 1978 because of great demands on his time. Ron Jordahl was appointed editor of volume 22, and continues as present editor of the journal.

During the past four years the editor has sought to build upon the foundational concepts of Paul Snezek. That vision has proven itself sound. When we began as a journal, it was difficult to find suitable articles. To scrape up sufficient content for each issue was a major task. Now attention can be given to improving quality because we are receiving an adequate supply of material with which to work. That is not to say that we are not seeking articles. Part of the editorial responsibility is to encourage writing and to provide a variety of subject matter to readers.

continued on page 89