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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor



**Joshua M. Avery, *TCL* Associate Editor
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I am pleased to introduce the annual conference issue of *The Christian Librarian (TCL)*. In June of 2015, Carson-Newman University hosted the 59th Annual Conference of the Association of Christian Librarians “Blazing a Trail Through the Mountains.” Situated on a handsome campus, among the scenic hills and valleys of East Tennessee, the conference provided members with an opportunity to be refreshed and to grow spiritually, personally, and professionally. Woven throughout the conference were the themes of innovation, collaboration, assessment, and change beginning with the keynote presentation and continuing through the presentations and posters.

This issue of *TCL*, like the conference, revolves around the themes of innovation, collaboration, assessment, and change. As institutions of higher education are increasingly challenged on many fronts, the libraries that serve those campus communities must continue to blaze a trail of innovation. The contributions of this issue speak to the ongoing conversation in how we can better serve our institutions by increasing value through fresh and creative thinking about distance education, information literacy, the Sabbath, and web services.

Michael Wells highlights the damage that library-oriented computer security breaches can inflict upon institutions of higher education and gives a compelling argument for the importance of providing secure library web services. Janet Hauck demonstrates how teaching “intellectual tenacity” can be incorporated into information literacy instruction to further support the personal and professional growth of students, while better supporting the institutional mission. Tami Echavarria Robinson provides a helpful overview of the new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education and gives important context into how the framework differs from the older Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. Cari Ryan offers insights into how librarians from smaller institutions can productively prepare for time away from the office.

Additionally, Seth Allen examines key readings related to the delivery of library services to distance education students and spotlights how librarians, especially those new to serving online students, can best begin serving this important and growing student population. Tami Echavarria Robinson examines a list of texts that offer practical and scriptural guidance for Sabbath integration into a contemporary context. Paul Hartog offers a critical review on recent scholarship concerning the extent of Christ's atonement. Review editor, Craig Kubic, has again provided us with a substantial number of reviews on a range of topics and Robbie Bolton, News & Notes Editor, has gathered exciting developments from across the ACL community.

From its earliest days *TCL* has offered ACL members articles, reviews, essays, and news intended to encourage and inspire innovation and creative change. While the journal has grown and matured from a newsletter to a more robust vehicle for sharing new research and timely ideas, our mission continues to be centered on Christian librarians and higher education. You will have noticed changes in the format and appearance of the journal, but the key source of innovation in the journal continues to be the contributors. *TCL* is written by, and for, the members of ACL and I encourage you to share your research and knowledge through the journal. As the editorial staff prepares to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the association, we look forward to reflecting on the accomplishments of the past and to hearing how our contributors are blazing a trail of innovation into the future.



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