

# ForATL News

*Newsletter of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians*

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## ForATL News

is published twice a year (June and December) by the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians as a channel for updates on ForATL activities, as well as a forum for discussion and exchange in the field of Asian theological librarianship.

**Subscription :** Free

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**ForATL News** welcomes contributions related to theological librarianship and the development of theological resources in Asia. All manuscripts or correspondence should be sent to the Editor, who reserves the right to determine suitability for publication.

Articles in this issue focus on the  
**Philippines region**  
of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians  
Next issue : **Indonesia region**

## THE PHILIPPINE THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

### Its beginnings

The Philippine Theological Librarians Association (PTLA) had its beginnings in October 1985 when librarians from various theological schools connected with ATESEA met in Manila for an informal meeting to discuss ways of cooperation, resource sharing and coordination that would enable each school to expand the resources offered to its faculty and students.

A second meeting to formulate the Constitution and by-laws was then held on 19 May 1986 at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in Silang Cavite. This meeting was moderated by Dr. Hommes, the regional director of ATESEA at the time.

Finally, at the third meeting on 5 October 1987, the PTLA was formally established with the adoption of its Constitution and election of its first set of officers, namely, President Fr. Robert Mallonee, SVD, of Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City, Philippines; Vice-President Nancy Vyhmeister of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies; and Secretary-Treasurer Nimfa Sumagaysay of the same school. Thirty-three Librarians and administrators from nineteen theological schools in the Philippines attended this inaugural meeting held at the Harris Memorial College in Taft Avenue, Manila.

The PTLA was officially registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on 6 November 1997.

### Its objectives

According to the Constitution, the objectives of the PTLA are to :

1. actively advocate examples of professionalism and excellence on theological librarianship
2. keep abreast with the current trends in computer and communication technologies for associates and institutions,
3. promote linkages and establish mechanisms to share directories, titles, etc.
4. organize group accreditation committees to develop standards for accreditation set by the Board of Professional Librarians.

### Its activities and projects

The PTLA Union List of Periodicals, started in 1996, is an on-going project of the association. Policies and procedures for inter-library loans and document delivery have also been instituted.

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## NOTICE!

Please note that articles for the next issue of ForATL News (5:2, Dec 2007) will be contributed by the **Indonesia region**.

**Deadline: 30 November 2007**

## Introducing the PTLA (cont.)

The PTLA helps and encourages theological libraries in the Philippines through annual seminars and workshops on several topics, such as library organization, management, communication, collection management, computerization, references sources, etc. Various seminars have been conducted in different places or islands in the country in order to reach out to smaller and new seminaries or theological schools in the countryside.

Several associational chapters have also been organized in order to foster closer relationship and professional growth. Each chapter can conduct smaller workshops that may help the members grow educationally and professionally.

A new awareness of the need to upgrade librarianship in the Philippines has led to close cooperation between the Philippine Association of Bible and Theological Schools (PABATS; [www.pabats.org](http://www.pabats.org)) and PTLA in providing avenues of fellowship and encouragement to all librarians, as well as seminars, consultations, forums, etc.

### Its future

Busyness, a "malaise" common to librarians, resulted in a lapse in PTLA activities over the past ten years or so. A few PTLA members have since formed a Working Committee to revive the Association and bring it back into the hub of action. The current Working Committee consists of :

1.	<b>Elizabeth T. Pulanco (Convenor)</b> Email: <a href="mailto:btpulanco@yahoo.com">btpulanco@yahoo.com</a>	Librarian Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio City.
2.	<b>Crisanta Bustamante</b> Email: <a href="mailto:crissiema09@yahoo.com">crissiema09@yahoo.com</a>	Head Librarian International School of Theology–Asia, Quezon City.
3.	<b>Maishel N. Lumaban</b> Email: <a href="mailto:maishel2001@yahoo.com">maishel2001@yahoo.com</a>	Head Librarian Alliance Graduate School, Quezon City
4.	<b>Raquel D. Cruz</b> Email: <a href="mailto:loiyai_el@yahoo.com">loiyai_el@yahoo.com</a>	Head Librarian Biblical Seminary of the Philippines, Valenzuela City.
5.	<b>Elizabeth Tabura</b> Email: <a href="mailto:bethtabura@yahoo.com">bethtabura@yahoo.com</a>	Librarian Asian Seminary of Christian Ministries, Makati.
6.	<b>Ruth Salangsang</b> Email: <a href="mailto:rc_salangsang@yahoo.com">rc_salangsang@yahoo.com</a>	Librarian Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, Rizal.
7.	<b>Eli Lamis</b> Email: <a href="mailto:eapilib@admu.edu.ph">eapilib@admu.edu.ph</a>	Librarian East Asia Pastoral Institute, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City.

Several dreams for the future of PTLA, as expressed by Beth Pulanco, the PTLA (and ForATL) Convenor, include :

1. To respond to the training needs of librarians in churches as well as Bible schools and seminaries
2. To partner with UP-ILS and PRC Board for Librarians for approval of the proposed Commission on Higher Education (CHED) curriculum for a Masters degree and diploma. This will satisfy the new presidential act for qualifying graduates of CHED-recognized Bible schools to qualify for the librarian licensure examination
3. To work closely and collaborate with Indonesia concerning Asian Christian resources and Archives in cooperation with the plans and goals of the Documentation, Archives, Bibliography & Oral History Study Group (DABOH).
4. To continue PTLA's commitment to train theological librarians in Southeast Asia. At present, PTLA is working with ETE-WCC to provide librarianship training in Cambodia and Vietnam.
5. To be involved in the planning and organization of the coming PABATS Biennial Conference in September 2007.

The PTLA has certainly come a long way since its birth twenty years ago.

Photo : Several members of the current PTLA Working Committee



Information in the above article compiled and adapted by the Editor from the following sources :

1. Pulanco, Elizabeth T. "The PTLA – it's beginnings." In *PTLA News* 13, no. 1 (May 2007) : 7.
2. "Librarians dedicated to upgrading librarianship in PABATS schools." Accessed online on 27 July 2007 from <http://www.pabats.org/view/?pageID=328389>.

## PTLA : Moving towards the 21st century



The PTLA-Luzon chapter held a regional one-day forum and consultation on "Theological Librarians in the 21st Century : Where Are We Now?" on 1 May 2007 at Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary (PBTs), Baguio City.

The purpose of this Consultation was to :

- Strengthen ties among theological libraries and librarians
- Come up with suggestions and proposals on how to further enhance and develop the PTLA to respond to new challenges of librarianship in the 21st century
- Discuss the move to offer degrees in Theological Librarianship and its implications, etc.

R. Dante O. Perez, University Librarian of Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation, San Carlos City, Pangasinan, stirred up the discussion on the role of the Librarians in the 21st century. Dr. Douglas Jue, PABATS Executive Director, also graced the occasion.

Representatives from Alliance Graduate School, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary of the Philippines, Center for Biblical Studies, Asian Seminary of Christian Ministries, East Asian Pastoral Institute, Grace Bible Institute/Academy, International School of Theology-Asia, Luzon Bible College, Luzon Nazarene Bible College, Maranatha Bible College, Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary gathered for the one-day forum. The delegates were treated to Baguio hospitality by the forum convener, Elizabeth T. Pulanco of PBTs.



Photo: Mr. R. Dante O. Perez, talks about *The Filipino Librarian as a Leader*.

Compiled and adapted by the Editor from the following sources :

1. "PTLA : moving towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century." In *PTLA News* 13, no. 1 (May 2007) : 1, 5.
2. "Theological Librarians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century : where are we now?" Accessed online on 27 July 2007 from <http://filipinolibrarian.com.ph/2007/03/20/theological-librarians-in-the-21st-century-where-are-we-now/#more-129>

## PTLA SEMINAR-WORKSHOP 2007

The Philippine Theological Librarians Association (PTLA) will be holding its Annual Seminar-Workshop from 12-14 September 2007 at the Visayan Nazarene Bible College, St. Mary's Drive, Apas, Cebu City, Philippines. The theme for the event is :

### Theological Librarians Riding the Winds of Change

The seminar-workshop aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- To inform the participants of the changes going on and the emerging technologies in Libraries;
- To provide a venue for fellowship and sharing of experiences concerning the changes in our theological libraries;
- To promote cooperation and collaboration in our documentation of Asian Christianity in our region.

The keynote address on "*The emerging tasks of theological education and the role of scholars and theological librarians in Asian theological formation*" will be delivered by Dr. Michael Poon, who is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia, and the Convenor of the IAMS-DABOH Study Group. He will also speak regarding current issues and initiatives for the documentation of Christianity in Asia.

For more information, please refer to:

<http://www.librarylink.org.ph/eventseminar.asp?mode=SMR>

## Philippine Theological Librarians Association (PTLA) News



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## FULL-TEXT DISSERTATIONS

**Philippine eLibrary Portal** <http://www.elib.gov.ph/>



The Philippine eLib is a collaborative project of the National Library of the Philippines (depository of all theses and Filipiniana materials in the Philippines), University of the Philippines, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, and the Commission on Higher Education. Available resources include a union catalog and special collections of the 5 partners, digitized Filipiniana materials including theses, subscription to electronic databases and other online resources. Some full-text materials are tagged as "FREE" and can be downloaded subject to the provisions of "FAIR USE", while others are paid products.

*(Editor's note: I found some interesting theses on theology and theological librarianship on this site.)*

**Theological Research Exchange Network (TREN)**

<http://www.tren.com/>



Theological Research Exchange Network

The Theological Research Exchange Network (TREN) is a library of over 10,000 theological dissertation titles representing research from as many as 70 different institutions, as well as conference papers presented at annual meetings of several academic societies. Titles may be ordered online in three media formats: downloadable e-docs, paper copies and microfiche.

*(Editor's note: Robert Jones, TREN director, is keen to include dissertations from the Asian/non-English speaking world into the TREN library. If you want to make your institution's theses available worldwide through TREN, you may email him at [rjones@tren.com](mailto:rjones@tren.com). He also offers microfilming services for a fee.)*

## BOOK GRANTS & SUBSIDIES

**Feed the Minds – Books for Life**

<http://www.feedtheminds.org/> ; <http://www.booksforlife.info/>



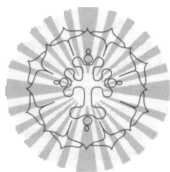
Feed the Minds (FTM) is an ecumenical Christian organisation that supports education in the world's poorest regions with the belief that this is the most effective way to empower people and invest in the sustainable future of whole communities. The FTM Books for Life initiative supports emerging Church leaders by supporting theological education and other Church education and communications projects worldwide. Programmes under this initiative include international study guides, library grants, indigenous Christian publishing and the Overseas Book Service, which offers second-hand and used theology books to theological and Christian colleges in the developing world and Eastern Europe. For more information, please visit the respective websites.

**Langham Partnership International (LPI)** <http://www.langhampartnership.org/>

Founded by John Stott, LPI aims to see churches in the Majority World served by godly pastors who are well trained and well resourced, and who know how to preach the Bible faithfully and relevantly in their own context. LPI operates three programmes : Langham Literature, Langham Scholars and Langham Preaching. Langham Literature provides evangelical books for pastors, theological students and seminary libraries, and facilitates writing and publishing in the Majority World through various programmes, including library grants, books for graduates, and substantial discounts from major publishers. For more information, please visit their website.

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