

ABTEN Library notes

Ms D'Anna Shotts, Librarian

Baptist Theological Seminary, Kaduna, Nigeria

1. Standards: for facilities, holdings, funding and staff of theological libraries
ACTEA [http://www.acteaweb.org/downloads/ACTEA.Standards%20\(2011\).doc](http://www.acteaweb.org/downloads/ACTEA.Standards%20(2011).doc) (pg. 10-12)
ATS standards <https://www.ats.edu/uploads/accrediting/documents/general-institutional-standards.pdf> (pg. 11-13)
2. Staff: hire a professional and help them develop!
 - Faculty status, membership of academic affairs committee
 - ATLA <https://www.atla.com/Pages/default.aspx> : theological librarian education
 - ACL <http://www.acl.org/> : source of volunteer professional personnel
 - part-time theological courses at your own school
 - Online Theological Librarianship course through University of Illinois <http://ischool.illinois.edu/academics/continuing> (handout available for those interested)
 - Pay for the librarian to join the local/regional library association (www.aflia.net)
3. Collection development: (with special attention to Africana)
 - a. Books: (ACTEA standards: 10,000 volumes for post-secondary English; 15,000 for post-graduate English; 20,000-25,000 for doctoral English)
 - Langham Literature Partnership <http://www.langhamcatalogue.org/>
 - Theological Book Network <https://www.theologicalbooknetwork.org> (handout)
 - NFBE Book-Link <http://thefellowshipofbaptisteducators.org/book-link/>
contact booklinkway1@windstream.net
 - b. Journals: (ACTEA standards 40-50 titles English)
Online journals (free):
 - Google for theological journals (Mainly index; most not full-text) <https://cse.google.com/cse/publicurl?cx=018443097211386924752:luwi5uy2qbe>
 - Directory of Open Access Journals <https://doaj.org/>
 - African Journals Online <https://www.ajol.info/> 500+ journals, 250+ open access**Hard copy journals (subscription):** Africana list could be developed by this group
 - c. Databases:
Commercial
 - ATLASerials – the standard journal index in religious studies <https://www.atla.com/products/access/Pages/DevelopingCountries.aspx>**Passworded databases at low/no cost for Africa:**
 - Hinari (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese) “Hinari Access to Research for Health Programme provides free or very low cost online access to the major journals in biomedical and related social sciences to local, not-for-profit institutions in developing countries.”
<http://extranet.who.int/hinari/en/journals.php>
<http://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/>
<https://www.research4life.org/access/howtoregister/>
 - JSTOR “...explore a wide range of scholarly content through a powerful research and teaching platform. We collaborate with the academic community to help libraries connect students and faculty to vital content

while lowering costs and increasing shelf space, provide independent researchers with free and low-cost access to scholarship, and help publishers reach new audiences and preserve their content for future generations.” Register and they’ll contact you.

African Access Initiative is free in most cases <https://www.jstor.org/>

Open access databases:

- Africa Portal <https://www.africaportal.org/>
- Christian Classics Ethereal Library <https://www.ccel.org/>
- Hymnary.org <https://hymnary.org/>
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <https://plato.stanford.edu/>
- Dictionary of African Christian Biography (www.dacb.org) English, French, Portugese, Kiswahili; accept contributions from students <https://dacb.org/>

Web link aggregators/portals

- Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion <https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/website-on-religion/>
- Yale University Library <https://guides.library.yale.edu/freeweb>
- Baptist Studies Online <http://baptiststudiesonline.com/>
- Open Access Digital Library <https://oadtl.org/form/registration>

4. Cataloguing and classification

a. Online Catalogues:

- Open source (web-based): Koha <http://www.koha.org/>
- Commercial: Concourse (local); Atrium (web-based) <https://www.booksys.com/>

b. Classification systems: Dewey vs. LC

https://study.com/articles/Dewey_Decimal_System_vs_Library_of_Congress_Whats_the_Difference.html

c. WorldCat <http://www.worldcat.org/>

d. OCLC Classify <http://classify.oclc.org/classify2/>

e. OCLC widget for Cutter numbers

<https://www.oclc.org/support/services/dewey/program/license.en.html>

5. Library and study skills: integrate into the curriculum

- Tutorial on academic research in religion and theology <http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/ws//tracking/launchcontent.aspx?cv=AE296D01-F420-4484-B1D5-B3788325781D&e=A0000&c=FDB48837-70BA-427E-8B44-147B3A1A88B2&SID=c4476b69-3156-4b00-a1ce-56f932d81926>
- *Paper Writing Guide* by Margaret Tarpley—free download. https://www.google.com.ng/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.atla.com/Members/divisions/committees/ICC%2520Document%2520Library/PaperWritingGuide.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjykdGE5pTcAhWUWsAKHQ54B8EQFjACegQIAhAB&usg=AOvVaw0ttrQa64Sct_4klE4p3p0a
- Plagiarism (handout on academic integrity available for photocopy if interested) www.plagiarism.org
- Evaluation of sources <http://guides.library.jhu.edu/c.php?g=202581&p=1334914>

6. Facilities

- PLEASE if building a new library, get advice from a professional librarian. ‘Form follows function’ is the library rule; beautiful counts for nothing if it doesn’t work!