Are you serving online or distance students based in another city or state? Does your faculty travel to other locations to conduct research? Do your users still need access to print materials because everything they need is not yet available in electronic form?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be interested in this resource sharing program.

What is Reciprocal Borrowing?

The ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program creates an arrangement between participating ATLA members to grant check-out privileges to each other's patrons. The user simply walks into a participating library, shows proof of current enrollment at another participating library, and checks out materials based on the library's local lending policies. The user is responsible for adhering to local policy and returning the materials in a timely fashion.

What Makes this Project Different than Others?

Many reciprocal borrowing groups are geographically centered or share the same ILS. While ATLA members are geographically dispersed and do not have a common ILS, there are technological solutions that can solve the challenge of ensuring in real-time that a patron is an active student in good standing at another participating library, and checks out materials based on the library's local lending policies. The user is responsible for adhering to local policy and returning the materials in a timely fashion.

How to Participate

To join the ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program, read the Guidelines and agree to adhere to them by completing the Agreement and submitting it to MemberRep@atla.com. Your institution will be added to the official participation list below.

Participating Libraries

Alabama
Southeastern Bible College, Gannett-Estes Library

California
Claremont School of Theology, CST Library
Southern California Seminary

Colorado
Denver Seminary

Illinois
Catholic Theological Union, Paul Bechtold Library
Meadeville Lombard Theological School, Wiggin Library

Kansas
Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Massachusetts
American Congregational Association, Congregational Library and Archives
Boston University School of Theology Library

Michigan
Western Theological Seminary, Beardslee Library
Minnesota
Luther Seminary Library
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, The Spencer Library

Missouri
Covenant Seminary Library

North Carolina
Hood Theological Seminary
Mid-Atlantic Christian University, Watson-Griffith Library
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, The Library at Southeastern

Pennsylvania
Biblical Theological Seminary

Tennessee
Harding School of Theology
Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, The Ora Byram Allison Memorial Library

Texas
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Libraries

Virginia
Eastern Mennonite University, Hartzler Library

Canada
Ambrose Seminary

Please click here for the Participating Libraries Contact Information.

History
Representatives from a group of ATLA Institutional and Affiliate Member institutions began discussion on this topic at the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference during the conversation group session, “Network for Religious Studies at a Distance,” led by Thomas Phillips (Claremont School of Theology). Conversations continued virtually, resulting in guidelines and an agreement that is helping the group to formally cooperate.

Questions?
Contact MemberRep@atla.com for any questions you may have.