

# THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS:

## Gems of the Professional Community

This poster describes the path we took to developing a new, accredited, professional, master’s degree program (MATL) specifically designed to train theological librarians from observing the current situation; to gathering statistics; talking with various professionals in higher education, libraries, and accreditation; writing the program proposal; presenting the proposal to stakeholders; and, finally, receiving accreditation from our accrediting agency.

### Creating A BRAND NEW DEGREE PROGRAM For Theological Librarians

“One of the greatest needs, especially in the majority world, is for qualified librarians.”  
**Dr. Lester Edwin J. Ruiz**  
Director of Accreditation and Global Engagement,  
Association of Theological Schools

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**Submitting the proposal**  
• Stakeholders  
• Accrediting agency (Approved!!!)

5



**Preparing to mine**  
• Course content / lectures  
• Readings/ Assignments

FOR LIBRARIANSHIP COURSES  
**Fall 2026**  
FOR FULL DEGREE  
**Fall 2027**

3



**Writing the proposal**  
• Curriculum / Credits  
• Timeline

Making a decision to develop a new Professional degree

2



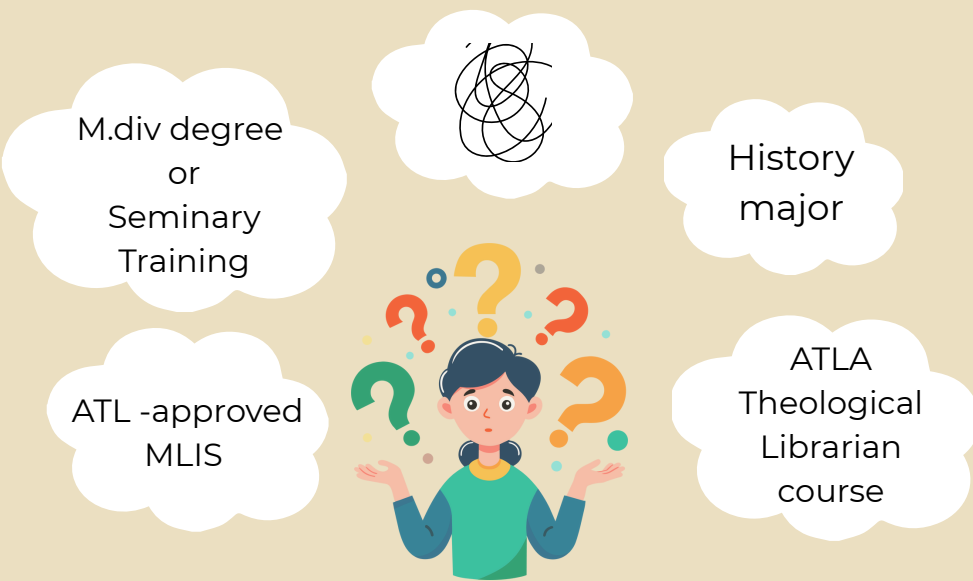
**Hearing the needs**  
• Gathering data / Statistics  
• Approaching experts/professionals  
• Meeting with administration

1

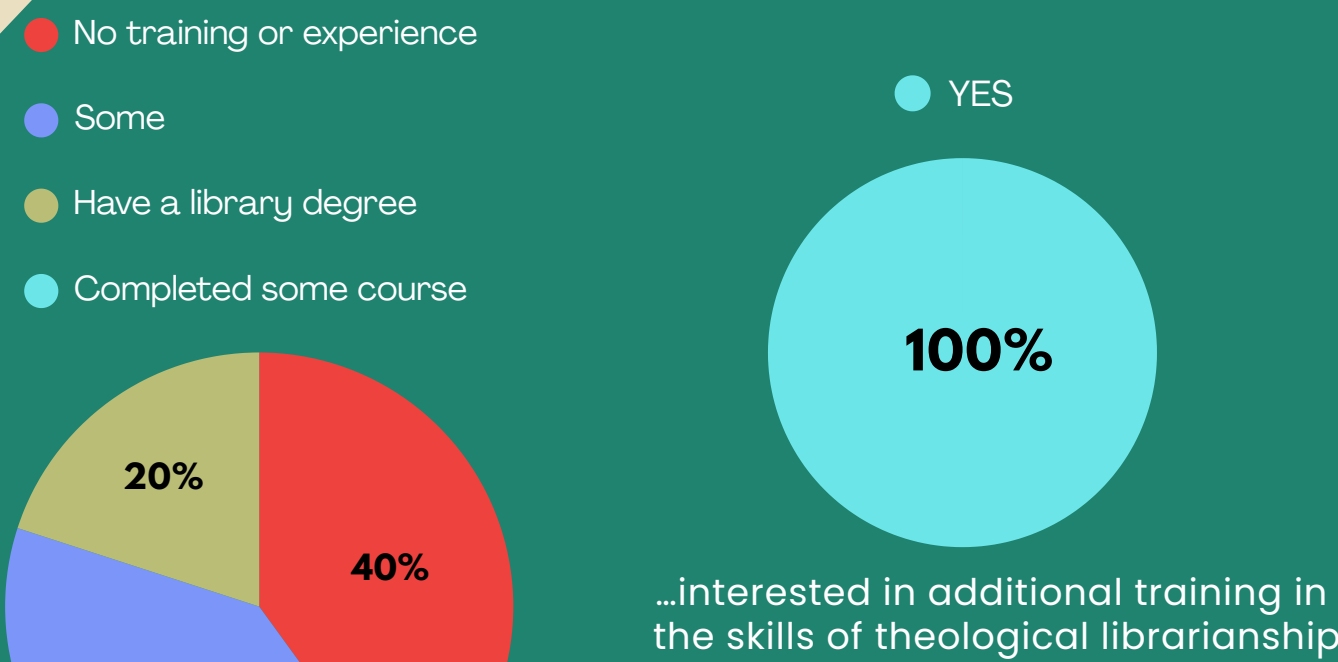


**Seeing the current path**  
• Talking, talking, and talking  
• Brainstorming  
• Making a team

“I strongly recommend and support any theological librarian training we can provide to grow the next generation of theological librarians.”  
**Dr. Kelly Campbell**  
Library Director,  
Columbia Theological Seminary



“From my perspective as a professor and mentor of students in masters and PhD level courses, the proposal fills an important need in theological education by offering a well-rounded program preparing its graduates for the many tasks of a librarian including acquisitions to shape, maintain, and advance a collection, guide users toward necessary resources, and offer reading and research advice.”  
**Dr. Richard A. Muller**  
Scholar in Residence, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary,  
Zondervan Professor, Emeritus, Calvin Theological Seminary



RESPONSES FROM PRTS GLOBAL PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

2 OF 21

Small seminaries need trained librarians:  
Among the 21 member schools of the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries (ARTS), only 2 have trained librarians on staff.

0 OF 270+

There is a pressing need for more pathways to train librarians for Christian colleges and seminaries:  
None of the 270+ ATS-accredited institutions offer a master's degree program in library science.

Do you see the need for a new program for training theological librarians?



YES



NO

Poll

Would you hire someone with this (ATS accredited) degree?



YES



NO

- What other courses would you like to see?
- What other subjects would you like to see covered?
- What changes would you make to the above plan?
- What challenges do we need to anticipate?

SCAN ME!



## TALK TO US

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