# 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.

"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

> The MA in Theological Librarianship degree is a professional degree designed to prepare skilled librarians who can effectively serve theological libraries globally.

### **Theological Courses (18 credits)**

- Foundations of Theological Librarianship
- Advanced Research Methodology
- Cataloging, Serials, and Indexing
- Foundations of Library Operations
- Foundations of Christian Archival Studies

**Librarianship Courses (18 credits)** 

- Final Capstone Project
- English Grammar
- Nature and Method of Biblical Theology
- OT Introduction
- NT Introduction • Introduction to Biblical Counseling
- Christian Leadership
- Soteriology
- Reformation Church History
- ST or CH elective

The MATL curriculum is designed to develop librarians with a foundational understanding of theological contentand library science, equipping them to address the unique needs of theological libraries at Christian colleges, seminaries, and even churches. To support diverse educational paths, we will offer multiple options, including

> a master's degree, dual-degree programs, and certificate tracks in a flexible hybrid format.

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

History

major

Theological

Librarian course

"I strongly recommend and support

generation of theological librarians." Dr. Kelly Campbell

any theological librarian training we

can provide to grow the next

Library Director, Columbia Theological Seminary

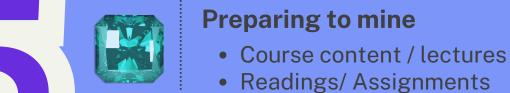
#### Submitting the proposal

- Stakeholders
- Accrediting agency (Approved!!!)

Writing the proposal

• Timeline

• Curriculum / Credits



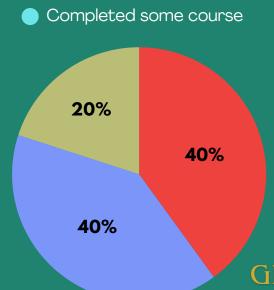
FOR LIBRARIANSHIP COURSES

FOR FULL DEGREE Fall 2027



#### **Hearing the needs**

- Gathering data / Statistics
- Approaching experts/professionals Meeting with administration
- No training or experience Some
- Have a library degree



...interested in additional training in the skills of theological librarianship

100%

YES

**RESPONSES FROM PRTS** 

## **OF 21**

OF 270+

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.

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?







this (ATS accredited) degree?

Would you hire someone with







- What other courses would you like to see?
- What other subjects would you like to see covered?

M.div degree

or

Seminary

Training

ATL -approved

"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

- What changes would you make to the above plan?
- What challenges do we need to anticipate?



### TALK TO US

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