

**SEPTLA**  
**May 2010**

# WRITING

as one way of shaping our future

# **Introduction: what are available venues?**

- If you had a great idea, where would you go with it?

## **ATLA 2003 – Portland: “Parchment, Paper, PDF”**

- Newsletter
- Proceedings
- Occasional anthologies/  
festschriften
- Older materials

## **ATLA 2003 – Portland: “Parchment, Paper, PDF”**

### Summary observations:

1. there isn't much out there, and yet there doesn't **need** to be a lot – it just has to be good.
2. It wouldn't take too many good ideas to change things for the better.

## **ATLA 2003 – Portland: “Parchment, Paper, PDF”**

Why does this matter?

1. Education
2. Vocational Identity
3. Personal Growth and Perspective
4. Other?

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7 years later - what is still missing?

1. What has been the most helpful to you?
2. What would you most like to see written?
3. How are the venues changing?
4. How helpful is the journal, and what is its potential?

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## What has changed?

1. Website – <http://www.atla.com/sources/index.htm>

2. Feature issue of Theological Education

3. 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary anthology

4. Online journal

5. Blogs – examples

- Ammerman - <http://digilib.bu.edu/blogs/theolib/>
- Elia - <http://onbooksandbiblios.blogspot.com/>
- Schwartz - <http://www.catalogingfutures.com/catalogingfutures/>

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Challenges:

what are some of the **obstacles** to writing  
and publishing?





“No one but a blockhead ever wrote,  
except for money.”  
(Samuel Johnson)

His speeches left the impression of an army  
of pompous phrases moving over the landscape  
in search of an idea; sometimes these  
meandering words would actually capture  
a straggling thought and bear it triumphantly  
a prisoner in their midst,  
until it died of servitude and overwork.  
(Sen. William Gibbs McAdoo, on Warren G. Harding).



“Not everyone who wants to write  
has a gift for words.”



“Many good people think they want to write,  
when what they really want is *to have written*.”  
(Ron Crown, Co-Editor, *Theological Librarianship*)

# SEPTLA 2010- what's needed now?

- Oral History
- Local history
- Biographies: Morris, Pettee ..
- Bibliographic essays
- “Ghost Libraries”
- International perspectives
- Trends
- Other?

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QUESTIONS?