FROM THE DIRECTOR

There are approximately 2.2 million libraries in the world.* That's somewhere around 1 for every 3,455 people. 103,325 of those libraries are in the United States, which is 1 for every 3166 people. I expected that the numbers would show the US to have far more libraries per person. However, when I calculated that the US has 1 public library to every 190,064 people compared to the world's one library for each 22,024 people, I was really taken aback. Of course these statistics do not speak to the quality, age or size of the collections that these libraries hold, but the point is that the evangelists on behalf of libraries have done a great job of spreading their "gospel" throughout much of the world. The US is no longer such a standout when it comes to literacy, and I doubt that libraries are or ever will be in decline worldwide numerically speaking.

Churches, on the other hand, are declining in the US and increasing in much of the world. Our mega churches "serve" large numbers of people, but as with libraries, that does not speak to the quality of what attendees are getting. I've often thought that if we did as good of a job evangelizing for the Kingdom of God as librarians have done with literacy, we'd be living in a much more Christian world. The work is not done as long as there are any left to be won. Librarians know this. It's time for the Church (particularly in the US) to re-learn it.

*Library statistics from the IFLA Library Map of the World:
https://librarymap.ifla.org/
- Dr. Gary Fitsimons

DATABASE SPOTLIGHT

HeinOnline’s Slavery in America and the World: History, Culture & Law

This collection brings together a multitude of essential legal materials on slavery in the United States and the English-speaking world. This includes every statute passed by every colony and state on slavery, every federal statute dealing with slavery, and all reported state and federal cases on slavery.

HeinOnline’s Gun Regulation and Legislation in America

Brings together essential periodicals, compiled legislative histories, CRS reports, Congressional hearings, United States Supreme Court briefs, monographs, and other related materials on the difficult and controversial topic of regulating firearms in the United States

LIBRARY SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

RightNow Media

Faculty, staff, and students: If you have not yet set up your account with RightNow Media, don’t forget to do so. You will be getting an email in the next couple weeks. Don’t miss this opportunity to have free access to a wide variety of video Bible studies, documentaries, and childrens’ Christian videos. To sign up, you must use the email invitation you received from RightNow Media or have another student or faculty member from Bryan College send you another invitation. If you have questions about signing up for this service, contact Dr. Gary Fitsimmons at gary.fitsimmons@bryan.edu

Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

Need a book or an article for a research paper that the library doesn't have? You can request it through ILL at no charge. To access the ILL request forms, follow this link:
http://library.bryan.edu/request

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

3 new study rooms on the first floor!
- Rm. 100A Presentation Study Room
- Rm. 100B Media Study Room
- Rm. 100C Conference Study Room

Reserve a room using this form:
library.bryan.edu/room-reserve

HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH

U.S. Constitution Week, September 17th-23rd -- This year we celebrate the 231st anniversary of the founding of our Constitution. Learn about our country’s history and government this week through interactive and fun activities. Test your U.S. Constitution IQ with a 10 question quiz for a chance to be entered into a drawing for 2 Amazon gift cards as well as receive a free pocket-sized Constitution. You’ll also have the chance to register to vote in the next election if you aren’t already.

Book Sale, September 24th-October 6th -- The annual library used book sale will have books in a variety of subjects available at the cheapest prices. Be on the lookout for special "deals-of-the-day" during the sale.