CLSIR

Center for the Study of Information and Religion

2014 Conference on Information and Religion
Paper / Poster Proposal

All proposals must be submitted on this form and emailed as an attachment to csir@kent.edu.
Incomplete forms will not be considered.

Last Name of Primary Author	Madigan
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Preferred Format (Select one)	**[X] Paper [ ] Poster** *Note: The selection committee will determine most appropriate format based on information provided in proposal and conference schedule.*

Note: The "Primary Author" will be main contact for this proposal and will be responsible for sharing information with additional authors. Please use the spaces at the end of this form to indicate additional authors, if appropriate.

Please tell us how you heard about this conference; check as many as apply:

[X] Listserv	Specify: ATLAS
[ ] Advertising	Specify:
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[ ] Other	Specify:

Proposal

Title of Presentation
A Theology of Hospitality in the Library Setting
Presentation Summary (approx. 100 words)
This study is seeking to establish a theology of hospitality as it applies to theological librarianship. Throughout world religions, there is a recognition that we are to love and care for the "other." This paper will define the other for our society today and define a theology of hospitality starting with the way that Jesus demonstrated care for the marginalized in the society of his time. This paper will move forward to define the way that we see the other among us today. The goal is to define how I see hospitality playing a role in my ministry as a librarian in a theological seminary.
Research Problem and Research Methods (approx. 250 words)
The first thing that this paper will do is to attempt to define what is meant when we talk about "the other." The author will go on to establish how a theology of hospitality might be defined. Some aspects of the definition will include why a theology of hospitality is important, what are some obstacles to implementing such a theology, and what does this theology look like. This section of the paper will be researched through the use of articles and essays that demonstrate previous research to see what has been done by other theologians, what has been successful and what questions are left unanswered.

The next step will be to apply this research to the role of theological librarianship. This section of research will be done by consulting articles and essays to see what previous research has been done. I will also consult with some colleagues who participated in a panel discussion on the theology of hospitality at the 2012 Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association. It is a result of this discussion that I became interested in pursuing this topic and trying to apply a theology of hospitality to my role as public services librarian in a seminary setting. |
| **Anticipated Results and Significance to Research at the Intersection of Religion and Information (approx. 250 words)** |
| Hospitality has always been a part of the teachings of the church. The writer of the book of Hebrews states "do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2, NRSV). Jesus taught that we should feed the hungry, provide water to the thirsty, visit the sick and in prison. This ministry is not just for those who are part of our communities, but extends to the stranger among us who is in need.

As librarians, our role is to serve our patrons, whether they are those who attend our universities, seminaries, or live within the borders of our communities. The question that often comes with this service is how far do we go to serve? We know that it is a bad idea to give unauthorized medical, legal, or tax advice, but how far do we go to help our students with research? In a broader sense, how do we serve those in our wider communities who need a place to spend the day because they are homeless, or how should we help those who require help that is beyond our capacities?

I am hoping that through this research, I can define a theology of hospitality that will work within the community in which I serve as a librarian both for the members of my smaller community and for those who wander in from outside looking for some assistance. |

Statement of Author's Credentials (approx. 100 words)
The author has a Master's degree in Sacred Theology from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (2009); a Master's in Library and Information Sciences from Kent State University (2000); and a Master in Theological Studies from Trinity Lutheran Seminary (1999). I have been a theological librarian since 2001 at the Virginia Theological Seminary. During this time, I have done research and presented papers at several conferences, including CSIR in 2012, in the areas of feminist theology and social justice.

Statement of Intent
By submitting this proposal, I indicate my intention to deliver my presentation at the 2014 Conference on Information and Religion if selected. (*Primary author should sign and date below.*)

Karen Madigan	**Nov. 22, 2013**

Signature *(may be typed)*	Date

Please provide information on additional authors/presenters in the boxes below.

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