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From the President

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I could fill gigabytes of content with text, photos, music, streaming video, and whatever our robust communications media technologies will offer next, as to why I feel blessed. I hope you can do the same.

We may feel the tendency to reflect on what we do not have or what we cannot accomplish, the obstacles we face. This tendency is undoubtedly aggravated by the culture of abundance and competition that envelops our culture. If only our library had more budget, more staffing, more space, more technology, more users, how much better things would be?

As a counter cultural response to this culture of more, I suggest that the highest form of blessedness does not involve stuff or gadgets, but relationships. I treasure my family relationships that have inspired and supported me all my life. I appreciate the testimony of my church family, grounding and enriching my life. I value the professional relationships on my home campus that have encouraged me to flourish.

So in this “President’s Message,” the blessing I wish to highlight is the fellowship and engagement of my professional colleagues, especially in the networking that naturally occurs at our annual ASDAL Conference.

I have many good memories of our Conference in Orlando. Deanna Flores and her team did a stellar job of hosting us in awesome facilities. The presenters were inspiring and challenging; I still hope to see many of the presentations published as articles in the *Journal of Adventist Libraries and Archives*.

In our home libraries we work in small teams serving our students, faculty, and our larger communities. Most days are filled with activity (job security) and we all wish we could clone ourselves to accomplish three or four times as much (like completing that article for JALA). And that is precisely why attending the ASDAL Conference is so important. We need this time of refreshing, of motivation, of encouragement, of growing in our perspectives. And it is sooooo nice to be among friends who get the jargon.

Feeling blessed is still not enough. The next level is to be a blessing. As librarians, we are a blessing for our campus, whether or not we realize it. Some of us work behind the scenes, some on the front line, and some may do it all at the same time. Regardless, every time a student finds that essential article, or a faculty completes a project relying on library resources, or a community patron with an information need gets answers, we are being a blessing.

One way we can bless each other is by sharing the wisdom and insight our unique professional journey has given us through a presentation at the conference, a news note in *ASDAL Action*, or even a carefully researched article (hint, hint).

So please begin thinking now about our next ASDAL Conference at Newbold College, England. It will be a delight to meet you, and all will benefit from the knowledge and experience you bring. In anticipation of the Conference I already know I will be blessed, by the program, by the venue, but most of all, by the fellowship we share.

Terry Dwain Robertson
ASDAL President