Logos, Biblios & Bibliotheka: Christian Influences In Library Development

John Mark Tucker, Purdue University

Abstract
The influence of the Christian faith in the growth and development of libraries begins with the fundamental character of Yahweh, God of the Bible. By outlining the characteristics of Yahweh, we begin to understand the conceptual framework on which libraries have come to exist as intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social institutions. Given the limitations of space and format, I am confining my remarks to thematic possibilities, ideas that may merit further exploration. Essential to Yahweh's character is that he acts in a powerful manner by speaking things into existence. He acts in a loving manner by creating individual human beings in his own image in order to have fellowship with them. Yahweh's actions of power and love are essential to his nature. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Recommended Citation
Tucker, John Mark (2002) "Logos, Biblios & Bibliotheka: Christian Influences In Library Development," The Christian Librarian: Vol. 45 : Iss. 1 , Article 3. Available at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol45/iss1/3

The fascinating etymology of library: the English word library originates from Latin. The Latin word for book is libellus or libelli or liber. Interestingly, English does not seem to have absorbed the ancient Greek word βιβλιοθήκη (bibliothēke; library in English), made up of the words βιβλίον (biblíon; book in English) and θήκη (théke; closet in English). Bibliothēke is related to the ancient Phoenician city Byblos. Very rarely, the English word bibliotheca (a collection or a list of books) will be used. Some other words that start with biblio include: Bibliography (a list of books by an author). Bibliolater (either a person who absolutely loves books, or a person who takes the Bible completely literally). The Library burning in the film Caesar and Cleopatra. The Library of Alexandria was a place where most of the written knowledge of antiquity was collected and stored. Bibliotheca (Ancient Greek: Βιβλιοθήκη, "Library").