Bibliographic Research for Biblical Studies (New Testament)

- **Databases** [http://www.gordonconwell.edu/library/access-databases.cfm](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/library/access-databases.cfm)
  - Books:
    - Online Catalog [http://gordonconwell.on.worldcat.org](http://gordonconwell.on.worldcat.org)
      - Keyword searching
      - Library of Congress Subject Headings: “Bible Peter 1st”
      - Note also "Paul the Apostle, Saint"
      - Interlibrary Loan
    - Once you find a book, browse the surrounding shelves. Serendipity!
  - Articles, Reviews, Essays, Chapters in Books:
    - ATLA Religion Database (use Scripture index as well as keyword; in subjects, use "Bible Philippians")
    - New Testament Abstracts (use Scripture index; as well keyword. NOTE: Scripture index is in strict alphanumeric order, so Acts comes before Genesis; Genesis 10 comes before Genesis 2; Online version goes back to 1985; print version goes back to 1956).
    - Old Testament Abstracts (if you are working on a passage quoting OT, you can use to research the OT context).
    - JSTOR search (you can search by keyword in whole documents; many classical history works are available in JSTOR; many items are linked to ATLA search results, but many history journals are NOT indexed in ATLA).
      
      **NOTE**: Resist the temptation to limit yourself to full-text online; there is a lot of important material that has not yet been digitized (or we do not have access to digital versions).

- **In-Print Bibliographies** (particularly helpful for older articles)
  - Bibliographic Section (exhausting, but potentially fruitful):
    - *ETL – Ephemerides theologicae lovanienses*
    - Langevin – *Bibliographie biblique = Biblical bibliography*
  - Reference Section Ref. Z7770-Z7772; Z7806; Z8455-Z8685
    - *An Index to Periodical Literature on the Apostle Paul* Ref. Z8665.45.M55 1993

- **Dictionaries & Encyclopedias** (articles are sources in their own right – often written by 'experts' on a particular topic; bibliographies are invaluable for leading to key resources)
  - Specific Subject Based
    - *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* Ref. BS2650.2.D53 1993
    - *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (2d ed.) Ref. BS2555.2.D53 2013
    - Eerdmans's Dictionary of Early Judaism Ref. BM176.E34 2010
Bibliographic Research for Biblical Studies (New Testament)

  (*available online)

  - General Biblical Studies
    - **Anchor Bible Dictionary** Ref. BS440.A54 1992
    - **International Standard Bible Encyclopedia** (2d ed.) Ref. BS440 .I6 1979
    - **Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible** Ref. BS440 .Z63 2009

  - Greek Word Based
    - **Theological Dictionary of the New Testament** Ref. PA881 .T4313 1964
    - **New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology** (see index for Greek) Ref. BS2397.N48

- **Bibliographies in other Works**
    - *Note: Word Biblical Commentary, Anchor Bible, Sacra Pagina, and the Exegetical Guide to the GNT provide bib. for each pericope.

  - Commentaries can be read multiple ways. (Don't be irresponsible – do your own work first!)
    - Find out what the author of the commentary says about a passage.
    - Find out what modern scholars the author interacts with.
    - Find out what ancient resources the author cites as important for background/context (and look them up!)

  - Articles / Monographs / Dissertations & Theses
    - Consult their bibliographies and footnotes.

Notes:

- Remember the "law of diminishing returns." Start with databases, commentary bibliographies, dictionary articles, bibliographies in the reference section, and then bibliographic center
- Pay attention to repetition. If the same article is cited by multiple authors, it's probably worth tracking down.
- As you're finding more information, note the vocabulary that different authors use to describe the topic. Note especially the “controlled vocabulary” or “subjects” used by the library catalog and other bibliographic databases. Use them to refine or expand your search terms.
- Tutorials for using various online databases are available at [http://www.gordonconwell.edu/library/tutorials.cfm](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/library/tutorials.cfm)