Reference Tools for Biblical Exegesis

Exegesis - the process by which one comes to understand a text

Be certain that you fully understand your professor’s instructions for your exegetical paper, since there is room in the process for individual variations. The typical steps involved in doing exegetical work can include the following:

- Establish or orient the context of the pericope in the Biblical book as a whole
- Examine the historical context or setting
- Analyze the text. This can involve literary, textual, grammatical, and/or lexical analysis
- Critical analysis: employing various critical methods to ask questions of the texts
- Theological analysis
- Your analysis and/or application

Exegetical Handbooks


Bibles--English Language Versions


Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha


**Greek and Hebrew Texts**


**Interlinear Testaments**


**Parallels**


**Digital Bibles**

*BibleWorks* 7.0. Compact disk loaded onto Bridwell Lab computers 1 and 2. The program includes excellent tutorials and an instructional guide is available.

*Crosswalk*. [http://bible.crosswalk.com](http://bible.crosswalk.com) Includes many searchable versions, some currently under copyright, but they’ve gotten publisher permission. Especially important since it includes the NRSV.

*New Testament Gateway*. [www.ntgateway.com](http://www.ntgateway.com) Free site maintained by Dr. Mark Goodacre in the Religion Department at Duke University. This is a web directory rich in internet resources on the New Testament, updated daily, and it now includes a blog. Includes translations, analytical resources, articles, topical categories, etc.


*Bible Gateway*. [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) Searches may be performed on passages or words in one or more versions. Twenty-one English language versions are available, some with an audio component, in addition to translations in over 60 other languages.

*The Text This Week*. [www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com) This site is maintained by Jenee Woodward, a UMC pastor. It includes links to a wide variety of contemporary and historical scripture study resources. It is searchable by scripture index or lectionary date.

**Dictionaries**


**Atlases**


**Concordances**

A concordance enables you to identify the correct book, chapter, and verse in which a word appears in Scripture and to trace a particular topic through the Bible. A particular concordance matches a unique version of the Bible. The titles below are a sample of the concordances held by the library.


Lexicons and Wordbooks
Lexicons and wordbooks define the meaning of specific words in their original language as well as providing grammatical information. In general lexicons are one volume and wordbooks multi-volume in size. Found below is a sampling of the lexicons and wordbooks held by the library.

Lexicons


Wordbooks


Commentary Series
There are many commentaries on individual books of the Bible - some are published as individual monographs and others as volumes within a particular commentary series. Commentary series are classified so that all volumes sit separately by the biblical book, with the exception of The New Interpreter's Bible (Reference & Stacks: BS 491.2 .N484 1994). Listed below are the commentary series which are located in the Reference Room, many of which have duplicate copies in the stacks. Call numbers range between Genesis (BS 1233) and Revelations (BS 2825).

Abingdon New Testament Commentaries  
Anchor Bible  
Black's New Testament Commentaries  
Hermeneia  
International Critical Commentary  
Interpretation  
JPS Torah Commentary  
New Century Bible Commentary  
New International Commentary on the New Testament  
New International Commentary on the Old Testament  
New International Greek Testament Commentary  
Old Testament Library  
Sacra Pagina  
Word Biblical Commentary

Stacks:  
Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture/New Testament  
Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture/Old Testament

One Volume Commentaries


Journal Articles and Online Databases
Journal articles on specific scripture passages are found by using indexes or databases. Search the online catalog to determine if the library has a subscription to the journal should the article not be
available full-text in the database. Each of the resources listed below is available via the Library Catalog’s Online Resources link.

**ATLA Religion Database.** An electronic database by the American Theological Library Association, indexing journal articles and essays from multi-author works; it includes some full-text articles. Available via the Library Catalog. A brief guide to using ATLA via the EbscoHost platform is available at the Bridwell Reference Desk or [http://smu.edu/bridwell/reference/referencehome.html](http://smu.edu/bridwell/reference/referencehome.html)

**Catholic Periodical and Literature Index.** Produced in partnership between ATLA and the Catholic Library Association, this database includes over 419,000 index citations of articles and reviews published in Roman Catholic periodicals, Papal documents, church promulgations, and books about the Catholic faith that are authored by Catholics and/or produced by Catholic publishers.

**New Testament Abstracts.** Produced in partnership between ATLA and Boston College. The database contains more than 40,000 article abstracts, 1,200 review abstracts, 14,900 book abstracts, and 50 software abstracts.

**Old Testament Abstracts.** Produced in partnership between ATLA and the Catholic Biblical Association, this database features indexing and abstracts for journal articles, monographs, multi-author works, and software related to Old Testament studies. Topics covered include antiquities, archaeology, biblical theology, philology, etc.

**Index to Jewish Periodicals.** This database provides a guide to English-language articles, book reviews, and feature stories in more than 160 journals devoted to Jewish affairs.

**RAMBI: Index of Articles on Jewish Subjects.** From the Jewish National and University Library.

**Religion and Philosophy Collection.** This database is a subset of *Academic Search Complete* and provides full-text coverage of such topics as world religions, major denominations, biblical studies, religious history, epistemology, political philosophy, philosophy of language, moral philosophy and the history of philosophy.

**Religious and Theological Abstracts.** Provides summaries of articles appearing in scholarly journals in the fields of Religion and Theology, and lists a wide variety of periodical literature, including Christian, Jewish, and other World religions.

**Other Resources**

*The Codex Sinaiticus Project.* An international collaboration to reunite the entire manuscript in digital form and make it accessible to a global audience for the first time. Very, very cool. Available via the Library Catalog’s Online Resources link.


