



Identifying

Commentaries: use a library catalog (SPU, Summit, WorldCat)

Books and monographs: use a library catalog (SPU, Summit, WorldCat)

Articles (*and* books, *incl.* commentaries): use a database, index, or bibliography

ATLA Religion Database, here:

<http://www.spu.edu/depts/library/databases/index.htm>

Other sources

Elenchus of Biblica, Lemieux Library Periodicals, Seattle University

Old Testament Abstracts/New Testament Abstracts, Index Table and

Indices, here:

http://www.spu.edu/depts/library/about_library/maps/main_level_map.htm

Free-standing bibliographies organized by passage, many of which are listed here:

http://www.hugsr.edu/library/researchguides/Bib_Bib_Stud_Bib.pdf

Free web-based serial bibliographies: BiBIL (<http://www.bibil.net/>), BILDI (<http://www.uibk.ac.at/bildi/bildi/search/index.html.en>), etc.

Bibliographies to passage-specific articles in Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias; in books (*incl.* commentaries) and articles; on web pages; etc.

Following the “links”



Identifying commentaries

To identify a “commentary” on a particular book (or substantial portion thereof), run the following **Keyword** search in the SPU or the Summit catalog, substituting for **acts** the book or unit of the Bible you’re interested in: **s:bible and s:acts and s:commentaries**.



2. Enter s:bible and s:acts and s:commentaries. Substitute for **acts** the book of the Bible you’re interested in.

1. Make sure you’re in Keyword Search.

Title Author Subject Search

Keyword Search

1 Enter Search Terms	<input type="text" value="s:bible and s:acts and s:commentaries"/> <p>Note: If you wish to search a phrase, use quotations marks around it. (for example, "world</p>
2 Choose Limits (optional)	Year: After <input type="text"/> and Before <input type="text"/> Language: <input type="text" value="ANY"/> Location: <input type="text" value="ANY"/> Material Type: <input type="text" value="ANY"/> Search and Sort: <input type="text" value="Date"/> Publisher: <input type="text"/>
3 Submit Your Search	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

3. Click on Submit

Open the records that interest you for SPU locations and call numbers. If the commentary you want is available via Summit only, then click on the link labeled [REQUEST THIS ITEM](#) and follow directions.

Some commentaries are better (and therefore more important) than others, and some, better for certain purposes. For some help with this, request the handout COMMENTARY ON COMMENTARIES from Steve Perisho (below), or ask your professor.



Identifying books and monographs

To identify an entire book on a particular passage (sometimes called a monograph), run the following Library of Congress **Subject** search in the SPU or the Summit catalog, specifying with a Roman numeral the chapter you hope to begin with, substituting **o t** for **n t** when appropriate, and the book of your choice for **acts**: **bible n t acts vi**.

Save Marked Records		Save All On Page	
Num	Mark	Acts 6:1-8:4	SUBJECTS (L.C.) (1-12 of 12)
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible N T Acts Vi 1 Viii 4 Criticism Interpretation Etc	
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible N T Acts Vii 2 53 Criticism Interpretation Etc	
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible N T Acts Vii 8 Sermons	
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible N T Acts Vii 26 Sermons	
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible N T Acts Vii 55 56 Criticism Interpretation Etc	

Here you see a book on Acts 6:1-8:4. Just below it is a monograph on Acts 7:2-53, and three down from that, a book on Acts 7:55-56. Note that had you entered **bible n t acts v**, you would have missed them all (or had to scroll down for them). So this search can be pretty temperamental and unforgiving. But you do sometimes get lucky, and especially if you are willing to scroll from simply **bible n t acts** (without the chapter), watching for chapter and verse plus subheadings like **Criticism, interpretation, etc.**

It is important that you supplement this search with **Subject** and **Keyword** searches of other sorts, for not every relevant monograph will have been assigned a specific passage. Here, for example, is one that wasn't. To find this one you would have to have searched either by the right **Keyword** ("wicked tenants") or by some other official Library of Congress **Subject** Heading ("wicked husbandmen (parable)"):

Author [Snodgrass, Klyne](#)
Title **The parable of the wicked tenants : an inquiry into parable interpretation**
Publisher Tübingen : J.C.B. Mohr, 1983

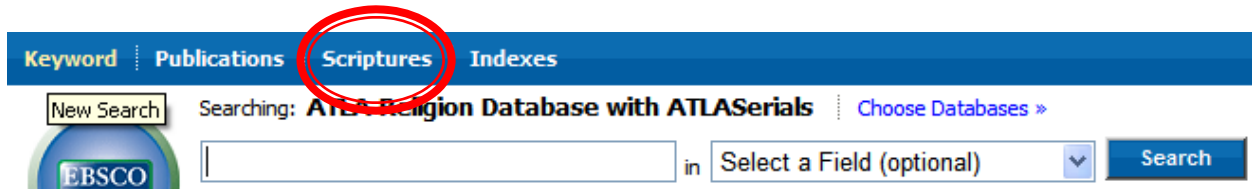
[2 Summit libraries have this item](#)
[REQUEST THIS ITEM](#)

Description Subject search. Subject **bible n t Mark xii** (for example) not assigned.
Series [Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament ; 27](#)
L.C. Subject [Wicked husbandmen \(Parable\)](#)
Bibliography Bibliography: p. [119]-126



Identifying articles: the ATLA Religion Database

Click on **Scriptures** here:



Then enter as much of the reference as you dare (you *can* be too specific!) and click on **Browse**. Then **Select one or more items** and click **Search**.

1. Here I am looking for articles on 1 Timothy 2:9 ff. only. Had I entered only **Timothy, 1st 2** (without the verse), I could have scanned the whole of chap. 2 for all possible combinations, e.g. articles on 1 Timothy 2:11 ff. Had I entered only **Timothy, 1st** (without the chapter), I could have scanned the whole of 1 Timothy for articles on sections of the book inclusive of but not limited to chap. 2 (or parts thereof).

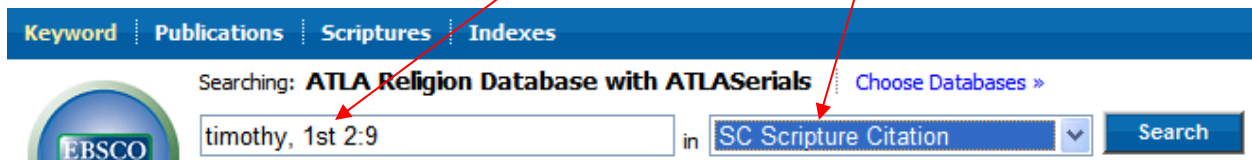
2. Click on **Browse**.

4. Click on **Search**.

Note: Numbers file in numerical order, number by number. Thus, the 1 in **Romans 10** would come before the 5 in **Romans 5** on the list to the left (had I entered just **Romans**, e.g.). And there are other anomalies. So don't be too specific and plan to scan.

3. Select *all* of the chapter-and-verse divisions that you deem relevant.

This can also be done by running the proper search in the **SC Scripture Citation** field:



Both of these methods work well for scholarship published after 1985. On scholarship published before 1986 see Steve Perisho. As under **Books and monographs** above, it is important that you supplement this search with **Subject** and **Keyword** searches of other sorts.



Identifying articles: Other sources

Elenchus of Biblica: *the major* international index of biblical studies, more comprehensive than the ATLA Religion Database or just about anything else, but also tardy. Seattle University maintains a current subscription in Lemieux Library Periodicals. For a quick introduction to this, see Steve Perisho.

Old Testament Abstracts, New Testament Abstracts: final issue each year contains an index to the principal passages treated. An online version exists, but SPU takes only paper at present. OTA and NTA are located among the indices on the Library's Main Level (http://www.spu.edu/depts/library/about_library/maps/main_level_map.htm).

Free-standing bibliographies organized by passage: many of the bibliographies listed here (http://www.hugsr.edu/library/researchguides/Bib_Bib_Stud_Bib.pdf) are organized by passage, e.g. the *Index to periodical literature for the study of the New Testament* (2004), the *Index to periodical literature on Christ and the Gospels* (1998), or the *Index to periodical literature on the Apostle Paul* (1993). Look them up in and request those SPU doesn't have via the Summit catalog.

Free web-based serial bibliographies, e.g. BiBIL (<http://www.bibil.net/>), or BILDI (<http://www.uibk.ac.at/bildi/bildi/search/index.html.en>). These can be search by passage.

Bibliographies to passage-specific articles in Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias; bibliographies in books (incl. commentaries) and articles; bibliographies on web pages; etc.



Following the “links”

Pay very close attention to footnotes, bibliographies, and so forth. Many commentaries are organized in such a way as to offer passage-specific bibliographies. And you will often get more good leads out of a single footnote or passing comment thrown off by a seasoned scholar than out of hours of database searching. So follow the “links”!