

SEARCHING THE ATLA RELIGION DATABASE

This is a two part assignment. **First**, read both the general introduction to EBSCO databases webpage (*Bare Bones Basics of Searching EBSCO Databases*) and the ATLA webpage (*Tips for Using ATLA via EBSCO*). Find them here: http://library.dts.edu/Pages/RM/DBM/EBSCO/short_ebsco.shtml
http://library.dts.edu/Pages/RM/DBM/EBSCO/atla_tips.shtml
(Note uppercase letters in links.)

Second, print this form and complete the answers by hand. If you are asked to “show a search,” indicate the exact terms and syntax, including which category to search. (The categories are Author, Title, Subject, etc.) Here is a sample answer.

Sample question: Show a search for reviews of John MacArthur's book, *The Gospel according to Jesus*.

Sample answer: Find: macarthur in AU Author
and gospel and Jesus in TI Title
and Publication type: Review

You needn't draw pictures for your answers, but the sample answer is equivalent to this:

The screenshot shows the EBSCO search interface. At the top, there are three search criteria: 'Find: macarthur in AU Author', 'and gospel and Jesus in TI Title', and 'and [empty] in Default Fields'. There are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Below the search criteria, there is a 'Search Tips' link and a folder icon labeled 'Folder has 0 it'. The interface has tabs for 'Refine Search', 'Search History / Alerts', and 'Results'. The 'Refine Search' tab is active, showing a 'Limit your results:' section with various filters: 'Full Text' (checkbox), 'Magazine' (text input), 'Abstract Available' (checkbox), 'Year Published' (Yr: [] to Yr: []), and 'Publication Type' (dropdown menu with options: Article, Book, Essay, Review). The 'Publication Type' dropdown is currently set to 'Review'. There are also 'Limiters' and 'Expanders' links.

Spend 2 or 3 hours answering these questions. Pace yourself so you have time to try every question. Submit your completed assignment as per syllabus. This assignment will be credited on a pass/fail basis and even a wrong answer can get credit. We will go over answers in class.

1. Show a search for reviews of Buist Fanning, *Verbal Aspect in New Testament Greek*. How many reviews did you find? In which journal did Porter publish a review of this book?

2. Search for reviews of Charles Swindoll, *Active Spirituality*, 1994. What is the problem? Why?
 - A. Who is the editor of the book and what is the full title of the book the essay is in?
 - B. DTS owns the book. What is the call number?

3. Search for the essay by Donfried, "The Kingdom of God in Paul."
 - A. Who is the editor of the book and what is the full title of the book the essay is in?
 - B. DTS owns the book. What is the call number?

4. Search for the essay by Holman, "Taxing Nazianzus: Gregory and the Other Julian."
 - A. Who is the editor of the book and what is the full title of the book the essay is in?
 - B. DTS owns the book. What is the call number, including volume number?

5. Search for the article by McIntyre entitled "Baptism and Forgiveness in Acts 2:38." Notice this record has both a **scripture citation field** and a **subject field** for the bible passage. What is the difference between these two fields? Why do both fields appear in this record? When does the scripture citation field **not** appear in a record about a bible passage?

6. Joe Seminarian wants material on 1 Cor 15:2. When he searched ATLA this way:
Corinthians, 1st 15:2
in the Scripture Citation field he retrieved nothing. There are NO records in ATLA indexed specifically for 15:2. He then searched for
Corinthians, 1st 15
in the Scripture Citation field. This yielded hundreds of citations.
 - A. How can he quickly find the material he wants without checking hundreds of citations?
 - B. What is the disadvantage of the fast approach?

7. Joe browsed the scripture citation field for Acts 10:34-35 and picked four relevant entries. See image below. He made a careless mistake. Try it yourself. What is wrong?

Page: [Previous](#) | [Next](#) Browse for:

Alphabetical Relevancy Ranked

Select one or more items and click

- Acts 10:34-35
- Acts 10:34-40
- Acts 10:34-43
- Acts 10:34-48
- Acts 10:36
- Acts 10:36-43

8. Show a search designed to find as much as possible on 1st John. How many records did you retrieve?

9. A student searched in the default category for "parachurch groups" but retrieved only one citation in ATLA.

A. What subject heading does ATLA use?

B. How did you identify that terminology?

C. What simple search will yield over 85 citations on the topic of parachurch organizations? How could you get still more?

10. Let's practice looking for search terms one more time. Our topic is the theology of modern praise songs.

10A. What are some helpful subject headings in ATLA?

10B. Show a search using both terms from ATLA headings and words likely to appear in titles.

11. Joe, a new masters student at DTS, just got his NTI syllabus today. He wants to get an early start on a paper due at the end of the semester. It requires him to respond to the following claims. "Jn 5:2-9, 14b did not originally circulate as a self-contained miracle story. Rather, the redactor blended special J material with dominical miracle traditum and a pagan etiological tale. Literary seams enable us to discern the ur-sources. The redactor of the pericope was part of a syncretistic gnostic Christian sect which absorbed regional pagan legends." Joe is stunned. He is looking for relevant literature. He asks you for advice. What say ye?