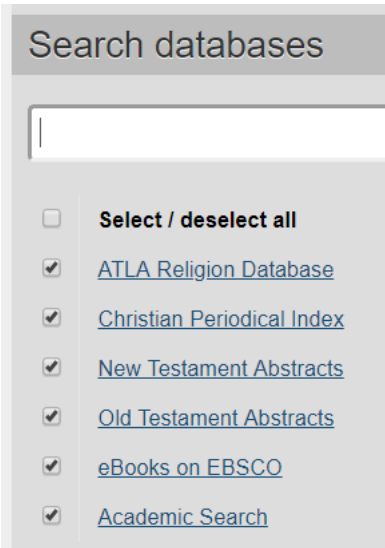


CHECK THE “CHOOSE DATABASES” SETTINGS



Every year one or two students have serious difficulties with the ATLA assignment because their search session is configured to search multiple databases at once. This usually happens because they enter search terms into the searchbox on the library home page. If you search with the default settings for the searchbox, then you will search six databases at once. (Notice six databases are selected in the image at left.)

How does the multiple database selection hinder the ATLA assignment? It is harder to identify terminology ATLA uses for subject headings because there are non-ATLA records. Field codes not work as expected (AU, SU, SR, SC, etc.) because those codes vary with database. It takes extra steps to browse when there are multiple databases. Searches produce a different number of items retrieved.

The ATLA assignment (“Practice Using ATLA”) requires you to search ATLA by itself so you can use special features which are available only in ATLA (like the Scripture Citation index), and so you can avoid the complexity of a multi-database search. Further, correct answers are based on searching ATLA alone.

For the assignment, don’t enter search terms into the searchbox while multiple databases are selected.

There are lots of safe ways to connect to ATLA by itself. On the library home page, just click the underlined “ATLA Religion Database” below the searchbox. (Image at right.) Or pick ATLA from the dropdown list on the home page. Or use the list of databases organized by title: <https://library.dts.edu/guide-title> or the list organized by topic: <https://library.dts.edu/guide-topic>. Use any of those links and your search session will be configured correctly for the assignment.



However, you would be wise to check the “Choose Databases” setting in the EBSCO search engine when you first access a database. Note the “Choose Databases” link below. Just click “Choose Databases,” select ATLA PLUS **alone**, and click OK.

