

***Transcript for ATLA Religion Database Serials PLUS
Created by Ericka Raber, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Spring 2019***

This video overview of the ATLA Religion Database was created for the Wartburg Theological Seminary Reu Memorial Library.

Today, we'll look at what is included in the ATLA Religion Database, and review some tips for searching the database effectively, including tips for searching for references to scripture passages, how to browse and search within publications, and ways to limit and focus your search.

To get to ATLA, start at the Reu Memorial Library's home page, and click on Research Tools.

Then, we'll click on ATLA Religion Database with ATLA Serials Plus from EBSCOhost. The Wartburg Theological Seminary's subscription to the ATLA database is provided through the vendor EBSCOhost. EBSCOhost offers subscription access to a wide variety of databases. To view and select other databases provided to our campus, click on Choose Databases.

To learn more about any of the databases, hover over the descriptions provided. Here you'll see the ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials PLUS. It's described as providing access to premier journal articles, book reviews and essays in all fields of religion with full text access to more than 480 journal titles.

We're going to stick with ATLASerials PLUS today, so I'll click on OK.

Let's start with a simple search to see what kinds of things we can find in this database.

We'll search Jesus AND (poverty OR poor). Let's look at the types of results we get. We retrieved over 71,000 items. Let's see how we can make that more manageable and useful. If we look over to the left, we can see ways to limit the search. Maybe we only want to look at items from the last 10 years, so we can change the publication date range of 2009-2019. You can see that the records for items in our results vary. Some articles are from academic journals, some are essays or reviews. There are also some books included in our results. For now, we'll keep our limits for the date range, and look at our results more closely.

On this first page of results we see a variety of records: an article from The Christian Century; a review, probably for a book, from a publication called Modern Believing. On this first page, I'm not seeing any academic or peer-reviewed journal articles. If I'd like to see peer-reviewed articles, I can click on the limit to the left called Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.

To learn more about any of the items in my results list, I can click on the title of the item. This can be useful in several ways.

I'm going to click on the article A New Accounting of Wealth and Poverty in Luke.

When you click on the title of the article, you get a lot more information about the item. And that can help you decide if you want to read it. Most helpful, this is where you might find an abstract (or brief summary) of the article, as well as subject headings. The abstract and the subject headings can give you

a better idea about the contents of the item, and they can also give you ideas for additional search terms. Each of these Subject Headings is linked within the database, so if you click on one of these headings, it will run a subject search with that term.

I'm going to click on Poverty in the Bible.

So, I might want to look at a couple of searches... maybe Poverty in the Bible, maybe Poor—Biblical teaching, or perhaps Wealth—Biblical teaching. I saw that as another subject heading. In a perfect world, like terms would be combined into one subject heading, and everything in the database on this topic could be found with this single subject heading search, but often, subject headings really aren't perfect.

Anytime you want to get back to your previous search results, you can click on Search History. Here you can run your searches again, edit them, or combine them.

If you want to save searches and search results within EBSCOhost after a single search session, you can create an individual EBSCOhost login, and access your account by signing in to EBSCOhost at the top.

Let's look at our record again.

I'm going to go back into A New Accounting of Wealth and Poverty in Luke.

There are a few other things you can see when you click on an item's title. You can add the item to a folder. You can email and save the items, print the items. Later, you can email the whole folder to yourself. You can save the items. You can also find a link back to this page within EBSCOhost—this is called the Permalink. The URL that displays up at the top or the page in your address bar contains some session data, so that link probably will not work for you or anybody else. So, it's best to use the link that is provided in this Permalink option.

The "cite" feature can also be helpful. We use Turabian here at the Wartburg Theological Seminary. You can copy this citation in Turabian, and get a head start on your bibliography. Be aware, though, that you may need to make some corrections.

Another thing that might be helpful within this information about this article is that we can also access the publication itself. So, if you might be interested in browsing the publication *Conversations with the Biblical World*, and you can do that by clicking on the publication title.

From here you can navigate to the issues and page numbers you want. You can also search within the publication. This will add this title to your search.

Let's go back to our results now.

It also might be helpful to change the display of your results. By default, results are sorted by relevance. You can change that to sort by date newest, for example. Here you also have options to change the display of your results, and under this Share menu, you find a way to create an email alert for searches that are interesting to you.

Now let's look at a couple of ways you can search for references to scriptures. The easiest way to do this is to use the Scriptures tool on the top menu.

There are many ways to search for a reference to a scripture, so it can be difficult to know how to search for what you need. The scriptures tool can help you search ranges of specific scripture verses, and it doesn't require that you know the exact formatting for the scripture.

ATLA indexers create scripture citations for essays, articles, and other items that feature academic treatment of a verse or passage and refer to scripture at the chapter or verse level. The citations follow the structure and organization of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible.

The easiest way to search is to simply navigate to the chapter or verse that interests you.

We're going to look at Genesis Chapter 2, verse 10.

When you select the chapter or verse that interests you, it will be added to your search.

This text in the search box that was added shows you another way that you can search for references to scriptures. You can type that into the search box. Here the search box was filled with SR "Genesis 2:10". SR plus a scripture written in this format will retrieve results in which the verse appears within a range. For example, in these results, Genesis 2:10 fits within some of the results. For example, result 2 and item number 1, as well.

This search differs from the SC search in the drop-down menu, here for scripture citation. The scripture citation drop-down is little less forgiving. In short, I recommend using the Scriptures tool that we just looked at.

I'm not going to go into detail here, but it also might be useful to explore a few other features within ATLA.

For example, you use the Thesaurus. I'll do a quick search. You can browse subject headings and you can add these to your search as well.

You can also search for individual publication titles by clicking on Publications at the top. This will show you what is included within ATLA, and then you can search within the titles or browse through the titles.

Let's do a quick search for Christian Century.

Here you can see the range of coverage for this title, and click on the title, browse it, or search within the publication.

You can also search other indexes and images within ATLA. Those might be worth exploring more on your own.

And whenever you want to start over with a new search, you click on New Search and you're back to the beginning of the search interface.

This concludes the brief overview of ATLA.

For help with using ATLA or anything else library-related, please contact the staff at the Reu Memorial Library.

