



Resources in Theology

St. Mary's University, Louis J. Blume Library

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An assortment of reference tools typically used in Theology courses at St. Mary's University's are briefly described in the following paragraphs. If you do not find a needed resource defined, ask a Reference Librarian (210/436-3508) for assistance. Theological **reference** sources are located on the main floor roughly between the shelf call letters **BJ** through **BX**. Additional information about these topics may be found at

<http://library.stmarytx.edu/acadlib/subject/theology/theofoun.htm>

BIBLE COMMENTARIES evaluate and analyze Bible text. There are numerous commentaries in the reference collection. For example, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (REF BS 491.2 .N485 1990 and on "Reserve") is an official Catholic commentary. The reference and circulating collections contain many other commentaries. Look at these examples' locations, near the call letters shown below, or search in the library catalog.

Catalog option: **Subject Search: Bible Commentaries;**

Bible N T Commentaries; or **Bible O T Commentaries**

Examples: *Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture*, REF BS 491.2 .O7 1953

HarperCollins Bible Commentary, REF BS 491.2 .H37 2000

Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible, REF BS 491.3 .E37 2003

To find book-length commentaries on a specific book of the Bible, try **Subject Search**. For example:

Bible N T Matthew Commentaries

BIBLE CONCORDANCES are alphabetical lists of words (or phrases) indicating where those terms are found in scripture. Read the concordance's preface to determine which version of the Bible is indexed. Concordances are located in the reference collection at and near the call letters shown below.

Examples: *Nelson's Complete Concordance of the New American Bible*, REF BS 425 .N36

Nelson's Complete Concordance of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, REF BS 425 .E4

BIBLE DICTIONARIES briefly define words *found in* the Bible. Bible dictionaries are found in the reference collection at and near the call letters shown below. Or search the library catalog for a complete list.

Catalog option: **Subject Search: Bible Dictionaries**

Examples: *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, REF BS 440 .A54 1992

The Revell Bible Dictionary, REF BS 440 .R484 1990

BIBLE MAPS can be located in a number of sources. Many study Bibles contain maps. Several of the Reference sources, such as the *Harper's Bible Commentary* and several Bible dictionaries contain maps. There are also Bible atlases located at call letters **BS 630** and **G 2230 - G 2239** in the Reference and Main collections. Also try **Subject Search: Bible Geography Maps** in the library catalog.

BIBLE TIMELINES provide a visual historical chronology of Biblical events. They are located in several Reference resources. There is a timeline located in the front and back of *Harper's Bible Commentary*. There is also a timeline under the entry "Chronology" in *The Revell Bible Dictionary*. A timeline also appears near the front of *Illustrated Dictionary of Bible Life and Times* (REF BS 622 .I45 1997) and near the back of *The Collegeville Bible Study Atlas* (REF G 2230 .C655 1990). *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament* (REF BS 637.2 .W36 1994), *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament* (REF BS 2310 .H68) and *Time Lines on File* (REF CB 69.2 .T56 1988) are other timeline sources.

LOOKING FOR BOOKS you can check out? Try searching the **ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CATALOG** using a **Subject Search** or **Advanced Keyword Search**, when looking for books in our library about your topic.

Example subject headings:

Bible O T Genesis Commentaries

Bible N T Luke Commentaries

Catholic Church Liturgy

Bible O T Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus Commentaries

Bible N T 1 Corinthians Criticism, interpretation, etc.

Sacraments Catholic Church

(continued)

THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES define a great variety of topics. These words do **NOT** need to be found in the Bible. For example, the words "pope," "euthanasia," "Mozart," or "excommunication" will be discussed in a theological dictionary. Browse through the reference collection at the call letters shown below, or search in the online catalog for titles.

Catalog option: **Subject Search: Theology Dictionaries**

Examples: *The New Dictionary of Theology*, REF BR 95 .N38 1991

The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology, REF BR 95 .W494 1983

Sacramentum Verbi, REF BS 440 .B4313

THEOLOGICAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS provide lengthy, scholarly discussion of theological events, persons, and issues. Three important encyclopedia sets used for theological research are found in the reference collection, **BJ - BX** call letters. Search for your topic in the encyclopedias' alphabetical indexes.

Sacramentum Mundi (REF BR 95 .S23) is an official Catholic encyclopedia set. It provides scholarly and thorough essays on a variety of theological topics. Also research your topic in the other encyclopedia sets described.

The following encyclopedias are available online through the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#):

The New Catholic Encyclopedia, 2nd ed. (2003) provides essays written from the Catholic perspective, but on a much broader range of Catholic topics, events, and persons than does *Sacramentum Mundi*.

The Encyclopedia of Religion, 2nd ed. (2005) provides essays on a wide variety of religions, topics, events, and persons. Defines terms in the context of several religious traditions.

PERIODICAL INDEXES or **DATABASES** are the key to finding **journal articles on a specific topic**. Once you find a citation to an article, you will need to verify if the full-text is accessible online or in print in the library. To determine if the library has access to a journal online, in print (paper), or in microform, search the journal's title by clicking on the [Locating Journals](#) link on the library web site or consult a librarian. See the tutorial at <http://breeze.stmarytx.edu/articles/> for more details. Search your topic keywords in one of these indexes:

[Religion Index One](#) indexes scholarly articles and books on theological/Biblical topics and persons. It includes a scripture index. It is a print index located on the main (2nd) floor index tables behind the Reference Desk.

The following databases are available online through the library's web site:

[Catholic Periodical and Literature Index](#) refers to scholarly and general interest articles on a wide variety of topics and persons. The database covers citations from 1981-present. It includes citations to book reviews.

[Academic Search Complete](#) includes citations and abstracts to more than 5,000 general and academic periodicals from 1984-present. Full-text and/or full-image is included for more than 4,000 titles. An important subset, [Religion & Philosophy Collection](#), contains full-text articles from more than 300 periodicals in the fields of theology and philosophy.

[Project MUSE](#) provides full-text access to articles from more recently-published scholarly journals. [JSTOR](#) offers access to full-text articles from older scholarly journals.

NOTE: In any database or index, be prepared to search for your topic under a variety of synonyms or related terms.

OTHER SOURCES: The Blume Library owns many other items that you may need. Examples of frequently requested items include:

The Catholic Almanac, REF AY 81 .R6 N3

The Official Catholic Directory, REF BX 845 .C5

Papal Encyclicals, REF BX 860 .C3

Papal Pronouncements, REF BX 850 .C3 & Third Floor

For recent encyclicals and statements by the Pope, consult The Vatican web site <http://www.vatican.va/>

Pastoral Letters of the United States Catholic Bishops, REF BX 874 .A2 C37 1983