

EBSCOhost search techniques

ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®) with ATLASerials® (ATLAS®) combines the premier index to journal articles, book reviews, and collections of essays in all fields of religion with ATLA's online collection of major religion and theology journals. The *ATLA Religion Database* includes full-text articles and reviews from more than 300 journals, indexes 1,930 journals (over 790 currently indexed), more than 775,000 journal articles, 275,000 essay records, more than 720,000 review records, and more than 377,000 book records. Coverage from 1949 onwards although indexing for some journal titles extends back into the nineteenth century. In *ATLASerials*, the database provides more than 2.1 million records and is produced by the American Theological Library Association. The *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index® (ATLA CPLI®)* will merge into *ATLA Religion database®* during November 2017 and Spring 2018 which will provide over 778,000 records of indexing of periodicals, essay collections, church documents, papal documents, and electronic resources expressly addressing the practice and intellectual tradition of Roman Catholicism since 1981.

You can access EBSCOhost from: TTC Library Catalogue and from Moodle.

From Moodle, this is the page you will get to (fig. 1):

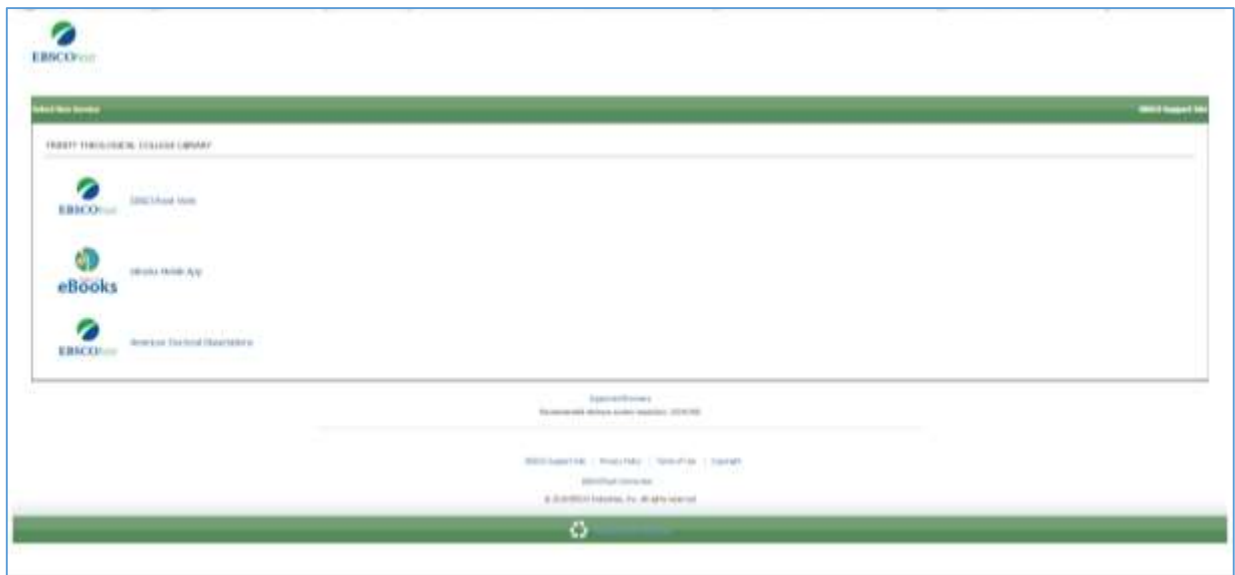


Fig. 1

There are three options available:

- EBSCOhost* web, [includes *ATLA Religion database*, *ATLASerials* and now *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature index*] – covered this in guide;
- eBooks Mobile app [includes all the eBooks subscribed by the library and provided by *EBSCOhost*] and
- American Doctoral Dissertations.

Accessing from TTC Library Catalogue, you may get to a result page that takes you to *EBSCOhost* following your keyword, journal or subject search. If a further search is required, go to New Search. And this is the page you should get to (Fig. 2):

1. There are two types of searches you can conduct: Basic Search and Advanced Search



Fig. 2

2. **Basic search** is by entering any words to find books, journals and reviews, and the number of fields can be added as well (Fig. 2).
3. **Advanced Search** – a more targeted search (Fig. 3) – 24 fields¹ and search modes such as Boolean/Phrase (for more detailed Boolean search functions, refer to HELP on the top right corner), or find all search terms with AND, and find any of your search terms using OR.

You can also limit only to full text, scholarly journals, published year, article, book or essay. In addition, limit by language, just Journals in our library, by journal title and genre (40).² Also limit by publication type: article, book, essay, multimedia, other matter and review. There are up to 30 languages to search in.

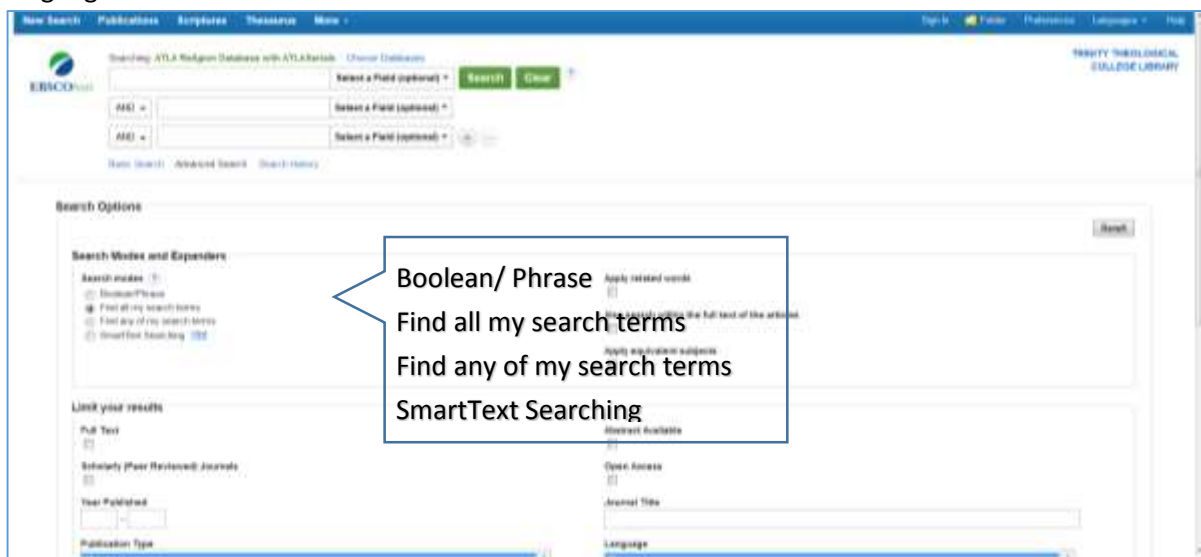


Fig. 3

4. Beside the types of searches, you can choose from the top menu bar, you can browse or search by **Publications**, **Scriptures** or the **Thesaurus** which relate to a subject listed in the database. Under **More**, you can browse indexes of subjects, or author or any of the 22 fields³, this is useful if you do not know what subject term to use.

¹ Fields include: TE Text, AB Abstract, AU Author, CC Classification Code, CO Corporate Author, TI Title, BT Book Title, CO Conference Name, DI Document Object Identifier, IS ISSN, IB ISBN, LA Language, PB Publisher, PP Place of Publication, PT Publication Type, SC Scripture Citation, SO Source, ST Series, SU Subject, GD Subject Genre, GE Subject Geographic Name, NA Subject Name Personal, UT Subject Uniform Title, YR Year Published

² Genre includes: art work, autobiographies, bibliographies, biographies, computer software, conference proceedings, databases, death notices, diaries, dictionaries, electronic resources, eulogies, exhibitions, festschriften, festschriften in journals, films, hymnals, hymns, indexes, interviews, letters, liturgies, manuscripts, meditations, music, novels, obituaries, open access, peer reviewed, photographs, plays, poems, prayers, sermons, short stories, sound recordings, text books, TV programs, video recordings, websites.

³ Fields similar to the Advanced Search except it has got Ascension number, Topic term, Update Code and a few fields less.

EBSCOhost Database search guide

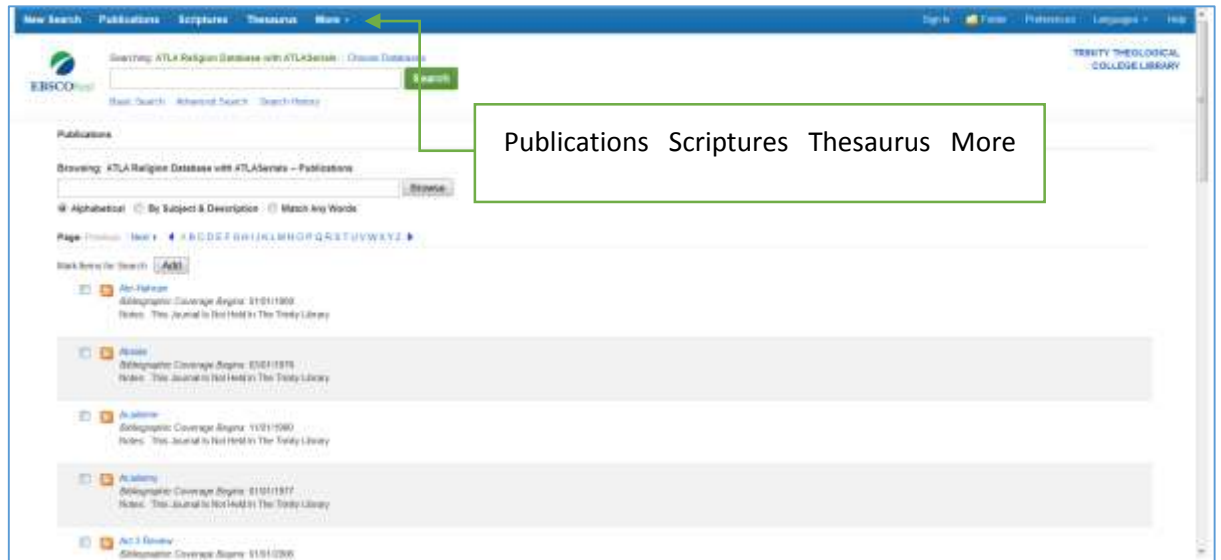


Fig. 4

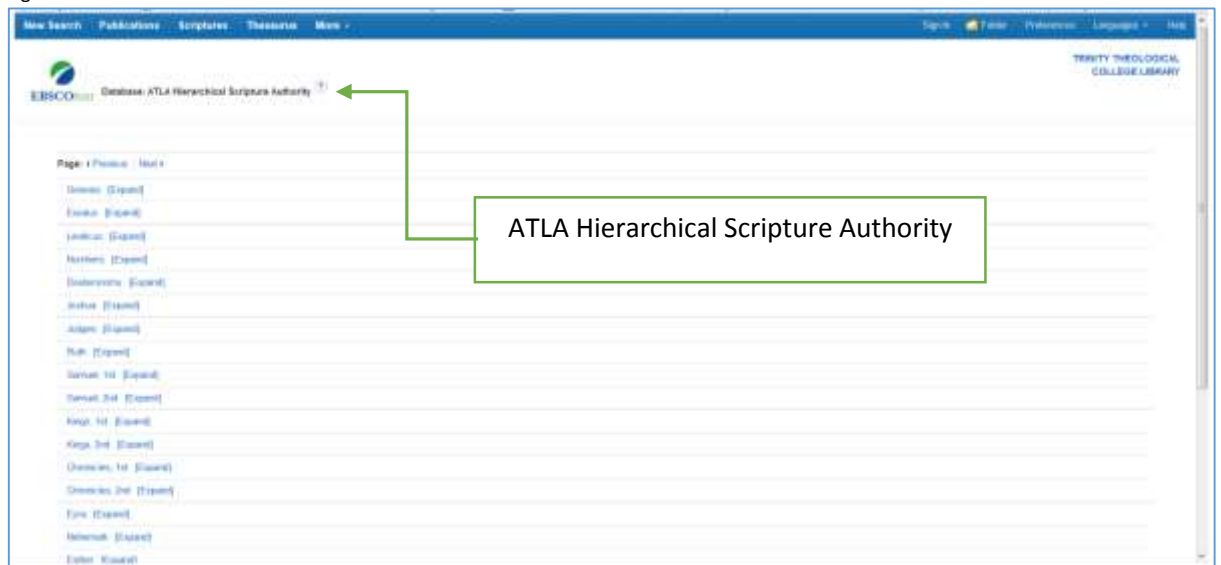


Fig. 5

You can search the Scriptural citation by chapter and verse (Figs. 4 & 5).

5. There is also an **Explode** function under Thesaurus (Fig. 6) which retrieves all references indexed to that term and all references indexed to any narrower subject term. Some topics allow this Explode function. Finally, there is a **Major Concept** function which will retrieve all references indexed to your term and all articles for which the subject heading is a major point of the article.

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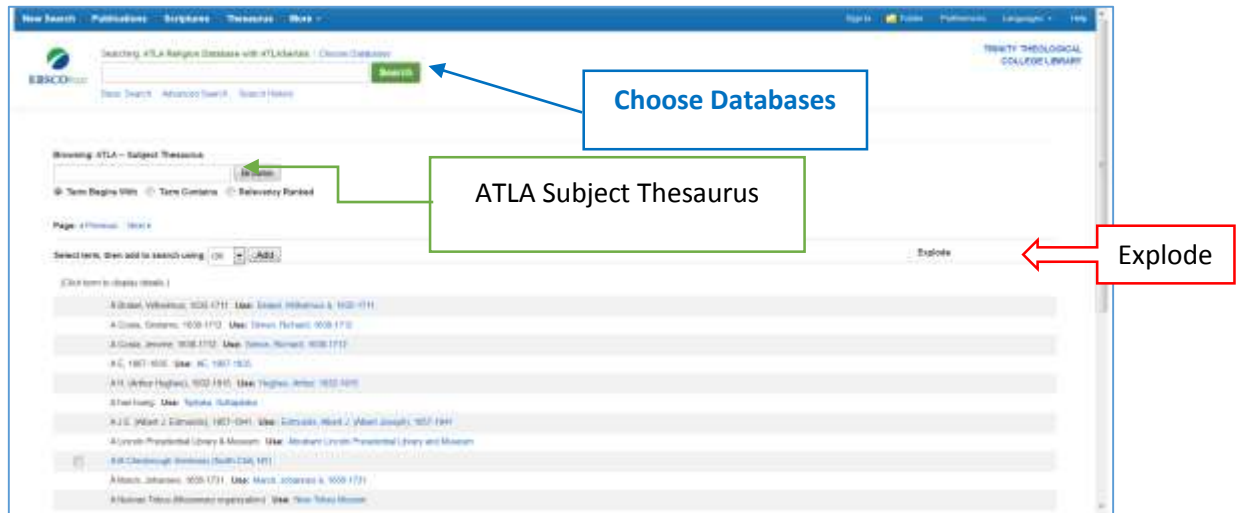


Fig. 6

6. You have an option to **choose databases** (ATLA Religion Database Index, ATLA serials and the Religion and Philosophy Collection).
7. Search tip: If you are searching for a topic, search the topic/phrase in subject, and also in title with the Boolean search term OR so that either would come up, which will make the search wider.
8. After retrieving the results, you can **refine** the search, either limiting it with full text, publication date, source types, subject or language, or year, or scholarly journal and so on using the menu on the left. There are several ways to deal with the results: you can view or share the results by print, email, save multiple items. See the links on the right in share: you can add to folder, create an alert, use permalink (Fig. 7)

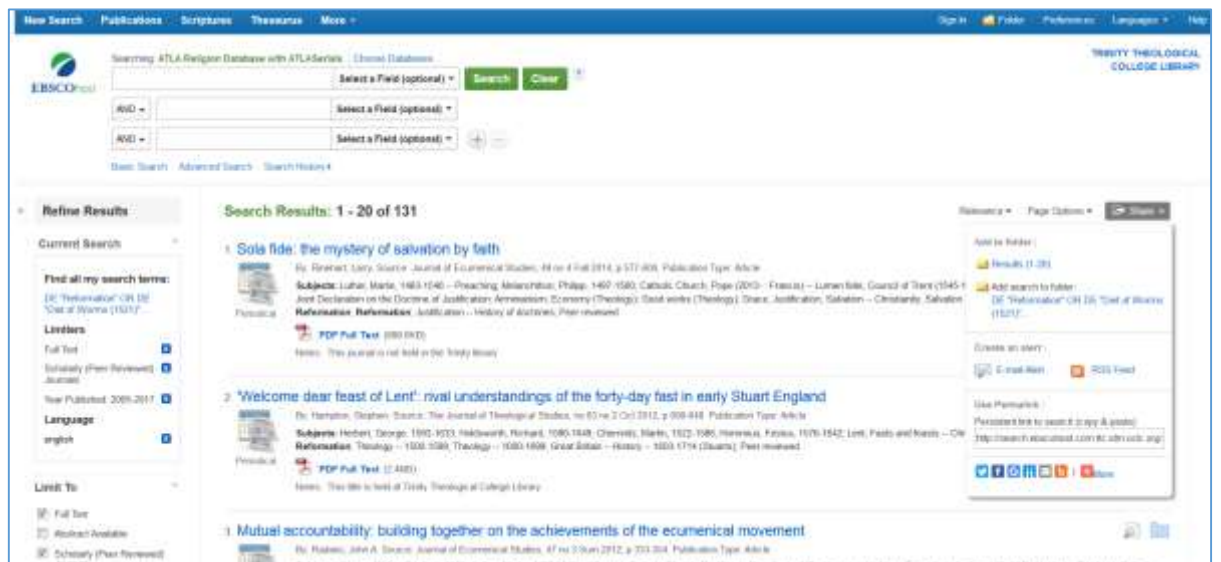


Fig. 7

9. Within the **results list**, you can also change the page options (fig. 8) including format, layout, results per page, image quickview, and can list results according to relevance, oldest, newest, source and author. Click on **PDF Full Text** to read the article (fig. 9). Within the article you can search for your keyword. You can share, print, email, cite, put them in a folder, export, permalink it, or google drive it. The icons are on the right. Top right hand also allows you to download or copy it. You can also view other articles in the journal (left hand column).

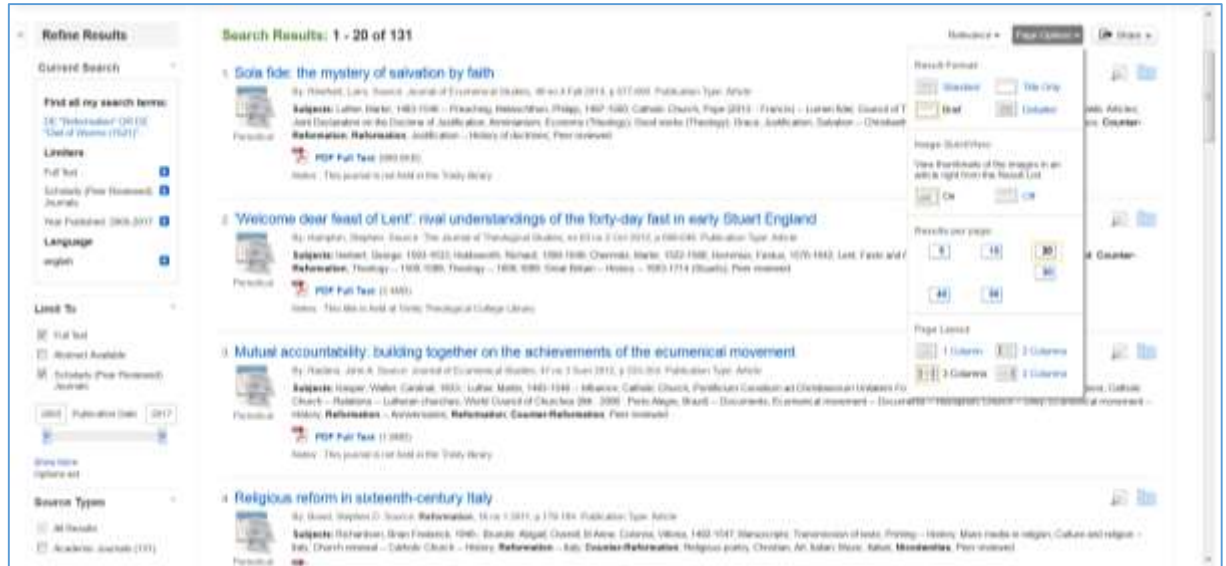


Fig. 8

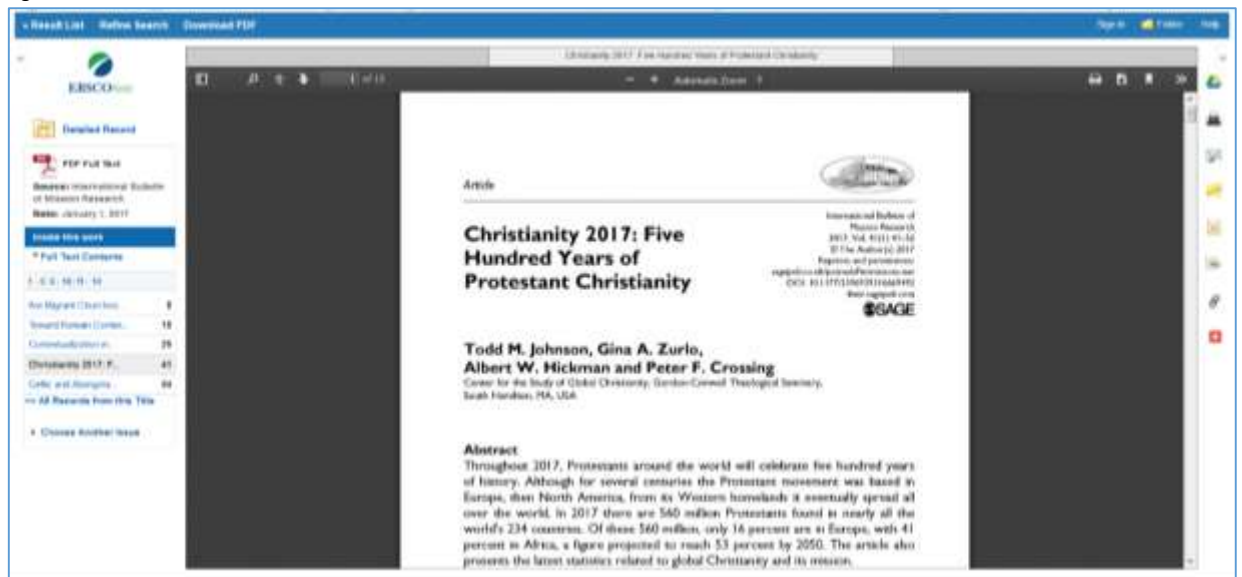


Fig. 9

10. If there is no full text but the title is held in TTC library, you can go to the shelves to locate it.
11. Book reviews give you information about books and their contents, which may be in the library and useful for your assignments. Besides journal articles and book reviews, there are also collections of essays.
12. Use HELP on top right corner if you are unsure about anything. You can also save your preferences for a future session. You can create an account to keep your searches and results for future use as well. The Search History can be used for adding or combining more or different terms to searches or refining searches.