

**What Counts as a “Source” for Biblical Studies Research and What Doesn’t**

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***What Counts***

* Academic journal articles (Within past 10 years), peer-reviewed
* Commentaries written within the past 20 years (You should include at least 1 or 2 that are within the past 5 years).
* Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias published by credible publishers (examples: *Oxford Companion to the Bible*, IVP Dictionary Series such as *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets,* [**The IVP Bible Dictionary Series**](http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code%3D2900); *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, etc.)
* Published academic books pertinent to the topic/book under evaluation (Author should have a Ph.D. in the field of Old Testament or New Testament).

For additional suggestions, talk with the librarian at Ambrose Library.

***What Does Not Count***

* Blogs
* Wikipedia
* Articles written by laity or pastors who do not hold Ph.D.s in Old or New Testament studies.
* Internet articles that are not part of an established peer-reviewed journal.
* Study Bible notes (They are great for your personal devotions, but not for academic papers!)
* Commentaries older than 30 years (no Matthew Henry Commentary, for example).

***Additional Information***

* The Bible counts as a primary source and therefore does not count as a secondary source when I am counting how many secondary sources you are using.
* Your textbook does not count toward the secondary sources, but may be used for information in your papers. However, avoid using introductory textbooks as your *main source* as they tend to give you more surface-level explanations. When your textbook is used, it should be referenced in the footnotes and bibliography.