

ATLA and ATLA Serials: a quick guide

ATLA is a bibliographic database. In other words, it acts as a searchable index (like the library catalogue), but does not usually provide access to the full text online. It is the most comprehensive index to journal literature in the field of theology and religion, covering c. 1500 titles, some of them going back to the beginning of the last century.

Some or all of the full text is available for c. 160 titles. This is the ATLA Serials component. There is some overlap between this list and the list of c. 300 titles available through Ebsco's Religion & Philosophy Collection (I counted 44 titles on both). But the exact coverage is not necessarily the same, and in my experience is rather unpredictable. The coverage is more likely to go back further on ATLA Serials, but the embargo on recent issues tends to be shorter on Ebsco's Religion & Philosophy Collection.

Because ATLA is also supplied by Ebsco, the search interface is very similar to that of the Religion & Philosophy Collection. The main features operate in much the same way:

Search functions

The basic search – enter a keyword or phrase

The advanced search – enter keywords or phrases and select a field

Limit your search:

- by year of publication
- to peer reviewed journals
- to a particular journal title
- to a particular document type e.g. book reviews
- to articles indexed with a particular Subject Heading

You can also:

- browse the indexes by clicking on Indexes
- save articles to a folder – click on Add to folder
- print, e-mail, or save results
- sign in to your personal account to save results for future use and set up email alerts – click on Sign in

And a new feature, particular to ATLA:

- browse the Scripture Citation index by clicking on Scriptures