

BOOK REVIEWS
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2016/17

"Book reviews hold a unique place in the structure of scholarly literature. They are generally the first published comments and critiques of new works. Usually written by subject specialists in the same field, these mini-essays, tucked in the final pages of the learned journals, often probe the title's thesis, identify the author's interlocutors, compare the book with others in the same area, and recommend it to a variety of audiences. A comparison of several carefully written reviews is a splendid way to gain a synopsis of a work and assess its usefulness for a given assignment."--*Renewals*, v. 3 #2, Nov. 1979.

ATLA Religion Database

Indexes book reviews from about 500 journals in theological and biblical studies from 1949 (some earlier) to date and is the first place to search for book reviews in these fields. Includes the indexing from the print volumes of *Religion Index One* (1975-1985) and *Index to Book Reviews in Religion* (1949-74 & 1986-99). These can be searched through EBSCOhost. **Do not use this database in this assignment.** Reviews of books on this assignment are not indexed in this database.

PER.205/B582a. *Elenchus of Biblica*

Although a good source of reviews for books written on biblical subjects, **do not use** *Elenchus* in this assignment. This feature is noted in the *Elenchus* assignment.

Philosopher's Index

Began indexing book reviews in 1970. Database available through EBSCOhost. **Do not use in this assignment.** This feature is noted in the Philosophy of Religion, Apologetics & Ethics assignment.

INDEX.016.2/C555. *Christian Periodical Index*, 1956- .

Book reviews indexed in the back of each volume (1961-2004). Indexing of material from 1982 (and some earlier) to present and retrospective indexing for some volumes not indexed in the print version are available online through EBSCOhost.

INDEX.016.282/C363. *Catholic Periodical & Literature Index*

Vol. 1-13 published as *Catholic Periodical Index*. Began including reviews with Vol. 2. Book reviews have been listed in different places through the years: in the main listing under the author's name, v. 2-4, 1934-48; v. 7-13, 1952-66; under the subject heading "Book Reviews" arranged by title, v. 5-6, 1948-52; and in back as a separate listing arranged by author, v. 14-20, 1967/68-1979/80. Indexing of material from 1981 to present is available online through EBSCOhost.

200/C934. *Critical Review of Books in Religion*. 1988-98.

An annual that contained "serious critical reviews of books which [were] important for a broad range of scholars in the field of religious studies." Besides evaluating individual books, also contained review articles assessing scholarly works on a single topic or in a specific field. These reviews are indexed in the ATLA Religion database.

PER.220/R454. *Review of Biblical Literature*. 1999- .

"The most comprehensive review of monographic literature (English & foreign language) in the field of biblical and related studies, as well as of reference works, commentaries, dictionaries, text editions, and biblical translations." The goal is a "comprehensive coverage in a timely fashion" frequently providing "multiple, contrasting reviews of some of the most important works in the field." The print version appears annually and includes only some (between 150 and 160) of the reviews added to the database each year. Before the *Journal of Biblical Literature* ceased including book reviews at the end of 2006, some of its reviews appeared in the database. In 2015 the Society of Biblical Literature began restricting access to the database to members only.