

## Biblical Research: Databases Guide

When you want to learn more about a topic, online databases are a good way to find what you need. This guide will go through the research process step by step. The purpose is two-fold: ability to search for articles on a database, and ability to locate better articles for a particular topic of interest.

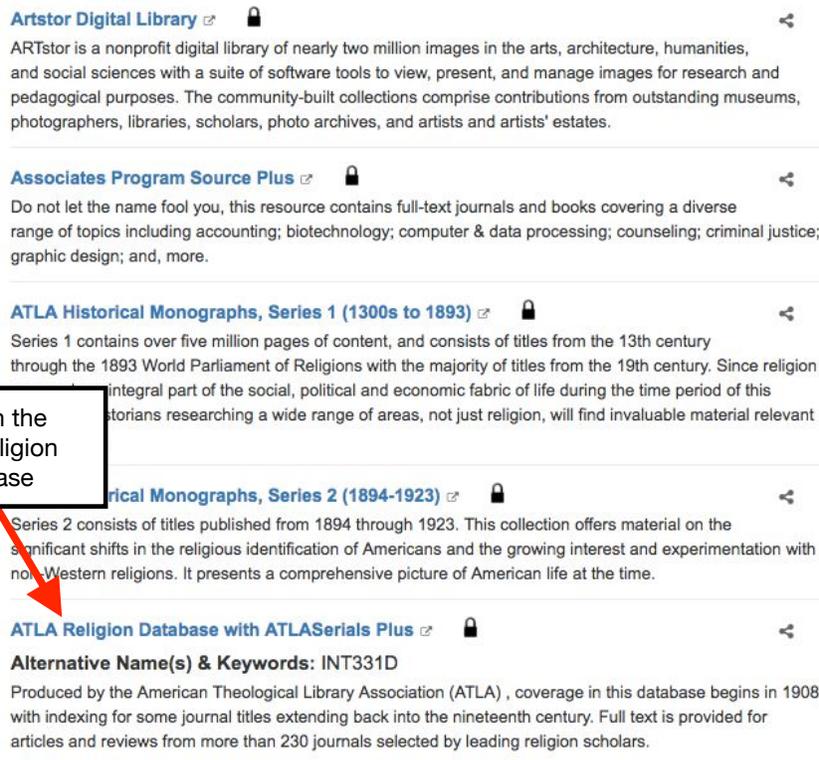
### Step 1: Enter Databases

First, log onto the Massland library website. Then click on the databases tab toward the top of the page. (Consult picture below)



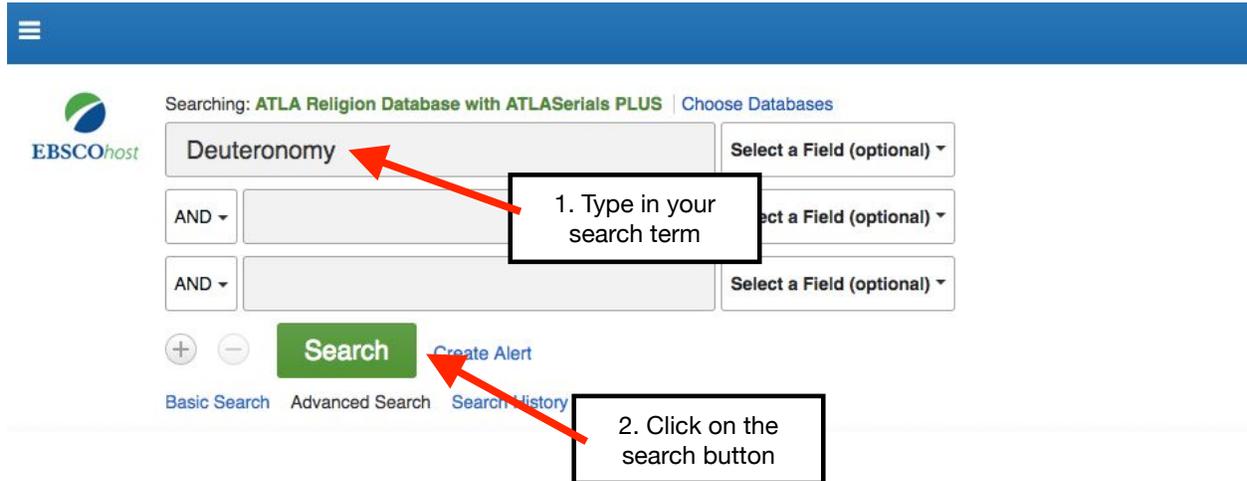
### Step 2: Click ATLA Religion Database

On the databases page, there is a long list of databases that are available to Cairn students. This guide will explain how to use two of these databases. The first is ATLA Religion Database. To access it, please scroll down and click on ATLA Religion Database. It is one from the bottom of the 'A' databases. (Consult the image below).



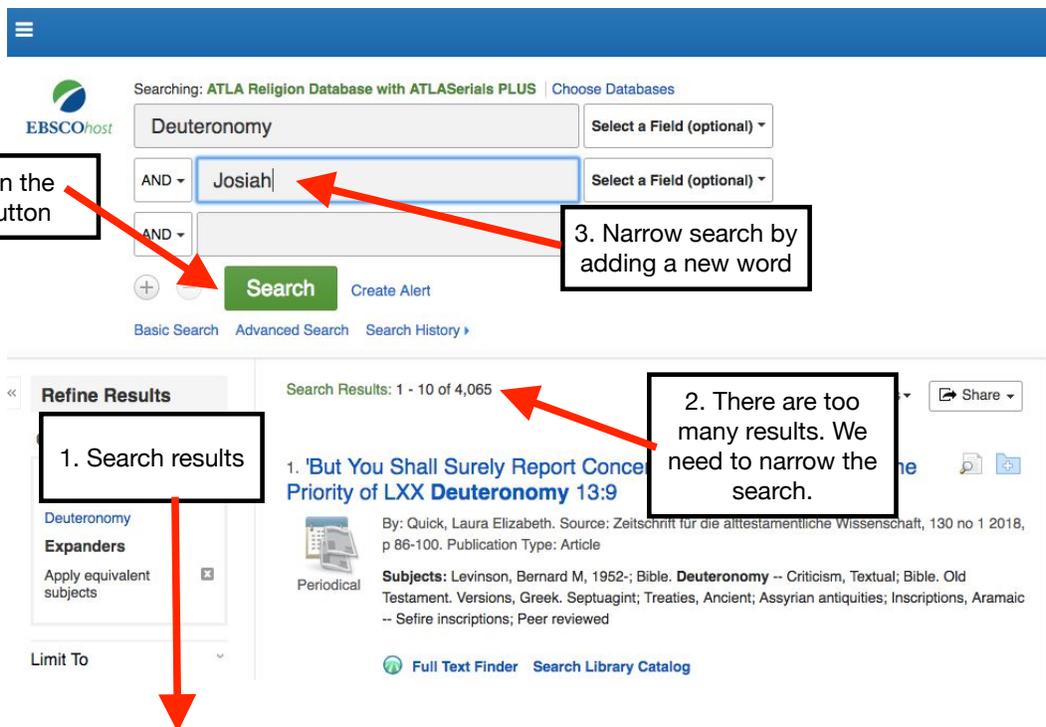
### Step 3: Search for Your Desired Topic

From within the Atlas database, you can find articles by adding search terms. First, click on the top, empty box on the left of the page. Then type in your search word. For this guide, I want to find articles on the book of Deuteronomy and Josiah's reforms, so I will type in the word Deuteronomy and click on the search button.



### Step 4: Narrow Search Results

After you click search, all of your results will appear on the screen. The number of results will be listed on the side. Because Deuteronomy is such a large topic, over 4,000 related articles have been found in the database. You will not have time to read 4,000 articles, so you will need to narrow the search. One way of doing this is adding a new search term. Since the topic of this guide is Deuteronomy and Josiah's reforms, in the empty box under Deuteronomy, type Josiah and click the search button. (Consult the image below)



### Step 5: Refine Search Even More

In the new search, there are only 49 results. This is a more manageable number to sort through to find an applicable article. However, if you want to conduct an even more specific search, you can add additional search terms, or you can even search a particular author. However, for the sake of this guide, I am going to click on the first article because it has the option to see the full text. It should turn blue once you click it.

The screenshot shows a search results page with a 'Refine Results' sidebar on the left. The sidebar includes 'Current Search' with the Boolean/Phrase 'Deuteronomy AND Josiah', 'Expanders' with 'Apply equivalent subjects', and 'Limit To' with checkboxes for 'Full Text', 'Abstract Available', and 'Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals'. A date range from 1902 to 2014 is also visible. The main search results area shows 'Search Results: 1 - 10 of 49'. The first result is titled '1. No future without Moses: the disastrous end of 2 Kings 22-25 and the chance of the Moab covenant (Deuteronomy 29-30)'. A red arrow points to the text '1. Reduced number of search results' which points to the '1 - 10 of 49' text. Another red arrow points to the article title, with a box containing the text '2. Click on the article title'. Below the title, there is a 'PDF Full Text (590923 bytes)' link. The second result is titled '2. Deuteronomy 12 and the law of the central sanctuary noch einmal'.

### Step 6: Open the Article

Clicking on the article will bring you to details about the article. This will be particularly helpful when writing your Works Cited page. To open up the article, click on “PDF Full Text” on the left.

The screenshot shows the 'Detailed Record' page for the article 'No future without Moses: the disastrous end of 2 Kings 22-25 and the chance of the Moab covenant (Deuteronomy 29-30)'. The page includes a 'PDF Full Text (590923 bytes)' link on the left, with a red arrow pointing to it and a box containing the text 'Click this to open the article'. The main content area displays the article title and a list of metadata: Authors: Markl, Dominik; Source: Journal of Biblical Literature, 133 no 4 2014, p 711-728; Physical Description: illustration; ISSN: 0021-9231; Publication Year: 2014; Language: English; Subjects: Moses, (Biblical leader); Josiah, King of Judah; Bible. Deuteronomy 29-34; Bible. Kings II 18-25; Covenants -- Biblical teaching; Blessing and cursing in the Bible; Deuteronomists; Scripture Citation: Kings, 2nd 22; Deuteronomy 29-30. On the right side, there is a 'Tools' section with various options: Google Drive, Add to folder, Print, E-mail, Save, Cite, Export, Create Note, Permalink, and Share.

## Step 7: Save Article

Once you open the article, you have a couple options. First, you can print the article right away by clicking on the printer icon to the right of the article. However, if the article is long, you may not want to do this. The second option is saving the article somewhere on your computer. This is done by hovering your cursor over the top right of the screen until a bar of options appears. One of them is to save the PDF anywhere on your computer so you can retrieve it later. (Consult the picture below).

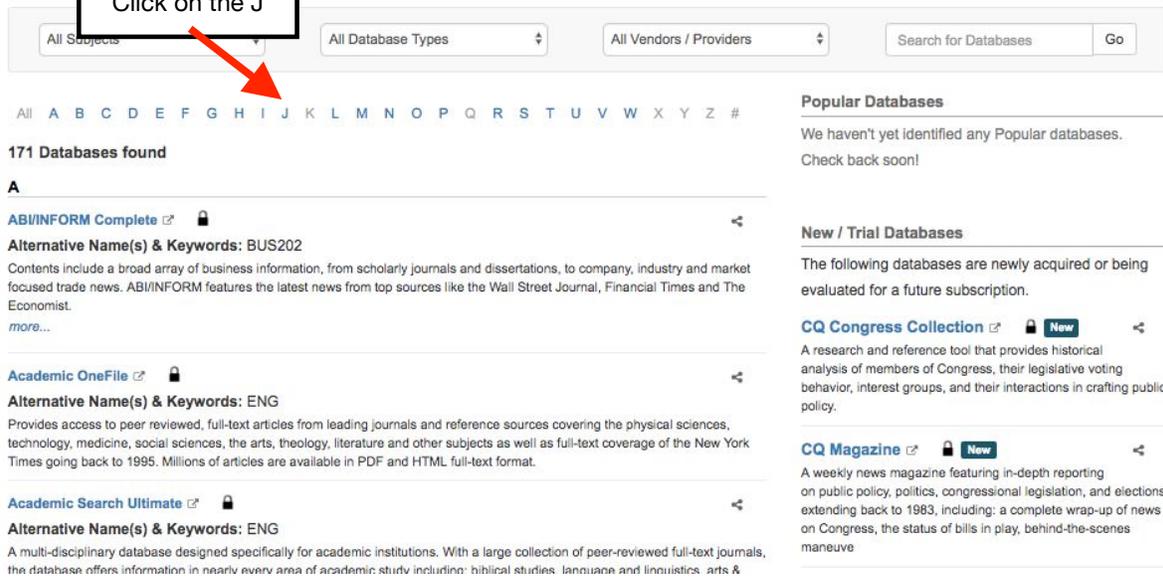
The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost interface for an article. On the left is a sidebar with a 'Detailed Record' section containing metadata: 'PDF Full Text', 'Source: Journal of Biblical Literature', and 'Date: January 1, 2014'. Below this is a table of contents with entries like 'The origins of the f...' (689) and 'No future without Mo...' (711). The main content area displays the article title 'No Future without Moses: The Disastrous End of 2 Kings 22-25 and the Chance of the Moabites (Deuteronomy 29-30)', author 'DOMINIK MARKL', and a short abstract. On the right side, a dark overlay contains a 'Download' button and a 'Print icon'. A text box with a red arrow points to the top right corner, stating: 'Hover your cursor over the screen until this bar appears and select the download button'. Another red arrow points to the 'Print icon' with a label 'Print icon'.

**Step 8: Go to the JSTOR Database and Click on the J**

Now that you understand how to use ATLA to retrieve articles, it is time to explain JSTOR. JSTOR is another database that you will find helpful when doing Biblical research. Since many of the search processes are the same, this part of the guide will primarily focus on the steps that are different when finding and selecting an article from JSTOR. First, go to the database section of the Masland library page (consult Step 1). You will see an alphabet spread across the top of the page. Click on the J (for JSTOR).

**A-Z Databases**

Find the best library databases for your research.



The screenshot shows the 'A-Z Databases' page. At the top, there is a search bar with 'All Subjects' selected. Below the search bar is an alphabet spread from A to Z. A red arrow points from a callout box containing the text 'Click on the J' to the letter 'J' in the alphabet spread. Below the alphabet spread, the text '171 Databases found' is visible. The first database listed is 'ABI/INFORM Complete', followed by 'Academic OneFile' and 'Academic Search Ultimate'. On the right side, there are sections for 'Popular Databases' and 'New / Trial Databases'.

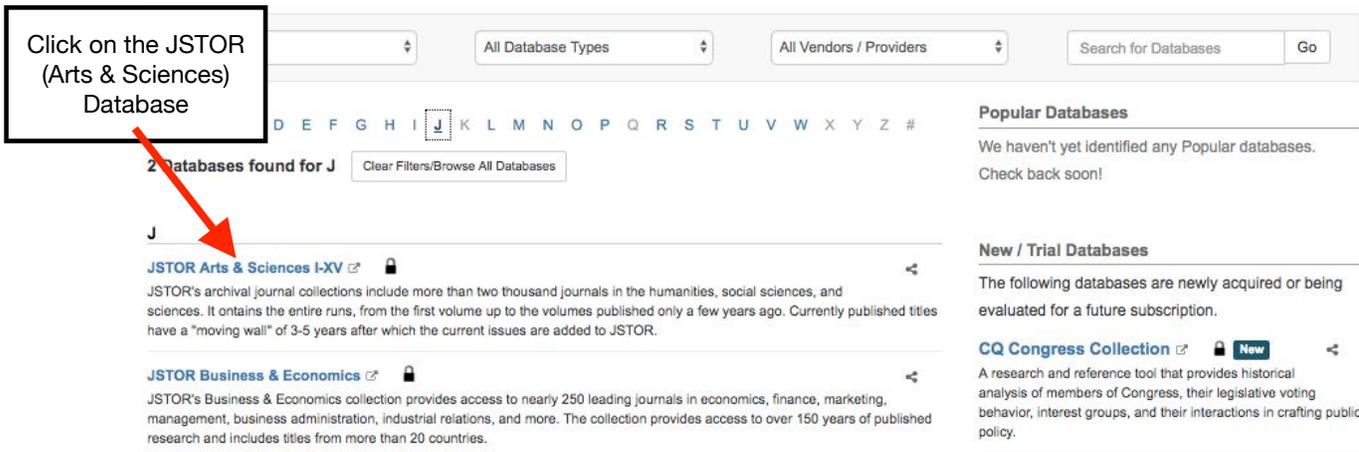
**Step 9: Click on the JSTOR Database**

After you hit the J, the database listed will be JSTOR. Click on it

Library Home Page / LibGuides / A-Z Databases

**A-Z Databases: J**

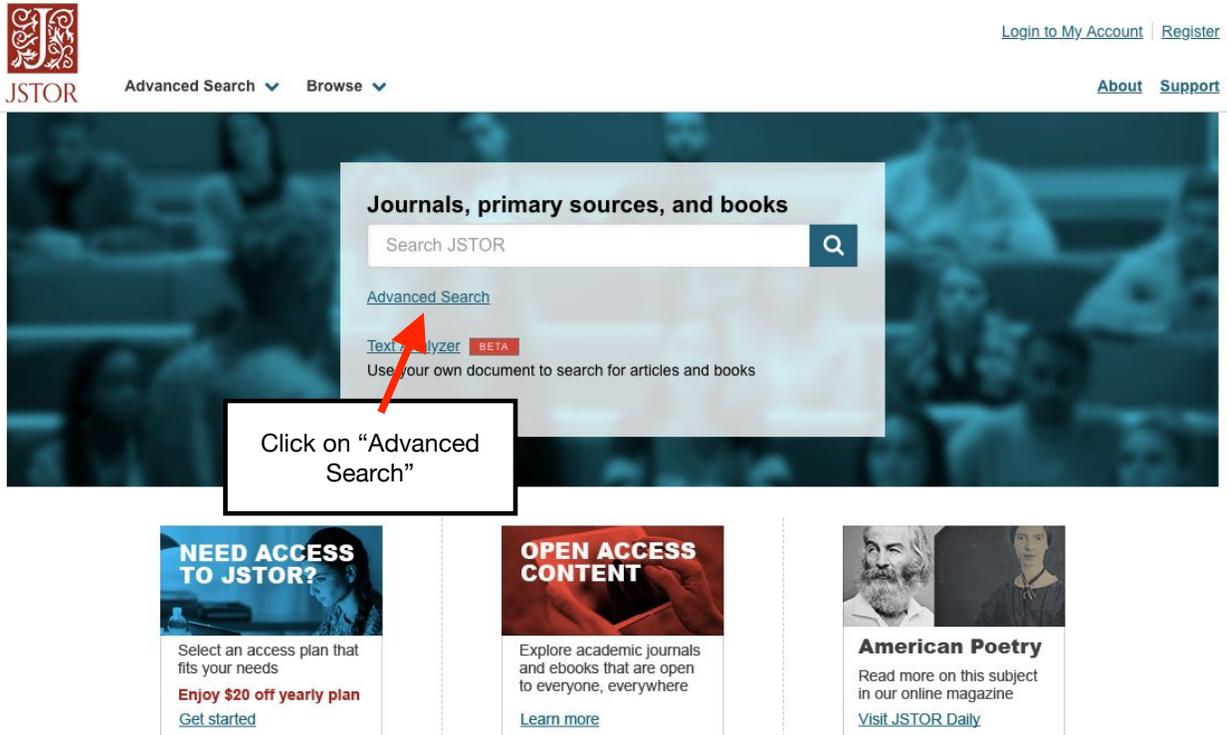
Find the best library databases for your research.



The screenshot shows the 'A-Z Databases: J' page. At the top, there is a search bar with 'All Database Types' selected. Below the search bar is an alphabet spread from A to Z. A red arrow points from a callout box containing the text 'Click on the JSTOR (Arts & Sciences) Database' to the letter 'J' in the alphabet spread. Below the alphabet spread, the text '2 Databases found for J' is visible. The first database listed is 'JSTOR Arts & Sciences I-XV', followed by 'JSTOR Business & Economics'. On the right side, there are sections for 'Popular Databases' and 'New / Trial Databases'.

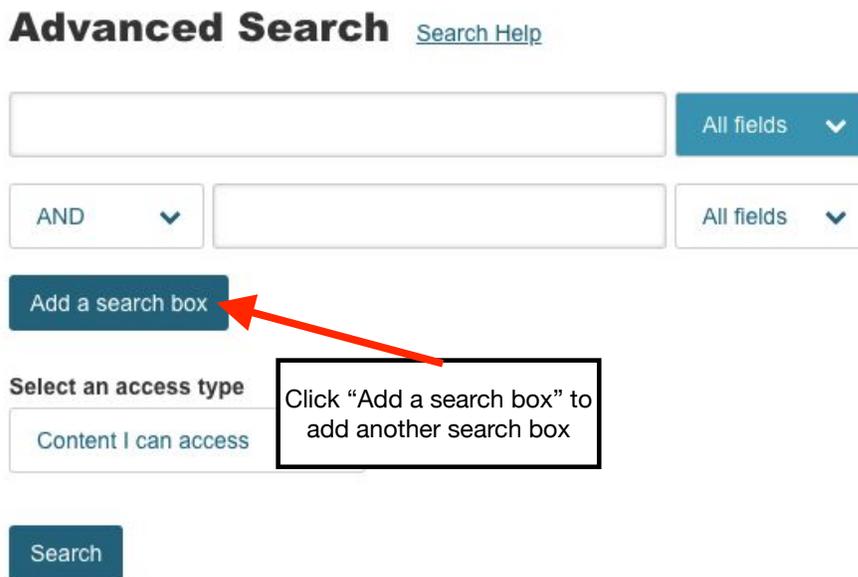
**Step 10:** Click on “Advanced Search”

The JSTOR layout is very different from ATLA. To make it more similar, click on “Advanced Search” underneath the large, empty search box. (Consult picture below)



**Step 11:** Click “Add a Search Box” to add another search box

Now, the search layout is similar to ATLA. If you want to add additional search boxes, just click on the “Add a Search Box” button underneath the two search boxes. (Consult image below)



## Step 12: Click on the Article

For this search, I am going to use the terms, Deuteronomy, Josiah's Reformation, and High Places. (Remember that it is important to use specific words to narrow your search) When several articles appear, you should quickly look through them to see which ones are applicable. The first one may not be the best article for your topic. You can skim through an article to see if it is applicable by opening it. In this case, I am going to open the first article.

The screenshot shows a search results interface. On the left is a 'Refine Results' sidebar with sections for 'Search Within Results', 'Content Type' (Journals, Books), 'Publication Date' (From/To), and 'Subject'. The main area displays 'Showing 1-25 of 75 search results'. The first result is a journal article titled 'Deuteronomy and Centralization' by Frederick E. Greenspahn, published in *Vetus Testamentum*. A red arrow points from a text box that says 'Click on the article name to open it up' to the article title. To the right of the article are buttons for 'Download PDF', 'Save', and 'Cite this Item'. The second result is 'B) The Case for the Post-Exilic Origin of Deuteronomy' by Lewis Bayles Paton, published in *Journal of Biblical Literature*. It also has 'Download PDF', 'Save', and 'Cite this Item' buttons.

## Step 13: Preview the Article

When you scroll down, you will see the article. You can change pages by clicking the forward or backward arrows at either side of the page. (Consult image below)

The screenshot shows a preview of the article 'Deuteronomy and Centralization'. At the top left is the page number '228' and at the top right is the author's name 'GREENSPAHN'. The main text discusses the dating of Deuteronomy based on sacrificial practices. At the bottom of the page, there are two text boxes with arrows: 'Go Back a Page' with a left-pointing arrow and 'Go Forward a Page' with a right-pointing arrow. The article text is framed by a light grey border.

### Step 14: Save Article

To save or print the article, scroll to the top of the page and click on “Download PDF”. This will open the PDF so you can save it just like in ATLA. (Consult Step 8 if you have any questions about saving an article on JSTOR)

The screenshot shows a JSTOR article page. At the top right, there are three buttons: 'Share', 'Save', and 'Download PDF'. A red arrow points from the 'Save' button to the 'Download PDF' button. A black box with the text 'Click "Download PDF"' is positioned over the 'Download PDF' button. The article title is 'Deuteronomy and Centralization' by Frederick E. Greenspahn. The journal is 'Vetus Testamentum', Vol. 64, Fasc. 2 (2014), pp. 227-235 (9 pages). The publisher is Brill. The article is available in PDF format. The URL is https://www.jstor.org/stable/43894132. The article is 1 of 9 pages. There are 71 search matches. The article is published by Brill. The article is available in PDF format. The article is available in PDF format. The article is available in PDF format.

**Conclusion:** If you follow the steps of this guide, you should be able to find and save articles that are applicable and meaningful to your topic of research.