



The Henry Luce Foundation Awards Grant to the Society of Biblical Literature

We are pleased to announce that the Henry Luce Foundation has awarded a grant in the amount of \$40,000 to the Society of Biblical Literature to explore the scope, feasibility, and design of a new research platform for scholars, publishers, librarians, as well as other stakeholders in humanities and social science research and teaching.

The SBL seeks to develop this platform by building upon SBL's publishing strengths, its membership base, and its network of publishers. The platform would extend the reach of the discipline of biblical studies, expand its impact in higher education, highlight the study of sacred texts and traditions in theological education, resource underserved regions, and foster a network of disciplines in interdisciplinary scholarship.

The fields associated with the study of sacred texts and traditions that SBL represents are particularly well suited to develop this platform. Biblical studies, religious studies, and theology are fields that incorporate a wide range of disciplines that are of interest across higher education, such as history, literature, sociology, and anthropology. The global impact of religion and theology in all aspects of modern life and the increasing role of SBL membership in the southern hemisphere and global south make the Society an ideal laboratory for this project.

This exploratory grant will help SBL envision and define what it is tentatively calling SBLCentral. The research platform would provide access to specialized content, including books, reviews, journal abstracts, and conference papers, and would deliver custom alerts to users when new research-specific resources are published.

We will keep members informed of this initiative, as scholars within and outside of SBL think about the many opportunities this initiative will offer and the many audiences it will serve.

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