

Subject: SBL, Technology, and Social Media

Driven by our tech-savvy members and staff, for over two decades SBL has invested consistently and substantially in technology as a means to foster biblical scholarship, improve service to members, and engage the public with the work of our guild. You can visit the Internet Archive's [Wayback Machine](#) to see the history and evolution of the main SBL website. Attention to our web presence is ongoing, and members can anticipate a new interim design in January 2016, which will lead to a wholly new design later that year. Besides our official websites (www.sbl-site.org, www.bookreviews.org, and www.bibleodyssey.org), we reach members and the public through SBL and Bible Odyssey Twitter accounts (@SBLsite, @bibleodyssey).

A number of committees and cohorts in SBL (e.g., SBL Student Members, the Professional Development Committee, the Status of Women in the Professions Committee) effectively use Facebook groups—some open, some closed—to facilitate their work and communication.

Last year, SBL developed a [Social Media Code of Conduct](#) to provide guidance for SBL and its members, including official and unofficial outlets for social media. Last month, SBL took steps to close an unofficial Facebook group, due to concerns that it needed more administrative support and resources, and we [explained](#) the reasons for that action. Shortly after that, another group sprang up, and members themselves took steps to refocus it when its postings did not reflect the mission and core values of SBL.

But please stay tuned, and even better, please offer input on how best to purposefully, sustainably, and responsibly serve members through social media. In consultation with SBL Council, committees, staff, and members, we are preparing for the launch of an official SBL Facebook group in order to serve members, intersect with scholars in other guilds, and present the work of scholarship to the general public. We encourage your feedback as we plan the resources and guidelines for this membership service at the end of this year. Feel free to write me at SBLExec@sbl-site.org.

Best,

John F. Kutsko
Executive Director