

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

SBL has a long history of providing important tools and resources for its members, including the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, over two dozen book series, reference works, *The SBL Handbook of Style*, the SBL Unicode fonts, and, most recently, BibleOdyssey.org.

One of these tools, the [Review of Biblical Literature](#), was launched in 1998. Two decades ago, *RBL* responded to a field with a high publishing output and highly specialized subfields. It did so by building an online platform and editorial process that removed the limits on the number of books reviews that had been previously published in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and decreased the time between a book's publication and the publication of its review. *RBL* is now used more than half a million times per year by scholars. It has published over 9,000 reviews, equal to about 33,000 pages of print.

Building on *RBL*'s strengths and recognizing new challenges, three years ago SBL undertook a new phase in its evolution that will harness more technology, more content, and more community. This highly customized and automated research platform, called **SBLCentral**, will provide access to more scholarly communication—including books, book reviews, journal articles, and conference papers—and will deliver custom alerts to users when new subject-specific resources are published or produced. SBLCentral will be indispensable to scholarly research and writing by creating granular discovery of content keyed to the field's specializations. It will especially serve scholars in underresourced areas of the world as well as the growing number of contingent faculty and independent scholars who do not have access to the most up-to-date, subscription-based discovery tools.

Imagine a 24/7/365 book exhibit hall. Even better, imagine your own personal, digital research assistant who finds the books in that book exhibit hall for you. Imagine the SBL site helping you construct bibliographies, then format and save them. All content in SBLCentral will be tagged to member specializations. So imagine, too, being alerted to research—books, chapters of books, articles, and conference papers—newly available in your areas of interest. Besides searching and browsing, imagine these alerts delivered to your inbox—what, when, and how you want them.

You can also imagine that this cannot happen without support. While SBLCentral will be open to all academic publishers, as is *RBL*, the following publishers and organizations have become Foundation Sponsors to help SBL build SBLCentral:



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A fundamental role SBL plays is to facilitate the work of an entire ecosystem, supporting the delicate environment of scholars, publishers, libraries, and learned societies. SBLCentral will build a bridge between publishers and scholars, helping members stay up to date, find current research more comprehensively and efficiently, and facilitate the use of other specialized archives and databases, such as ATLA Religion Database® with ATLASerials PLUS™.

Please recognize the investment these organizations have made in you and in SBL. With their support, we are on our way. The development of SBLCentral began November 2017, and two decades after the launch of *RBL*, SBLCentral will be born.