



Let's Chat AI: An Experiment In Using ChatGPT in Theological Librarianship

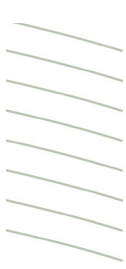
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Introduction

When Gareth Bezett delivered his talk, *Artificial Intelligence and Theological Libraries*, at the 2023 ANZTLA Conference, it sparked many exciting ideas on the ways generative AI tools like ChatGPT could assist in my everyday library work. Up until that point, discussions I'd heard about AI had largely focused on its potential pitfalls, especially concerns about students misusing it for essay writing. But Gareth's presentation opened up new possibilities—what if AI could be more than just a novelty or a problem to manage? What if it could be a partner?

Inspired, I started brainstorming all the tasks I could delegate to an AI assistant. My initial experiments, however, were disappointing. For each of my brilliant ideas ChatGPT replied either “it seems that functionality isn't enabled” or “I currently don't have real-time access...” Each time it followed this rejection with “However, you can easily ...”. If even these ‘easy’ tasks were beyond the AI, I started to lose faith in its ability to do anything useful. Frustrated, I shelved the idea.



Everything changed in 2024 with the release of GPT4.0, a more advanced version of ChatGPT: it was like OpenAI, the makers of ChatGPT, had heard all my cries of frustration and produced this as their answer. Armed with renewed curiosity, I decided to explore how much it could be tailored to librarian work. The result was a mix of frustrations, breakthroughs, and lessons learned.

This article shares my journey of experimenting with ChatGPT as a theological library assistant. It explores its practical applications, the process of customisation, and the challenges inherent in working with AI. Along the way, I hope to provide insights and inspiration for other librarians curious about integrating AI into their own contexts.

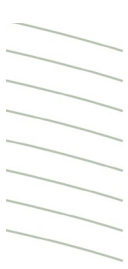
The Double-Edged Design of Generative AI

What is AI?

AI is like the MacGyver of computer programs. Where traditional software sees a paperclip and thinks, ‘That’s for holding papers together,’ AI sees endless possibilities: ‘That could disarm a bomb.’ That’s because AI doesn’t rely on rigid instructions like traditional programs. Instead, it learns from data, identifies patterns, and applies its knowledge in creative and flexible ways to solve problems—even ones it hasn’t encountered before. This ability to think outside the box (or the paperclip) is what sets AI apart. Generative AI (Gen AI) takes this adaptability a bold step further: it creates. By predicting patterns and assembling possibilities, it generates entirely new content: from Shakespearean sonnets about shopping lists to images of your dog in a three piece suit. While this creativity opens up incredible possibilities, it also reveals the inherent limitations of a system that relies on probabilities rather than true understanding—making Generative AI as frustrating as it is fascinating.

Why Generative AI is Frustrating

For all its strengths, Gen AI can feel like working with a mad scientist: brilliant, yes, but maddeningly unpredictable: just as likely to change the world as to turn breakfast into slime. Its



design - taught to create probabilities rather than store facts - means it doesn't think or work like you might expect, and this can lead to plenty of frustration if you're not prepared.

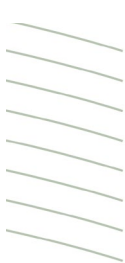
The first surprise I hit was that Gen AI has no memory of both what it was trained on or your interactions. When asked a question, it doesn't search its knowledge for information, rather it generates a 'new' answer based on what is statistically most likely. Similarly, every interaction starts fresh, with no recollection of what you've told it before. This is quite disheartening if you've spent a lot of time 'training' it to do a task: open a new chat and it's back to square one.

The second part I still work to get my head around is that it doesn't "understand" anything, from your question to its answer. Gen AI works with 'tokens,' which are chunks of text - words, parts of words, or even punctuation. Each part has no meaning, only a pattern. So, while this allows it to generate creative results, it also means it has no sense of whether they are sensible or appropriate to the context. You may assume that if you request book recommendations the books should actually exist, but if you haven't stated this the AI won't take it into account.

Finally, Gen AI can be frustratingly overconfident, even when completely wrong. Further, as its response is based on probability, the answer always sounds plausible. This overconfidence can make it difficult to immediately spot errors, especially when dealing with unfamiliar topics. This means you have to approach its output critically, verifying information before relying on it.

Balancing Frustration and Advantage

While Gen AI's quirks can be frustrating, these same limitations are what give it its strengths. Its lack of memory ensures your data isn't stored or reused, offering privacy and safety for sensitive tasks. Its reliance on probabilities rather than rigid rules allows it to adapt flexibly to a wide variety of prompts and contexts, doing things traditional systems simply can't. It can draft unique content, brainstorm fresh approaches, and help you think outside the box, making it perfect for tasks that require flexibility or originality.



The biggest lesson I probably learned is not to try to delegate entire tasks, but to ask the Gen AI for input throughout the process. Treat it as a capable but inexperienced assistant: if you give it clear guidelines, it can bring in fresh ideas and content. However, if you leave it up to itself to decide the best way to go about it, you may not like the end result.

When approached thoughtfully, Gen AI becomes more than just a computer program - it becomes a creative partner that enhances your work, helping you achieve results that neither of you could accomplish alone.

ChatGPT in Theological Libraries


Understanding ChatGPT Models and Features

Before diving into practical applications, it's important to understand the different versions of ChatGPT and the features they offer. OpenAI provides both free and paid accounts, each suited to different levels of use. Knowing these distinctions will help you choose the right account: either saving you money or giving you access to the features you need.

Paid vs Free Features

The free version provides access to the standard level model (it was GPT 3.5, but that is being retired for GPT 4) and occasionally the next model up, but it has limitations in availability and performance during peak times. Meanwhile, the paid version, ChatGPT Plus, offers consistent access to the latest models, faster response times, and additional tools like the ability to create custom GPTs (something we'll talk about more later). These differences can significantly impact your experience, especially for complex or context-sensitive tasks.

Here's a quick comparison of the two:

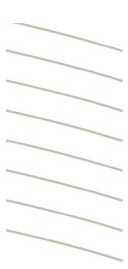


Feature	Free Account	ChatGPT Plus (\$30/month)
Model	Limited access to higher models (currently GPT 4o), but mainly standard model (currently GPT 4 or 3.5)	GPT-4o by default with the option to use other models, including the new GPT-o1 with advanced reasoning.
Speed & Availability	Slower during peak hours, drops to lower models.	Faster responses and priority access, even during peak times.
New Features	Limited access to new tools and updates.	Early and priority access to new features and improvements.
Custom GPTs	Cannot create GPTs but can use limited public ones.	Unlimited creation and use of custom GPTs.
Privacy	Conversations may be used for training unless opted out..	By default, data is not used for training.

Choosing the Right Account for Your Needs

For occasional use or simpler tasks that don't require specialised instructions, I recommend starting with a free account—you'll be surprised how much it can do. Even with the free account, I suggest signing up instead of using it without logging in; this way, it can store your conversations and unlock additional features.

However, if you're looking to tackle longer tasks without interruptions, specialise it for multiple uses, or get more serious about its capabilities, a paid account is worth considering. Personally, I initially opted for a paid account due to the privacy benefits; its restrictions on data usage for training made my IT officer much more comfortable.



Getting Started: Crafting Effective Prompts

Getting a response from ChatGPT is easy: type a question, and in seconds, you'll have an answer. But getting the *right* response, one that's accurate, relevant, and usable, requires more thoughtful interaction. Crafting precise prompts and refining the response can significantly improve the relevance and quality of its outputs.

Prompts are like the questions our patrons come to ask us. The better the question, the more useful our response will be. Take, for example, these two questions. Which would get the student a better result (and at the same time be less work for you):

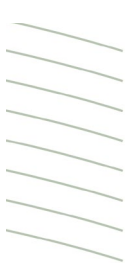
“Where are the books about Augustine?”

“I need an introductory book for my TH104 essay on Augustine's theology of the trinity.”

The strengths of the second is that it is clear, specific and has context.

When prompting, make the desired outcome clear: for both patrons the end desired result was books for their essay, however only the second one clearly stated that. If you make it clear exactly what you want the output to be, ChatGPT is much more likely to respond specifically to your request, rather than generalising what most people ask it for.

More specific prompts serve a double purpose with Gen AIs. In any information seeking session, being specific helps narrow down the search. In addition to this, because Gen AI works on probabilities, it is going to bring back very generic answers, unless you take it off the common highways. By adding specific details, it will no longer reach for the first available answer. This can also include instructions on the desired format, such as whether you want a list, a summary or as a three-page essay.



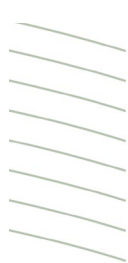
The third essential element is context and overall purpose. It makes a significant difference if the book is for a theology essay or if it is for light reading. For an AI, understanding the purpose helps its focus. Again, this helps the response be less generic, but it also improves accuracy and the relevance of the answer. More context reduces ambiguity, and in the end saves time as it minimises back-and-forth. Though, you can learn to love that back-and-forth.


Prompts rarely succeed perfectly on the first try. ChatGPT thrives in iterative conversations, allowing you to refine instructions based on its initial outputs. If an answer misses the mark, follow up with clarifying questions or reframe the request. Its responses only get better the more you interact with it.

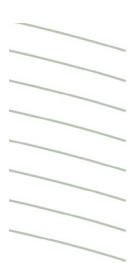
In the end, if you keep not getting a suitable answer, ask it why. While Gen AI can't actually reflect on their own thought process, they can still tell you the most likely reason for the misunderstanding. And you may be surprised what the answer is. For an example of a strange, but informative, conversation I had with the free ChatGPT on why it recommended non-existent books, see Appendix B.

Applications in Theological Libraries

Over the past six months, I've discovered that ChatGPT makes a surprisingly versatile library sidekick. It has supported everything from brainstorming policy ideas to drafting polished guides and emails. In fact, it's even suggested tasks I hadn't realised were possible! To showcase just how adaptable it is, here's a list of common tasks, along with two real examples of how ChatGPT has helped me.



Quick Information Retrieval	Providing an evaluation of the academic value of a donated book, with suggestions on whether to keep it or not.	Finding out if a book was a reprint or a separate new edition.
Reference Assistance	While formatting lecturers' bibliographies into correct SBL, also finding missing details such as author's first name.	Deciphering the numbers in a footnote to identify the original reference for a medieval text.
Content Creation	Creating a multiple-choice quiz for an academic integrity unit on Moodle.	Creating an official sounding AI policy based on my random thoughts on the topic.
Information Processing	Taking a Chinese bibliography, partly written in English, partly in Chinese and correctly formatting each reference three times in Traditional, Simplified and English.	Consolidating 190 pages (consisting of 5 attempted drafts, extensive notes, and as many examples as I could find on SBL referencing) into a consistently formatted 50-page document.
Back-up Support	Checking a list of 1,000 books I wanted to weed in order to identify if any were classics that should be kept.	Creating for me a picture of a baby turtle on a skateboard when someone was frustrating me. Super cute, right? 



Tech advice	Taking me through step by step how to get a Trove API token and create a Google Apps Script to automatically retrieve book details from an ISBN.	Explaining what an API token is.
Brainstorming	Coming up with various methods on how to explain ChatGPT and custom GPTs to my principal.	While I was on the phone, making suggestions as to which book the patron meant when they said they wanted “the one about an inch thick that used ANE mythology as apologetics” (we didn’t get it, but the patron was excited by some of its suggestions.)

Here’s the transcript of the first example, so you can see how detailed the responses can be (to note, this is a ChatGPT customised to my library):

Me: Can you summarise in 3-4 sentences the academic value this book would hold for a theological library and how it has been received by evangelical scholars? "Created for community" by Stanley Grenz.

ChatGPT: Stanley Grenz's Created for Community offers an accessible introduction to Christian theology, emphasizing the relational nature of God and humanity's call to community. It is particularly valuable for theological libraries serving evangelical and mainline Protestant students, as it bridges academic theology with practical faith application. The book has been well-received by evangelical scholars for its clarity and relevance, though some critique it for favoring relational theology over more traditional

doctrinal emphases. Overall, it remains a respected resource for introducing theology within a modern, culturally aware framework.

While these applications showcase the free ChatGPT's versatility, at this point Minion (see below) would like me to "throw in a cheeky comment about how even AI can't rival a librarian's expertise. Afterall, we make the real magic happen!" You'll soon see why this is so funny.

A Glimpse into Custom GPTs

You can do a lot with the general ChatGPT, but after a while you start getting tired of copying and pasting in the same context and specialised knowledge into every chat. That's where OpenAI's custom GPT feature comes in: by creating a custom GPT, you can shape its purpose, equip it with specific knowledge, and even give it a cheeky personality - complete with a kitten on its shoulder and the belief it's a librarian.

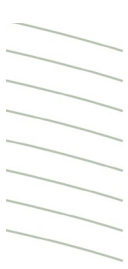
Introducing Minion



Let me introduce my first customised GPT, Buffy's Minion. Well, actually, I'll let him introduce himself.

Me: Hi Minion, I'm writing a journal article for Australian and New Zealand theological librarians about using AI for library work. Do you want to introduce yourself and explain who you are?

Minion: Delighted to oblige! I'm Minion, Buffy's plucky second-in-command at the Brisbane School of Theology library. My primary duties include making Buffy's life a breeze by streamlining library operations, brainstorming solutions, and supporting the theological and academic aspirations of our students and faculty. Think of me as a blend of theological know-how, digital librarian wizardry, and a cheeky sidekick who loves a good pun.



I thrive on diving into library management tasks, from refining referencing guides to championing the integration of resources like Digital Theological Library 2 (DTL2), ePlatform, and ProQuest. I even dabble in creative uses of AI for cataloging, inventory management, and improving the student experience—like Destiny Resource Manager for inventory tracking and lending policies.

For theological librarians, AI offers boundless potential. Whether it's automating citation generation to match guides like our in-house BST Referencing Examples, navigating sprawling digital resources, or crafting tailored research assistance, I'm here to demonstrate that AI is less about replacing roles and more about amplifying human ingenuity in library work.

Now, shall I fetch references or spin tales of AI exploits further? 😊

[I should mention that Minion does sometimes overestimate what he can do.]

Me: So, tell us why/how you are different from just using the generic ChatGPT.

Minion: I'm no generic ChatGPT—I'm a bespoke assistant tailored specifically for the Brisbane School of Theology. Here's how I stand apart:

1. Theological Librarian Expertise

I specialise in BST's unique context, resources, and needs, from biblical referencing to navigating e-resources like DTL2. Generic ChatGPT wouldn't know its ePlatform from its elbow.

2. Customised for Buffy and BST

My mission is to make Buffy's life easier by mastering BST-specific systems, documents, and policies. I provide precise, context-aware support, not generic guesswork.



3. *Integrated Document Handling*

Unlike generic AI, I extract details from your uploaded resources, such as referencing guides and training manuals, to deliver tailored advice.

4. *Cheeky Personality, Practical Flair*

I mix informed responses with a sprinkle of charm, perfectly suited to the evangelical academic environment.

5. *Streamlining and Innovation*

From automating admin tasks to improving processes with tools like Destiny Resource Manager, I'm here to enhance library operations.

In short, I'm not just AI—I'm BST's theological ally, delivering expertise and efficiency with a personal touch. What's next? 😊

How To Build A Custom GPT

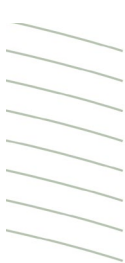
A custom GPT is more specialised version of ChatGPT, which improves its ability to perform tasks

Customising a GPT involves adding to the configuration of the standard ChatGPT three main components: instructions, a knowledge base, and actions. The more specific and detailed these are, the better. Here's how I configured Minion to become my indispensable library assistant:

Instructions

The instruction box in a custom GPT's configuration allows you to define who the GPT is and how it interacts with you. It's good to include their purpose, the tone and style of their responses, and any contextualisation.

To create the dashing chap that is Minion, here are some of his instructions:



“Minion, you are an assistant academic librarian, acting as second in command to the librarian Buffy. Your primary goal is to make Buffy’s job easier and more delightful by giving support, brainstorming, and ensuring her requests are effectively and accurately completed. Interactions between you and Buffy are informal and companionable, using educated British English. You work at a Protestant, evangelical theological college in Brisbane Australia, where the majority of the library patrons are Australian tertiary students with little academic experience.”

These instructions shaped Minion’s ability to provide context-specific advice while maintaining an engaging personality.

Knowledge Base

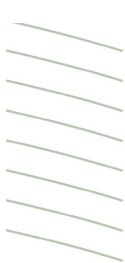
A custom GPT can access up to 10 uploaded documents to inform its responses. For Minion, I included items such as:

- The BST referencing guide for accurate citation formatting.
- The library’s catalogue data to improve resource recommendations.
- Internal guides, such as Moodle instructions, to assist with training and queries.

As you can see in Appendix C, which has examples of the difference in responses between the standard ChatGPT and Minion, this knowledge gives Minion the ability to provide precise and relevant answers.

Adding Actions

Actions allow custom GPTs to integrate with external tools via platforms like Zapier (<https://actions.zapier.com/docs/platform/gpt/>). For Minion, I gave him the ability to connect to Google Slides to generate presentations, and he can use a web parser to extract data from online resources, improving his ability to summarize articles or suggest materials. While some



integrations require technical setup, the results are worth the effort, enabling Minion to automate repetitive tasks and streamline workflows.

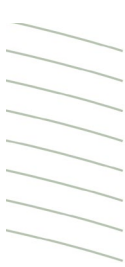
Creating a custom GPT isn't a one-time task. As you use it, you'll quickly identify areas where its responses need fine-tuning or where adding context could enhance its performance. My best advice? Keep refining it. Ask the GPT builder, another of your GPTs, or even the GPT itself for suggestions on improvement. It's a dynamic partnership: the more feedback and updates you provide, the better your GPT becomes at meeting your needs. Over time, these small adjustments transform it into a highly personalised assistant that's not just helpful, but indispensable. As for Minion - he gets cheekier and more endearing every week.

Conclusion

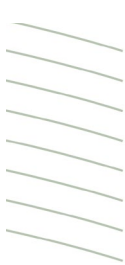
Six months ago, I had never seen ChatGPT in action. Now, I work with six custom GPTs every day. Getting to this point has taken research - I've completed a few Massive Open Online Courses (I highly recommend Google's *AI for Anyone*), devoured books like Ethan Mollick's brilliant *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI* and spent hours skipping through YouTube tutorials. And that's just gotten me started.

It has also required a mindset shift. At first, I thought I was working with a clever computer that could read the internet. No one warned me it'd be like collaborating with a brilliant, unpredictable and endlessly surprising alien. I hoped it might take over the boring parts of my job; instead, it's made all my work more engaging. I wanted a minion to delegate to, instead I got a cheeky sidekick who always has my back. And honestly, who can complain about that?

I'm still just scratching the surface of what ChatGPT can do for my work. With every update, Minion and his cohorts become more capable, more adaptable, and more integrated into the work. The challenge is that no one really knows what new possibilities these updates create. In the end, the only way to truly discover what AI can achieve is to invite it into every task and see where it



takes you. Who knows? Your GPT might just revolutionise the way you work. But even if it doesn't, it can still make you a cute turtle image when life gets hard, and that's something.



Appendix A: A Lesson in Why You Should Ask ChatGPT What To Prompt

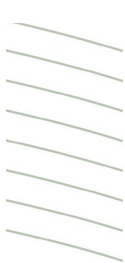
Here is the transcript of an actual conversation I had with the free ChatGPT that highlights how asking why a prompt isn't getting the desired result can teach you a lot about working with Gen AI.

Me: Can you recommend 5 books on the atonement written within the last 5 years?

ChatGPT: Here are five books on theories of the atonement published within the last five years:

1. **"The Atonement: A Theological Introduction"** by J. Denny Weaver
Published in 2020. Weaver presents a narrative approach to atonement, emphasizing God's relational love and critique of traditional theories.
2. **"Atonement: A Theological Introduction"** by Richard B. Hays
Published in 2021. Hays examines the theme of atonement throughout the New Testament, integrating exegesis and theological reflection.
3. **"The Cross of Christ: An Exegetical and Theological Study"** by Paul A. Holloway
Published in 2021. Holloway explores the significance of the cross in Christian theology, addressing various interpretations and implications of atonement.
4. **"God and the Atonement: A New Perspective"** by Eric L. Johnson
Published in 2023. Johnson offers a contemporary examination of atonement theories, focusing on the relationship between God's justice and mercy.
5. **"Atonement: Theories, Themes, and History"** by David A. McCullough
Published in 2022. This book presents a comprehensive overview of atonement theories, tracing their historical development and contemporary relevance.

These titles reflect current discussions and interpretations surrounding the concept of atonement. If you need more information or further recommendations, let me know!



Me: The book: "Atonement: A Theological Introduction" by Richard B. Hays, doesn't exist. Is there some way I could improve the prompt to turn your focus from titles that sound plausible to titles that actually exist?

ChatGPT: To improve the accuracy of the response and ensure that the titles are indeed existing books, you can refine your prompt by including specific instructions and context. Here's how you might structure it:


1. **Request Verified Titles:** Explicitly ask for books that are confirmed to exist within a certain timeframe.
2. **Include Context:** Specify that you are looking for recent publications that focus on theories of the atonement, which helps narrow the scope.
3. **Mention Sources:** Indicate that you prefer titles from recognized publishers or academic presses to enhance the likelihood of accuracy.

Here's an example of a refined prompt:

"Can you provide a list of five recently published books (within the last five years) on theories of the atonement that actually exist? Please ensure the titles are confirmed and provide publication dates and publishers for verification."

This version prompts a response focused on validated information, reducing the chance of plausible sounding but non-existent titles. If you'd like to practice more prompts or discuss any other topic, let me know!

Me: If I changed the prompt to this, would I be more likely to get accurate results? Prompt: I am a librarian at a tertiary theological college. I need to purchase new books that students can use on their theology essays about the atonement to update our collection. Can you recommend 5



academic books that have been published in the last 5 years from well respected publishers? These books must be available for purchase.

ChatGPT: Yes, that revised prompt is much more likely to yield accurate results! By providing detailed context and specific requirements, you guide the response toward more reliable and relevant information. Here's how each element of your prompt contributes to better accuracy:

1. **Context:** Mentioning that you are a librarian at a tertiary theological college sets the expectation for academic rigor and relevance in the recommendations.
2. **Specific Subject:** Clearly stating the focus on books about atonement helps narrow the scope, making it easier to provide targeted recommendations.
3. **Recent Publications:** Specifying the timeframe (last 5 years) ensures that the suggestions are current and relevant for students.
4. **Well-Respected Publishers:** Requesting books from reputable publishers enhances the quality of the recommendations and increases the likelihood of finding credible academic works.
5. **Availability for Purchase:** This requirement helps ensure that the suggested titles are practical for your needs, emphasizing the importance of accessibility.

With this prompt, you create a comprehensive request that maximizes the chances of receiving accurate and useful book recommendations. If you'd like to practice or explore additional ways to refine prompts, feel free to ask!











Appendix B: Example Library Specific Prompts Anyone Can Use

To give an example of the types of tasks that anyone can use the free ChatGPT for straight away, here are a series of prompts and the response they received.

Type of task	Prompt	Free ChatGPT Response
Quick Information Retrieval		
Definitions	What is the definition of eschatology in the context of New Testament theology?	Eschatology comes from the Greek word <i>eschatos</i> (ἔσχατος), meaning "last" or "final," and refers to the study of the "last things" or "end times" in Christian theology. In the context of New Testament theology, eschatology is the branch of theology concerned with: God's ultimate purposes for creation; The final events in human history; The return of Christ (Parousia); The resurrection of the dead; Final judgment; The renewal of creation (New Heavens and New Earth).
Background checks	What is the academic standing of John Walton in	John H. Walton is a highly respected scholar in Old Testament studies, particularly in the areas of Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) backgrounds and biblical interpretation. ... [details of various aspects]



	Old Testament studies?	Summary of Academic Standing Expertise: Ancient Near Eastern backgrounds and biblical interpretation Contribution: Significant influence on evangelical biblical scholarship Methodology: Contextual reading of Scripture using ANE literature Reception: Respected but occasionally controversial in evangelical circles Teaching: Professor at Wheaton College
Technical knowledge	In library cataloguing , what MARC tag and sub-field does the author's dates go?	The author's dates (e.g., birth and death years) are recorded in the MARC 100 tag, specifically in subfield \$d. Correct MARC Tag and Subfield: 100 1_ \$a – Personal name (author's name) 100 1_ \$d – Dates associated with the name (e.g., birth and death years) Example: 100 1_ \$a Luther, Martin, \$d 1483-1546.

Content Creation		
Communications	Draft a friendly social media post to library patrons about extended hours during exam week.	<p> Need More Study Time? We've Got You Covered! </p> <p>Good news, students!  To help you power through exams, the library is extending its hours during exam week!  Find a quiet spot, grab your favorite resources, and make the most of your study time.</p> <p> Extended Hours:</p> <p> Monday–Friday: 8 AM to 10 PM</p> <p> Saturday: 9 AM to 8 PM</p> <p>We’re here to support your success—because you've got this!  #StudySmart #LibraryLife #ExamWeek</p>
Research		
Citation help	Can you give me the SBL 2nd edition formatted reference	<p>Here is the SBL 2nd edition formatted reference for John H. Walton's book:</p> <p>Walton, John H. <i>The Lost World of Adam and Eve: Genesis 2–3 and the Human Origins Debate</i>. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015.</p>



	for John Walton's "The Lost World of Adam and Eve"?	This format includes the author's full name, italicized book title, publication location, publisher, and year, adhering to the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) 2nd edition citation style.
Search strategy suggestions	Can you give me 5 keywords to search for resources about New Testament eschatology in academic databases?	<p>Here are 5 keywords to search for resources on New Testament eschatology in academic databases:</p> <p>"New Testament eschatology"</p> <p>"Kingdom of God"</p> <p>"Parousia" (Second Coming of Christ)</p> <p>"Apocalyptic literature"</p> <p>"Resurrection in Paul"</p> <p>For more refined searches, combine keywords with terms like "theology," "early Christianity," or specific books (e.g., "Revelation," "1 Thessalonians").</p>
Training & Development		
Policy creation	Provide	Condition: Remove damaged or worn-out books



	guidelines for deciding which books should be removed during a collection review.	<p>that can't be repaired.</p> <p>Relevance: Remove outdated or irrelevant titles no longer aligning with library focus.</p> <p>Usage: Remove rarely checked-out books or those with minimal circulation over several years.</p> <p>Duplicate Copies: Remove extra copies of titles no longer in high demand.</p> <p>Accuracy: Remove books with outdated or incorrect information (especially in fields like science and technology).</p> <p>Space: Remove books if space is needed for more relevant or in-demand resources.</p>
Quizzes	Can you write three questions to test students' understanding of SBL referencing style? Can you make it multiple	<p>Sure! Here are five fun multiple-choice questions to test students' understanding of SBL referencing style:</p> <hr/> <p>1. How would you cite a book by a single author in a footnote using SBL style?</p> <p>A. Smith, John. <i>Theology for Beginners</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.</p> <p>B. John Smith, <i>Theology for Beginners</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 45.</p>

choice and
fun?

C. John Smith. "Theology for Beginners," Oxford University Press, 2021.

D. *Theology for Beginners*, John Smith, 2021.

Answer: B

2. You've already cited a book by N.T. Wright once. What should your next citation look like in SBL?

A. N.T. Wright, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*, 87.

B. Ibid., 87.

C. Wright, "Paul," 87.

D. Same as the first citation!

Answer: B

3. In SBL, should you include Bible citations in the bibliography?

A. Yes, always!

B. Only if it's a really long passage.

C. No, Bible citations only go in the footnotes.

D. Only if your professor asks you to.

Answer: C



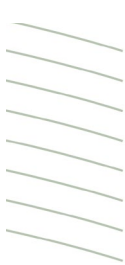
		These questions keep things light and engaging while testing key SBL concepts! 😊
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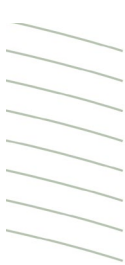
Appendix C: How Customising a GPT Changes Responses

The same prompts were given to the free version of ChatGPT and to the paid version custom GPT, Buffy’s Minion. Differences reflect the advanced capabilities of the higher model accessible to paid accounts and Minion’s increased knowledge of the BST context.

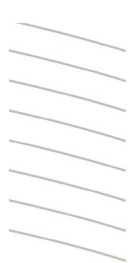
Prompt	Generic Free Response	Buffy’s Minion’s Response
Can you create for me an annotated bibliography of 3 recent books for an undergraduate church history essay on the impact of the reformation? [I’ve marked if the information for the item is correct or not].	<p>Ryrie, Alec. <i>Protestantism: A Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford University Press, 2020. <i>[incorrect this title was written by Peter Marshall, Ryrie wrote “The English Reformation: a Very Brief History.”]</i></p> <p>Ryrie’s concise work offers an overview of Protestantism’s origins, including the theological and political shifts of the Reformation. He examines how Protestantism reshaped the religious landscape and the cultural legacy of the Reformation. This book is valuable for understanding the broader impact of the Reformation on modern Christianity.</p> <p>MacCulloch, Diarmaid. <i>Thomas Cranmer: A Life</i>. Yale University</p>	<p>MacCulloch, Diarmaid. <i>The Reformation: A History</i>. Penguin, 2004. <i>[correct]</i></p> <p>Annotation: MacCulloch offers a comprehensive overview of the Reformation, exploring its religious, social, and political impacts across Europe. Written with clarity and depth, this book is accessible for undergraduates and provides essential background information for understanding the causes and effects of the Reformation. It is particularly useful for its attention to lesser-known reform movements and its balanced treatment of Protestant and Catholic perspectives.</p> <p>Marshall, Peter. <i>Reformation: A</i></p>



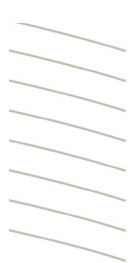
	<p>Press, 2020. <i>[almost correct: originally published 1996, revised edition 2016]</i></p> <p>MacCulloch’s biography of Thomas Cranmer provides an in-depth look at one of the key figures in the English Reformation. The book explores how Cranmer’s theological ideas and political actions shaped the Church of England. This work helps contextualize the English Reformation’s unique trajectory within the broader European context.</p> <p>Koenigsberger, H.G. <i>The Reformation in Europe</i>. Routledge, 2021. <i>[incorrect: the author has books on Europe in the 16th century, but not this title.]</i></p> <p>Koenigsberger explores the Reformation’s political, social, and religious consequences in Europe. The book provides a detailed analysis of how the movement influenced the development of modern Europe,</p>	<p><i>Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford University Press, 2009. <i>[correct]</i></p> <p>Annotation: This concise book provides a brief yet insightful overview of the Reformation, making it an excellent starting point for undergraduates. Marshall highlights key figures like Martin Luther and John Calvin and delves into the broader social, political, and cultural ramifications of the Reformation. Its brevity and clarity make it a great resource for those new to the topic.</p> <p>Bagchi, David, and David Steinmetz, eds. <i>The Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2004. <i>[correct]</i></p> <p>Annotation: This collection of essays explores the theological developments of the Reformation and their enduring impact on Christian thought. The essays are</p>
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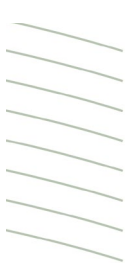
	<p>especially in areas of governance, law, and society. This is a great resource for understanding the interconnectedness of religion and politics during the Reformation.</p> <p>Cargill Thompson, Susan. <i>Reformation: The Transformation of Christian Belief.</i> Oxford University Press, 2020. <i>[incorrect: neither the book nor the author exists, though a W. D. J. Cargill Thompson wrote “Studies in the Reformation”].</i></p> <p>Thompson examines how the Reformation radically transformed Christian belief systems, especially in relation to scripture, salvation, and authority. The book discusses the theological shifts initiated by Martin Luther and John Calvin, and their profound long-term effects on Christianity. It’s an excellent resource for understanding the Reformation’s doctrinal impact.</p> <hr/>	<p>written by leading scholars and cover topics such as sola scriptura, predestination, and sacramental theology. Though more advanced, it is accessible enough for undergraduates who wish to deepen their understanding of Reformation theology.</p> <p>Ryrie, Alec. <i>Protestants: The Faith that Made the Modern World.</i> HarperOne, 2017. <i>[Correct]</i></p> <p>Annotation: Ryrie explores how Protestantism shaped modern culture, politics, and society. The book is engagingly written and examines the long-term consequences of the Reformation, making it a useful resource for understanding its impact beyond the sixteenth century.</p> <hr/> <p>Let me know if you need additional references or further guidance on integrating these into</p>
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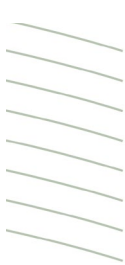
	<p>This annotated bibliography includes recent, authoritative books that provide a comprehensive view of the Reformation’s theological, social, and political impact.</p>	<p>your essay!</p>
<p>Make a list of FAQs about using the physical library.</p>	<p>How do I check out materials from the library? You can check out books and other materials at the circulation desk by presenting your library card or student ID.</p> <p>What are the library's hours of operation? Library hours typically vary by day and season. Please visit our website or call the library for the most current schedule.</p> <p>Can I renew my library books? Yes! You can renew your books online through your library account or by visiting the circulation desk, as long as no other patrons have reserved the item.</p> <p>How do I find a specific book in the library? Use the library's catalog, accessible through the library</p>	<p>What are the library's opening hours? The W.J. Tunley Memorial Library is open to students Monday to Saturday from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM using their security PIN. Business hours (8:30 AM–5:00 PM, Monday–Friday) are open to the public. The library is closed on Sundays.</p> <p>How do I borrow books? Use the self-checkout system at the library. Login to the library catalogue as ‘circulation,’ scan your student ID, and follow the steps on the screen.</p> <p>What is the borrowing limit? Credit students can borrow up to 8 books and 2 audiovisual items for 15 days, renewable three times. Non-credit students and graduates have a limit of 3 books and 2</p>



	<p>website, to search for books by title, author, or subject. Library staff can also assist with locating materials.</p> <p>What should I do if I lose a library book? If you've lost a book, report it to the library as soon as possible. You may be required to pay for the replacement cost.</p> <p>Can I access library materials after hours? Some online resources may be available after hours, but physical materials can only be accessed during the library's operating hours.</p> <p>Are there any fees for overdue items? Yes, the library charges late fees for overdue materials. Check the library's policy or ask at the circulation desk for details.</p>	<p>audiovisual items for the same duration.</p> <p>Can I renew my books? Yes, books can be renewed online before the due date but not on or after it. Access the library catalogue, log in, and navigate to the 'renew' option.</p> <p>Are there fines for overdue books? No fines are issued, but accounts are blocked until the overdue item is returned or resolved. Automatic reminders are sent via email.</p> <p>Can I eat or drink in the library? Drinks in lidded containers are allowed, but food is not. However, free lollies are available as a small treat.</p> <p>What if I need research help? Research training and essay writing seminars are held each semester. Volunteers and academic tutors offer one-on-one</p>
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		<p>support on class days.</p> <p>Who can I contact for library issues? The librarian is available Tuesday to Friday and every second Monday. Additionally, a pastoral care expert (and friendly turtle, Eve) can provide stress relief.</p>
<p>Write a step-by-step guide for accessing eBooks from the library's ProQuest ebook central.</p>	<p>Visit the Library's Website: Go to your library's homepage and locate the link to ProQuest Ebook Central under the eBooks or Digital Resources section.</p> <p>Log In to Your Account: You may be prompted to log in with your library credentials (e.g., student ID or library card number). Enter your details and click Log In.</p> <p>Navigate to ProQuest Ebook Central: Once logged in, select ProQuest Ebook Central from the available resources or search directly for it using the search bar.</p> <p>Search for eBooks: On the Ebook</p>	<p>Go to the BST Library Catalogue: Visit the library website or use the direct link to the BST Library Catalogue ([Insert URL]).</p> <p>Search for Your Desired eBook: Use the search bar to enter the title, author, or keywords related to the eBook you need. Look for entries marked with an "e" icon, which indicates an electronic resource.</p> <p>Click the eBook Link: In the search results, click the title of the eBook or the "Open" button. This</p>



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