

An Index to English Periodical Literature on the Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies: Volume IX

William G. Hupper, ed. *An Index to English Periodical Literature on the Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies: Volume IX-Part 1 & 2: Author and Subject Index, Foreign Word Index, and Citation Index*. ATLA Bibliography Series, No. 21. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., and American Theological Library Association, 2011. 1248 pp. \$200.00. Hardcover. ISBN: 9780810878051.

Volume nine of William G. Hupper's *An Index to English Periodical Literature on the Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (IEPLOT)* is the final installment in his immense indexing project. This volume, published in 2011 by the Scarecrow Press and the American Theological Library Association, is the author and subject index to the previous eight volumes in this series. Hupper first envisioned the project over forty years ago, with the author and subject index being a much-anticipated final volume.

The previous volumes of *IEPLOT* are organized by broad topics. The subject and author index allows for cross-referencing between the multiple volumes, making the series more user-friendly. Hupper has added "see also" notes in the index to help connect like terms (ex. Decalogue *see also* Commandments, Ten). This makes the index accessible to both scholars and laypeople. Hupper went back through the records in *IEPLOT* to produce these indexes, which allowed him to make additions and corrections to previously published volumes as well. These additions and corrections, along with the indexes, make this volume an essential component to the entire series.

In 1978, Hupper published an article in the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* in which he outlined the purpose for the indexing project. Hupper stated, "In the field of Old Testament Studies, the availability of periodical literature through indexing is especially limited ("An Index to English Periodical Literature on the Old Testament [A Prospectus]," *JSOT* 8 [1978]: 50)." According to Hupper, there were no exhaustive indexes to periodical literature in Old Testament studies, nor societies or schools attempting to create any Old Testament abstracts. When the indexing project commenced, there was much need for this tool to aid in the scholarly pursuit of Old Testament studies.

Hupper outlined his purpose into four objectives. The first was to make periodical literature available on the Old Testament in English from the first year a journal was published until it ceased publication, or through 1969. The second was to prioritize obscure journals with a concentration on nineteenth-century literature. Hupper's third purpose was to produce a resource similar to Metzger's *Periodical Literature on Christ and the Gospels*, the result of which places all indexed records into concise volumes as opposed to yearly ongoing publications. Finally, foreign journals would be searched for articles published in English, giving scholars access to English-language research published in non-English resources (*JSOT*, 51).

These objectives are reflected throughout the entire series of *IEPLOT* and act as the scope note for what can be accessed through this tool. This means that no journals were indexed after the 1969 cutoff date, so researchers looking to access articles published in the last forty years would need to consult a different indexing tool for more recent publications. *IEPLOT* remains an essential tool due to its in-depth focus on indexing items from the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Libraries having collections supporting research in biblical studies, theological studies, or ancient Near Eastern studies will find value in this series. The author and subject index, in particular, is an essential tool for any library that has already invested in *IEPLOT*, although access to volumes one through eight is required for volume nine to be of any use. As stated above, this volume contains the subject and author index as well as additions and corrections to the series. Volume nine also contains six language indexes (Foreign Words and Phrases, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, Cuneiform Sign, and Egyptian Hieroglyphic), five textual indexes (Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, and Qumran) and a Museum Registration Number Index. Hupper also supplies several tables containing statistics, which would be useful for conducting a bibliometric evaluation of the index itself. All of this, combined, creates a valuable tool for anyone doing research within this subject area.

Hupper does not shy away from the fact that since he began this project forty years ago, online indexing has become the preferred method for finding scholarly articles by students, scholars, and researchers. Hupper states, “Certainly this is something I never dreamed of when I was paging through journal after journal. I fear though that the technology is also causing a divide in accessibility between the have and the have-nots” (ix).

As many research libraries are adopting federated search systems, it is important for researchers to have an understanding of what tools these information retrieval systems are searching. Those who have a working knowledge of the tools will be able to bypass entire databases and indexes that would otherwise clutter the search results. Most librarians and students today are trained to search online databases and navigate complex user interfaces. With this being the case, subject specialists and reference librarians must gain a familiarity with *IEPLOT* in order to teach others how to use it if *IEPLOT* is to be of much use in the library, especially when online tools may be faster and more user-friendly.

For researchers today, *IEPLOT* may be best used alongside the more widely used online indexes. In order to get an understanding of how *IEPLOT* compares to other indexing tools, ten records from the “additions” section of volume nine were searched against *Old Testament Abstracts* (OTA) and *ATLA Religion Database*® with *ATLASerials*® (ATLA). Of these ten records in *IEPLOT*, only two of them were found through ATLA and none of them were found through OTA. It is understood that this is a very small sample size, and a more comprehensive examination would be needed in order to have a more accurate understanding of where these tools overlap. It does not come as much of a surprise that the redundancies between these three indexing tools may be minimal. While *IEPLOT* has comprehensive indexing prior to 1970, ATLA and OTA gives access to many more recently published articles. The result of this small study shows the value *IEPLOT* adds to a library’s overall collection and its ability to give researchers access to older, and perhaps more obscure, journal articles than the more commonly used indexing tools such as OTA and ATLA. For researchers who need comprehensive access to articles published prior to 1970, *IEPLOT* would be a required tool. *IEPLOT* is a highly recommended resource for research and theological libraries, with the addition of the indexes found in volume nine making it much more user-friendly.

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