



Citing Church Documents and Ancient Texts for Dissertation Writers

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SCRIPTURE, COMMENTARIES, AND CREEDS

Biblical Citation

Scripture is typically cited in the footnotes or in-text citations rather than bibliographies. Biblical books are abbreviated with the chapter and verse. Page numbers must never be used when citing from scripture. The translated version should be cited in parenthesis. Following the first instance, the version is abbreviated in parenthesis. For example:

- ¹ Matt. 3:3 (New Revised Standard Version).
- ² Gen. 2:1 (NRSV).
- ³ Exod. 3:14 (New International Version).
- ⁴ Eccles. 3:4 (NIV).
- ⁵ 1 John 1:1 (New Jerusalem Bible).

Abbreviations for common versions include:

Version	Abbreviation
American Standard Version	ASV
Common English Bible	CEB
Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible	RHE
English Standard Version	ESV
Good News Bible	GNB
Holman Christian Standard Bible	CSB
Jubilee Bible	JUB
La Biblia de las Américas (Spanish)	BLA
La Biblia del Jubileo (Spanish)	JBS
New American Bible	NAB
New American Bible Revised Edition	NABRE
New Century Version	NCV
New International Version	NIV
New Jerusalem Bible	NJB

New King James Version	NKJV
New Living Translation	NLT
New Revised Standard Version	NRSV
Orthodox Jewish Bible	OJB
Revised Standard Version	RSV
The Complete Jewish Bible	CJB
The Message	MSG
World English Bible	WEB

Study Bibles

Study Bibles often include essays such as historical introductions to the Bible and the biblical world. This material should follow the format as found when citing an edited work. Include the author, essay title, name of the study bible, version, editor or editors, and publication information. For example:

N:

¹ Eric M. Meyers, “The Bible and Archaeology,” in *The Harper Collins Study Bible: Fully Revised & Updated*, New Revised Standard Version, ed. Harold W. Attridge (New York: Harper Collins, 2008), lvii-lix.

² Meyers, “The Bible and Archaeology,” lvii-lix.

B:

Meyers, Eric M. “The Bible and Archaeology.” In *The Harper Collins Study Bible: Fully Revised & Updated*. New Revised Standard Version, edited by Harold W. Attridge. New York: Harper Collins, 2008.

Spell out books of the Bible in the running text. Scripture titles should be abbreviated when cited in a footnote or in parenthetical citations. Scripture titles are abbreviated or shortened as follows:

Old Testament

Title	Abbreviation	Title	Abbreviation
Amos	Amos	Genesis	Gen.
1 Chronicles	1 Chron.	Habakkuk	Hab.
2 Chronicles	2 Chron.	Haggai	Hag.
Daniel	Dan.	Hosea	Hos.
Deuteronomy	Deut.	Isaiah	Isa.
Ecclesiastes	Eccles.	Jeremiah	Jer.
Esther	Esth.	Job	Job
Exodus	Exod.	Joel	Joel
Ezekiel	Ezek.	Jonah	Jon.

Ezra	Ezra	Joshua	Josh.
Judges	Judg.	Obadiah	Obad.
Kings	1 Kgs.	Proverbs	Prov.
Kings	2 Kgs.	Psalms	Ps.
Lamentations	Lam.	Ruth	Ruth
Leviticus	Lev.	1 Samuel	1 Sam.
1 Maccabees	1 Macc.	2 Samuel	2 Sam.
2 Maccabees	2 Macc.	Sirach/Ecclesiasticus	Sir.
Malachi	Mal.	Song of Songs	Song of Sg. (<i>or Sol.</i>)
Micah	Mic.	Tobit	Tob.
Nahum	Nah.	Wisdom of Solomon	Wis.
Nehemiah	Neh.	Zechariah	Zech.
Numbers	Num.	Zephaniah	Zeph.

New Testament

Title	Abbreviation	Title	Abbreviation
Acts	Acts	Mark	Mark
Colossians	Col.	Matthew	Matt.
1 Corinthians	1 Cor.	Peter	1 Pet.
2 Corinthians	2 Cor.	Peter	2 Pet.
Ephesians	Eph.	Philemon	Phil.
Galatians	Gal.	Philippians	Phil.
Hebrews	Heb.	Revelation	Rev.
James	Jas.	Romans	Rom.
John	John	1 Thessalonians	1 Thess.
1 John	1 John	2 Thessalonians	2 Thess.
2 John	2 John	1 Timothy	1 Tim.
3 John	3 John	2 Timothy	2 Tim.
Jude	Jude	Titus	Titus
Luke	Luke		

Bible Commentaries

Bible Commentaries generally follow the format of books. The only notable difference is the inclusion of the commentary series and volume number with no separating comma. Write the commentary series in headline-style capitalization (no italics) in the note and bibliography. Include the series or volume number after the series name. General editors do not need to be included in either the note or bibliography. The format is as follows:

N:

¹ Johannes Munck, *The Acts of the Apostles*, Anchor Bible 31 (New York: Doubleday, 1981), 148.

² Munck, *The Acts of the Apostles*, 148.

B:

Munck, Johannes. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Anchor Bible 31. New York: Doubleday, 1981.

Some Bible Commentaries contain multiple authors. For example, *The New Interpreters Bibles* has several contributors within a single volume. Treat these as chapters in an edited volume. Include the series and volume number with no separating comma. As with other commentaries, the series is written in headline-style capitalization in the note and bibliography.

N:

¹ Robert W. Wall, "The Acts of the Apostles: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections," *New Interpreters Bible 10* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2002), 19.

² Wall, "The Acts of the Apostles," 19.

B:

Wall, Robert W. "The Acts of the Apostles: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections." *The New Interpreter's Bible 10*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.

Papal encyclicals follow the format of books. The title should be in the language it was published or commonly known (this is typically the Latin title). If you feel it is relevant or helpful, you may include the English title in brackets next to the Latin. The Latin title is italicized. Titles (e.g. Pope, Pontiff, Holy Father, etc.) are not used. Cite the enumerated paragraph instead of page numbers.

N:

¹ Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2008), 14.

² Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 14.

B:

Benedict XVI. *Spe Salvi*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2008.

N:

¹ Francis, *Laudato Si'* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015), 19.

² Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 19.

B:

Francis. *Laudato Si'*. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015.

Encyclical's accessed online are treated in much the same way. Key information includes the author, title, accessed date (month date, year) and database (Vatican.va). It is highly recommended that online encyclicals and papal documents only be accessed through the Holy See's website (<https://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>).

In lieu of page numbers, cite the enumerated paragraph. Documents accessed through the Vatican's website can be cited material from an online database. Since these URLs are not stable, the full URL is not necessary. In place of the URL, use an abbreviated title of the website (e.g. Vatican.va.). Other online papal document should follow this format.

N:

¹ Francis. *Laudato Si'*, accessed January 5, 2017, Vatican.va, 6.

² Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 6.

B:

Francis. *Laudato Si'*. Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

Apostolic Exhortations

N:

¹ John Paul II, *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, in *The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortations of John Paul II*, ed. J. Michael Miller, CSB (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1998), 9

² John Paul II, *On Reconciliation and Penance*, 10.

B:

John Paul II. *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*. In *The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortations of John Paul II*, edited by J. Michael Miller, CSB. Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 1998.

N:

¹ Benedict XVI, *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, accessed January 5, 2017, Vatican.va, 3.

² Benedict XVI, *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, 3.

B:

Benedict XVI. *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*. Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

Apostolic Constitution

N:

¹ Francis, *Vultum Dei Quaerere*, accessed January 5, 2017, Vatican.va, 22.

² Francis, *Vultum Dei Quaerere*, 22.

B:

Francis. *Vultum Dei Quaerere*. Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

Apostolic Speeches and Letters

N:

¹ John Paul II, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1995), 17.

² John Paul II, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, 17.

B:

John Paul II. *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*. Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1995.

N:

¹ Francis, *Misericordia et Misera*, accessed January 5, 2017, Vatican.va, 14.

² Francis, *Mercy and Misery*, 14.

B:

Francis, *Mercy and Misery: Misericordia et Misera*. Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

There are many shorter speeches, letters, and other similar sized documents on the Vatican's website. Cite these materials as one would cite an article found a database. Information to be cited includes author, document, full publication date (month date, year), and database (Vatican.va.). Again the full URL is not necessary since we are treating this as a document from a database without a stable URL.

N:

¹ Francis, "Address of his Holiness Pope Francis to Participants in the Meeting of the International Catholic Rural Association (ICRA)," accessed January 5, 2017, Vatican.va.

² Francis, "Address of his Holiness Pope Francis."

B:

Francis. "Address of his Holiness Pope Francis to Participants in the Meeting of the International Catholic Rural Association (ICRA)." Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

Printed documents of the Second Vatican Council, canons from the Code of Canon Law, and other documents of the Catholic Church generally follow the format of a work within an edited volume. Cite the author or joint author, such as the Second Vatican Council, or document name. Following this information, include the edited volume and the editor or editors, as appropriate, together with publication information and paragraph number. Above all, there should be consistency when citing these materials.

Council Documents

N:

¹ Vatican Council II, *Lumen Gentium*, in *Vatican Council II: Constitutions, Degrees, Declarations*, ed. Austin Flannery, OP (Northport: Costello, 1996), 58.

² Vatican Council II, *Lumen Gentium*, 58.

B:

Vatican Council II. *Lumen Gentium*. In *Vatican Council II: Constitutions, Degrees, Declarations*, edited by Austin Flannery, OP. Northport: Costello, 1996.

Online council documents similar to an e-book accessed through a database (Vatican.va). Include the accessed date, database, and enumerated paragraph number.

N:

¹ Vatican Council II, *Lumen Gentium* accessed January 5, 2017, Vatican.va, 4.

² Vatican Council II, *Lumen Gentium*, 3.

B:

Vatican Council II. *Lumen Gentium*. Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

Canon Law

Print editions of the Code of Canon Law follow the format of a book. Cite the number of the canon and its subsection, as appropriate, instead of page numbers.

N:

¹ *The Code of Canon Law* (Washington, DC: Canon Law Society of America, 1999), 114.1.

² *The Code of Canon Law*, 114.1.

B:

The Code of Canon Law. Washington, DC: Canon Law Society of America, 1999

N:

¹ *The Code of Canon Law*, accessed, January 5, 2017, Vatican.va, 1215.2.

² *The Code of Canon Law*, 1215.2.

B:

The Code of Canon Law. Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* follows the format of a book. Use the locator numbers in place of page numbers or any other identifier.

N:

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd ed. (New York: Doubleday, 1995), 334.

² *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 334.

B:

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd ed. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

N:

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, accessed January 5, 2017, Vatican.va, 2701.

B:

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Accessed January 5, 2017. Vatican.va.

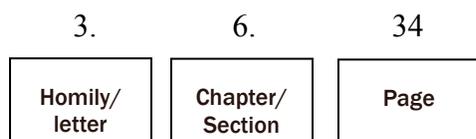
Ancient sources are often part of a series or collection. As a result, several pieces of information should be included when citing these sources. Ancient sources typically have a translator in addition to the author and title. It is critically important that a translator be cited whenever possible. Many of these texts are distinguished by translation, as some translations have an authoritative status.

When citing specific passages, it is preferable to refer to chapter/letter, homily, or section number whenever possible. Letter/chapter or section numbers provide a more definite and stable way of finding information. This makes it easier to find the cited quote or passage, even when one has an edition that is different from the one cited (e.g. an electronic version). Page numbers should always be cited, but they hold the least importance.

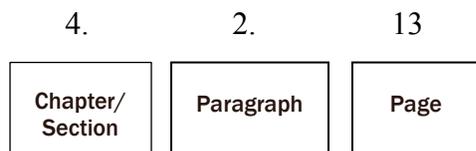
The hierarchy of information is therefore:

1. Homily/letter
2. Chapter/Section #
3. Paragraph # (sometimes necessary when paragraphs are not enumerated)
3. Page number (print sources only)

The information is portrayed as follows:



Or



Homilies

As with Bible commentaries, it is not necessary to cite the series editor or editors. The series title and number should be included after the translator or translators. The series title is abbreviated in the note and written in headline style in the bibliography (no italics). The series volume number follows the series title with no separating comma. The publication information follows the regular rules of CMOS. When citing homilies or ancient commentaries (depending on the series) cite the homily number, section number (if applicable), and printed page number.

N:

¹ John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Genesis 46-67*, trans. Robert C. Hill, FOTC 87 (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1992), 55.10.112.

² Chrysostom, *Homilies on Genesis*, FOTC, 46.10.9.

B:

Chrysostom, John. *Homilies on Genesis 46-67*. Translated by Robert C. Hill. The Fathers of the Church 87. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1992.

N:

¹ Origen, *Commentary on the Gospel According to John: Books 13-32*, trans. Ronald E. Heine, FOTC 89 (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1993), 13.10.71.

² Origen, *Commentary on the Gospel According to John*, FOTC 89, 13.10.17.

B:

Origen. *Commentary on the Gospel According to John: Books 13-32*. Translated by Ronald E. Heine. FOTC 89. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1993.

Epistles

Letters may or may not have titles. Therefore, the letter title can be omitted in the note and bibliography. The most important pieces of information are the author, translator, series, and volume number. It is not necessary to cite the series editor or editors. Do cite the volume editor if the editor is listed along with the translator on the title page. The series titled is abbreviated in the note and written in headline style in the bibliography (no italics). When citing from an ancient letter, include the letter, chapter (if applicable), and page number. In the example below, the letter number is 15, the chapter number is 1, and the printed page number is 43.

N:

¹ Cyprian, *Letters 1-81*, trans. Rose Bernard Donna, CSJ, FOTC 51 (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1964), 15.1.43.

² Cyprian, *Letters*, FOTC, 15.2.44.

B:

Cyprian. *Letters 1-81*. Translated by Rose Bernard Donna, CSJ. The Fathers of the Church 51. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1964.

Texts by Church Fathers

Certain series combine several works of one author into a single volume. Both *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (ANF) and *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers* (first and second series: NPNF¹ and NPNF²) follow this format. When using these collections, each volume is treated as an edited work. Therefore one should cite the ancient author, the title of their work in italics (not the general volume title), the translator and/or editor of the cited work, series title and volume number (minus the general editor), and publication information. One should first cite the chapter/section and paragraph number (if needed) and printed page number. If the work is not divided into chapters or sections, the printed page number will suffice. NPNF has two series. Indicate the series used with a superscripted 1 or 2. In the first example below, the chapter number is 19, the paragraph number is 1, and the printed page number is 43.

N:

¹ Tertullian, *Apology*, trans. S. Thelwall, ANF 3 (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1993), 19.1.33.

² Tertullian, *Apology*, ANF 3, 19.1.33.

B:

Tertullian. *Apology*. Translated by S. Thelwall. Ante-Nicene Fathers 3. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1993.

N:

¹ Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Holy Spirit: Against the Followers of Macedonius*, trans. William Moore and Henry Austin Wilson, NPNF² (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994), 319.

² Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Holy Spirit*, NPNF², 319.

B:

Gregory of Nyssa. *On the Holy Spirit: Against the Followers of Macedonius*. Translated by William Moore and Henry Austin Wilson. Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Series 2. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

N:

¹ John of Damascus, *Philosophical Chapters*, trans. Frederic H. Chase, Jr. FOTC 37 (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1999), 64.98.

B:

John of Damascus. *Philosophical Chapters*. Translated by Frederic H. Chase, Jr. Fathers of the Church 37. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1999.

Thomas Aquinas

The *Summa Theologica* has a standardized reference system. One should use and become familiar with how the *Summa Theologica* is divided into parts, questions, and articles. Page numbers are irrelevant when citing from the *Summa Theologica*.

N:

¹ Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* Ia2æ, Q.91, Art. 2.

² Thomas Aquinas, *Sum* Ia, Q. 93, Art. 1.

B:

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*. Edited by Thomas Gilby, OP. 60 vols. Cambridge: Blackfriars, 1966.

Bibliography

Harris, Chuck. "Citation Examples for Theological Works." Otterburne, Manitoba: Providence University College and Theological Seminary Library, 2013.
<http://www.providenceuc.ca/resource/file/library/pdf/formating%20help/Citing%20Examples.pdf>.

Society of Biblical Literature. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines*. 2nd ed. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014.

University of Chicago Press. *The Chicago Manual of Style*. 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.

University of St. Thomas Libraries. "Citing Theological Sources: How to do a Bibliography; Church Documents." St. Paul: University of St. Thomas, Last modified September 30, 2016. <http://libguides.stthomas.edu/c.php?g=88581&p=570749>.