Digital Tools for Exegesis

1. Textual Tools: *Listen to the Text*
   - Textual Analysis
     - [Stepbible.org](http://stepbible.org) for an interactive search of original language terms and basic reference resources
       - Look at several translations at once!
       - ASK: What’s going on in this text? Are there any words I should define?
     - [Blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) for the original language terms and basic reference resources (Strong’s Concordance, Lexicons, Theological Dictionaries)
   - **Bible dictionaries**: These works include a short description and key bibliography. Use for all kinds of terms (like “literary criticism” or “Essene” or “pericope” or “Mary Magdalene”)
     - [New Interpreters](http://www.ministrymatters.com.proxy.library.emory.edu/library/#/nidb/8f907aa606bb0064beb31df68edcf3d/editorial-board.html) available through Ministry Matters (along with some commentaries) [Discount for Alums]
     - [HarperCollins](http://www.bibleodyssy.org/tools/harper-collins-dictionary) available at Bible Odyssey [Free]

2. Secondary Sources (Commentaries, Articles): *Test What You Heard*
   - Armed with a list of questions produced in your textual analysis, approach secondary sources with an eye to fleshing out the **historical, literary, and theological** elements in your text.
     - Choose a **critical** (that is, technical rather than devotional) commentary
       - Based in the original language, explores historical/text critical issues along with theological ones, has substantive supporting bibliography
     - Which critical commentary?
       - Recommended Commentary LibGuide: [pitts.emory.edu/commentaries](http://pitts.emory.edu/commentaries)
       - Particularly Suggested Commentary series:
         - **Hermeneia**: Deep dive into the textual and historical issues, your best bet for academic exegesis. Available online (to current students *and* alums) at [pitts.emory.edu/hermeneia](http://pitts.emory.edu/hermeneia)
           - Limit your search in DiscoverE to “available online”
   - **ATLA**: A journal database with stellar resources for exegesis
     - [pitts.emory.edu/atla](http://pitts.emory.edu/atla); also available to alums ([pitts.emory.edu/alum](http://pitts.emory.edu/alum))
     - Scripture Search feature allows you to target a particular text: located above the main search field with title “Scriptures”
STEP Steps

- Pick your languages: Click on search box and then select “Pick Bible”
  - Key:
    - N = Notes and cross references
    - V = Vocabulary details when hovering over words
    - I = Interlinear display with other interlinear texts
    - S = Interlinear for the Septuagint - the Greek OT.
    - R = Red letters for the words of Jesus
  - Ancient:
    - Greek: LXX (OT), SBL (NT)
    - Hebrew: OHB
- Analyze a specific section:
  - Change display by clicking the gear menu (interlinear, comparison (only available when you have two Bibles in the same language), etc.)
  - Hover over the verse number to get
    - Vocabulary Statistics
    - Related subjects/verses
    - Select each of these items and a new window will appear with those new search parameters
  - To see lexical data on a single word, click on that word and then a new window will open on the right.
- Broader searches:
  - In the search box, start typing a term/person/place (transliterated or in English): once you’ve put in at least two letters, the system will suggest searches for the following (color coordinated to differentiate):
    - Original language terms
    - English words
    - General subjects
    - Books of the Bible (or specific sections)—you can put in more than one book!
  - Think of it like a recipe or formula: put in your parameters (word, book(s), Bible text in translation or in original language) and out will pop your completed masterpiece!
- Visualizations/Saved Searches: Box on the right includes many other options
  - Graph: visualizations (word clouds) for vocabulary and subjects
  - Flag: log of all your searches, which you can then re-use
- Commentaries: All older, in the public domain—but still useful resources, especially Wesley’s!