

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES RESOURCE GUIDE

This guide is intended to provide a basic introduction to important resources in the area of Ancient Near Eastern Studies. Resources range from general reference tools to where one might find relevant book reviews, and include information about searching Vanderbilt's library catalog [Acorn](#) – and the even more comprehensive [WorldCat](#) catalog – more productively.

General Reference Tools

All of the tools below include bibliography for further study. For more reference books, consult the [ANE Programmatic Bibliography](#) (pdf).

Anchor Bible Dictionary (ABD)

Divinity Reference Sub-Study 2

BS440 .A54 1992 v. 1-v. 6

(also available at workstations in the Divinity Library)

ABD includes encyclopedia entries on topics related to biblical and ANE studies.

Brill's New Pauly Encyclopedia of the Ancient World: Antiquity

Central Reference (4th floor)

DE5 .N48413 2002 v. 1 (A-ARI) - v. 11 (PHI-PROK))

Brill's New Pauly includes many entries related to time periods (post-Alexander) and places (the Mediterranean) not included in other ANE reference works.

Civilizations of the Ancient Near East (CANE)

Divinity Reference Room 224

DS57 .C55 1995 v. 1-v. 4

CANE includes articles on major topics of ANE studies. To access information, consult the chapter headings and the subject index in volume four.

[Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt \(OEAE\)](#)

(also available in Central Reference (4th floor))

DT58 .O94 2001 v. 1-v. 4)

OEAE provides overviews of topics related to the study of Ancient Egypt. VU users can access the encyclopedia electronically.

Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East (OEANE)

Divinity Reference Room 224

DS56 .O9 1997 v. 1-v. 5

OEANE provides information on major archaeological sites and topics related to ANE archaeology.

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The Acorn Catalog - Subjects and Call Numbers

Standardized subject headings and call numbers are assigned to books and other material added to the library collection to describe and organize the intellectual content. Approaching a subject through the analytical logic of the catalog provides an efficient path to relevant material.

Example: Select a standard work from one of the reference tools above and search the title in Acorn. Ancient Near East is not a subject heading used by our library or by most of the libraries in the United States. Examples of subject headings used for works in this area are:

Middle East – Antiquities
Middle East – Civilization – To 622
Egypt – Civilization – To 332 B.C.

More specific topics will have subject headings to reflect the specificity. A strategy for finding appropriate headings is to search the topic in the reference tools above and select a highly recommended source from the bibliography on the topic. Search the title in Acorn. The record's subject headings are hyperlinked to other titles with the same subject headings.

The call number is another lead to related works and can be searched by browsing the shelves in reference or the stacks as well as an online call number search that allows you to browse books that are checked out or stored at the Annex. Call numbers for the Ancient Near East are most often in the DS (Asia) and PJ (Oriental Languages and Literature) ranges, but may also be found in BF (Psychology), BL (Religion), BS (Bible), DT (Africa), HQ (Family, Marriage, Women), KL (Law), and N (Fine Arts).

Examples of call numbers are:

BL2440 (described as general works on ancient Egyptian religion)
DS56 (described as antiquities and social antiquities in the Middle East)
PJ3701 (described as general collections of Akkadian inscriptions)

More specific subjects will have their own call numbers. A cautionary note: books with more than one subject can only be located in one place so may not be placed on the shelves beside other books on the topic.

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Databases for Finding Books and Articles

For some research, you will want to find out broadly what has been published on a specific area of study. For monographic treatments of an area of interest, Vanderbilt's [Acorn](#) and the OCLC's [WorldCat](#) are the best places to start. (Where Acorn tells you what the Vanderbilt libraries own, WorldCat tells you what libraries around the world own.)

[ATLA Religion Database](#) This compiles bibliographic information on publications (books, articles, book reviews) related to religious studies. Because Hebrew Bible studies often consider the ANE, this database is very useful for students of the ANE.

[Oriental Institute Research Archives On-Line Catalogue](#) For depth of coverage of the ANE, this is better than ATLA. Unfortunately, it does not have as sophisticated of search capacity. To fully search a topic include as many spellings as possible (for example: Akhenaten, Ikhnaton, Echnaton).

The ATLA database and the Oriental Institute catalogue provide the best coverage for ANE study in general. The following resources are also helpful.

[AIGYPTOS](#) On-line database of publications related to ancient Egypt.

[ANE Programmatic Bibliography](#) (pdf) Includes many good starting points for ANE studies. The books listed here have bibliography for further study.

[Diotima](#) Collects on-line resources for the study of women in antiquity. It focuses on classical (Greek and Roman) antiquity but includes items related to ANE and biblical studies.

Egyptological Bibliography (Divinity Reference Room 224 **DT60 .E397 2001 CD-ROM**) Indexes books and articles up to 1997.

[ETANA](#) ABZU collects on-line articles and book reviews and other internet-based presentations of ANE topics. Core Texts makes key monographs on the ANE in the public domain available in PDF format.

Asher-Greve, J. M. and M. F. Wogec. "Women and Gender in Ancient Near Eastern Cultures: Bibliography 1885 to 2001 AD." [NIN](#) 3.1 (2002): 33-114.

[JSTOR](#) Many full-text ANE resources online. Many accessible through ATLA. Available only to VU users.

[Religion Compass](#) An on-line publication with overview articles on ANE topics. Available only to VU users.

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Book Reviews

Reviews can help you determine if a book has information related to your research. Because reviews often place a work in the context of previous research, they can provide additional bibliography. The [ATLA](#) database and the [Oriental Institute](#) catalogue include reviews. Below are three web sites.

[The Bryn Mawr Classical Review](#) (Mainly classics, some ANE)

[Review of Biblical Literature](#) (Mainly biblical studies, some ANE)

[Journal of the Hebrew Scriptures Reviews](#) (Biblical studies and ANE; less searchable than *Review of Biblical Literature*)

Languages Resources

Languages often occupy a central place in ANE studies. When taking a language course, you might want to consult additional resources for clarification and comparison. If you are using Huehnergard for Akkadian, note the link below.

[Language Resources Bibliography](#) (pdf)
[Corrections to Huehnergard, *Grammar of Akkadian*, 2nd ed.](#) (pdf)
[Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago \(CAD\)](#) (volumes available as free downloadable pdfs)

ANE Literature

The literature of the ANE provides one cultural context in which to read the Hebrew Bible. Pritchard's *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament (ANET)* is a classic. *The Context of Scripture (COS)* provides updated translations and bibliography. Sparks' *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible* includes introductory remarks on different types of literature and extensive bibliography.

Hallo, William W. *The Context of Scripture*. (Divinity Reference Sub-Study 2 **BS1180 .C66 1997 v. 1-v. 3**)

Pritchard, James B. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. (Divinity Reference Sub-Study 2 **BS1182 .P8 1969**)

Sparks, Kenton L. *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to the Background Literature*. (Divinity Reference Sub-Study 2 **BS1184 .S637 2005**)

For on-line databases of texts, consult the [ANE Programmatic Bibliography](#) (pdf).

Geography

Study Bibles often include ANE maps (*HarperCollins Study Bible, Oxford Study Bible, New Interpreter's Study Bible, Jewish Study Bible*). The following on-line resources also come recommended.

[Oriental Institute Map Series](#)
[Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection](#)

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Bibliographic Abbreviations

Many publications include a list of abbreviations. If the material that you are reading does not have one, consult those in the general reference tools. The *SBL Handbook of Style* (Divinity Reference Sub-Study 2 **PN147 .S26 1999**) includes abbreviations. These on-line resources come recommended, too.

[Univ. of Chicago Library – Making Sense of Abbreviations Assyrian Dictionary – T](#) (pdf; see pages ix-xxvii)

[Reallexikons der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie Abbreviations](#)

[Cuneiform Digital Library – Abbreviations List](#)

[Bibliographical Abbreviations \(Egypt/ANE\) \(EEF\)](#)

[Liste des sigles \(Abstracta Iranica\)](#)

Broad in scope, *Periodical Title Abbreviations* (Z6945.A2 W34 – in multiple VU libraries) can also prove helpful.

Bibliographic Citation Style

For your work at Vanderbilt (Divinity or GDR), use the *SBL Handbook of Style* (Divinity Reference Sub-Study 2 **PN147 .S26 1999**) unless otherwise instructed. For additional style information (and more on transliteration), consult:

[Student Supplement to the SBL Handbook of Style](#) (pdf)

Fonts

Divinity Library computers have SBL fonts – including SPAtlantis (transliteration) – installed on them. The [SBL Biblical Fonts](#) web page includes “read me” files with keyboard instructions.