Are We Serving Our Faculty? Comparing STRS Faculty Citations and Library Holdings, 2006-2012

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Are We Serving Our Faculty?

While many recent studies have compared faculty citations with library holdings, *no recent study exists* (1970!) which analyzes Religious Studies and Theology collections exclusively in this context.

What are faculty citing in their monographs? Did the library own the cited items? What citation patterns emerge from the data?

The results of this study will have implications for storage/weeding decisions, approval plans for collections, consortial collection development, and interlibrary loan.

Religion Research poses Unique Challenges

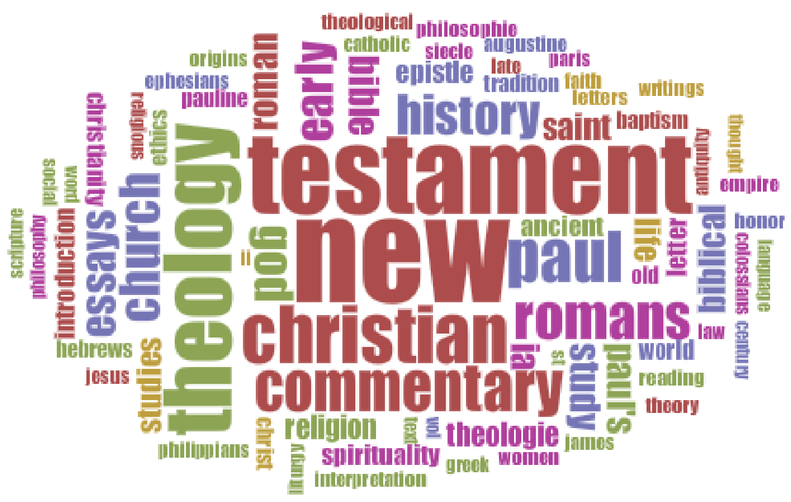
- Large chronological range of citations in all fields of religion: (ancient, medieval, modern)
- Many languages, ancient and modern
- Multiple editions of works from ancient manuscript to modern critical editions and translations
- The edition can be as important as the text
- Scholars do the majority of their publishing in articles
- Monographs are heavily skewed toward Biblical Studies
- Commentary genre makes up a large chunk of published monographs in religion. These tend to have very extensive bibliographies, and the text itself usually includes a mix of translation and secondary research.

Methodology

- 22 monographs: Biblical Studies Old Testament (3), Biblical Studies New Testament (8), Church History (6), Religious Studies (3), and Theology (2)
- 13 authors (single authors with one exception)
- The citations in the bibliography of each monograph was entered into an Excel spreadsheet
- Each citation was checked against library holdings

Quick Snapshot

100 Most Frequently Used Words in the Titles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