

**“It’s all Greek to me!” A Comparison of Online Resources
for the Study of Greek New Testament Backgrounds**



The purpose of this session will be to introduce and compare online resources for the study of the Greco-Roman backgrounds of the New Testament. The Perseus Project, Thesaurus Linguae Graecae and the new Digital Loeb Classical Library will be covered with the goal of assisting librarians tasked with evaluating databases for purchase and recommending resources to patrons.

Comparison of Features:

	Perseus	TLG	LCL
Cost:	Free	Subscription	Subscription/Perpetual
Corpus (General):			
Greek Texts	Yes	Yes	Yes
Latin Texts	Yes	No	Yes
English Translations	Yes	Maybe	Yes
Corpus (Early Jewish/Christian lit.):			
Biblical Texts	Yes	Yes	No
Josephus	Yes	Yes	Yes
Philo	No	Yes	Yes
Greek OTP	No	Yes	No
Apostolic Fathers	No	Yes	Yes
Capabilities:			
Text Search	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wildcard Search	No	Yes	Yes
Lemma Search	Yes	Yes	No
Lexicons	Yes	Yes	No
Search Result Sorting	No	Yes	Yes
Text Comparison/Intertextuality	No	Yes	No
Saved User Settings	No	Yes	Yes
MARC records	No	No	Yes

Cost Overview:

The Perseus Project <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

- **Cost:** Free
- **Scope:**
 - “Greatest Hits” of Greco-Roman literature (and more).
 - English translations to most texts based mainly on public domain digitized editions.

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG) <http://stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/>

- **Cost:** Annual subscription quote for 1,000 FTE = \$1,000. (Informal price quote given March 4, 2015. Official quote based on FTE, number of students in relevant courses or programs, etc.)
Example: Fiscal year 2013-2014, GCTS paid \$1,400 and searched 9,155 times at \$0.15 / search.
- **Scope:**
 - “Comprehensive” collection of Greek texts from Homeric to modern times.
 - English translations linked to Perseus (mainly) but also to other online resources.

Digital Loeb Classical Library <http://www.loebclassics.com/>

- **Cost:** Annual subscription based on FTE: \$1,150 - \$4,600; perpetual access: \$5,750 - \$23,000
1,000 FTE = \$1,150 annual/\$5,570 perpetual (Informal price quote given March 4, 2015.)
No usage data, but compare print cost: 522 vols. × \$20 = \$10,440
- **Scope:**
 - All in-print (current editions) of the Loeb Classical Library - covering Greek and Latin literature from Homeric Greek to early Latin Christianity.
 - Greek/Latin text facing English translations.

Reference Considerations:

What is the researcher's Greek proficiency?

What other tools do they have? BibleWorks? Logos? Accordance?

What is the researcher trying to accomplish? (Swatting a fly with an elephant gun?)

- Word study?
 - Ground up? (starting with raw data)
 - Top down? (starting with lexicons / theological dictionaries)
 - Verification? (looking up references)
- Concept/cultural background study?
- Reading a text?
- Sermon preparation?

What about after seminary?

Helps:

GCTS Research Guides <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/library/Research-Guides.cfm>

- *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG) and Perseus Tutorial* (PDF; TLG section in need of update; emphasis on Greek word studies & interoperability between TLG and Perseus)
- *TLG Translation Guide* (PDF that points to appropriate translations in print; needs update with Digital Loeb Classical Library links).

Perseus 4 QuickStart Guide <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/help/quickstart>

Loeb Classical Library – Using the Library <https://www.loebclassics.com/page/usingloeb/using-the-library>

TLG Help Files & Video Tutorials <http://stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/help.php>