

ELENCHUS OF BIBLICA

Biblica has been one of the most influential Roman Catholic journals since its beginning in 1920. The feature which has made it an indispensable tool for Biblical studies is the Elenchus (Latin for “record”) bibliography covering the areas of Texts and versions, Books of the Bible, Biblical theology, Biblical philology, and geography.

Included in the bibliography are references to books, book reviews, articles in journals, articles in Festschriften and multi-author works, dissertations, and dictionary articles. During most of the earlier years (1920-48) the bibliography was published in the back of the volumes of Biblica (in v. 19, 25 & 27 it was published in two parts). The bibliography for 1924-25 was published in v. 6. Beginning with v. 30 (1949) a part of the bibliography was published at the end of each of the quarterly issues of the journal and the paging was designated by an asterisk to differentiate it from the paging of the journal. After 1968 the Elenchus bibliography was published separately as Elenchus Bibliographicus Biblicus. The name was changed to Elenchus of Biblica in 1985. The 1995 volume was published in two parts: Exegesis and Archaeologica-Linguistica-Theologica. Each part has its own index and table of contents.

The Latin Table of Contents (Index Generalis Elenchi Bibliographici Biblici), which is found in the back of each volume, is the best place to begin when using Elenchus. Pamphlet binders shelved at the end of the Elenchus contain translations of the Tables of Contents for vols. 54 (1973) and 60 (1979) which can be used with any volume, although there are slight variations from volume to volume. No Table of Contents was published in v. 7-17. Tables from other volumes can be consulted when using these. Beginning with v. 60 (1979) the Table of Contents is published in the front.

Each volume contains indexes, which have varied in arrangement and extent of coverage through the years. Beginning in 1943 the number in the index refers to the number in the bibliography rather than to the page number. From 1973 through 1992 after entry number 10,000 or 9,999 any subsequent entries are prefixed with a lower case letter moving through the alphabet in increments of 999, e.g., after a1-a999 comes b1, after b1-b999, comes c1-c999, etc. The chart on page 2 shows the types of indexes and their locations.

A key to abbreviations of journals, Sigla Periodicorum, is found at the front of each volume of Elenchus. For abbreviations used in volumes 1-19, which do not contain a key to abbreviations, consult v. 20 (1939). Beginning with the second part of the 1995 volume, the publishers began using the abbreviations found in Siegfried Schwertner's Internationales Abkürzungsverzeichnis für Theologie und Grenzgebiete. 2d ed. 1992 (R.R.050/S415/1992). The only periodical abbreviations which are listed in the front of the Elenchus volumes published after 1996 are for those titles with no abbreviations in Schwertner, but frequently the periodical abbreviations used in these latter volumes can be found in the list in the front of the 1995 volume.

In your research in biblical studies you must check the early volumes of Biblica Elenchus since these volumes predate the religious periodical indexes; e.g., Religion Index One, which indexes Journal of Biblical Literature, did not begin until 1949.

The two retrospective indexes to Biblica (v. 1-25, 1920-44 and v. 26-50, 1945-69) index only materials in the journal Biblica and do not index materials found in the Elenchus.

Separate Author Index	1-30 (1920-49)	57-59 (1976-78)	
Separate Author Index, including geographical references			60+ (1979+)
Separate Subject Index		57-59 (1976-78)	
Combined Author/Subject Index, including references to Scriptures not listed in the section of the bibliography covering that particular biblical book. (In alphabetical sequence according to Latin name).		31-56 (1950-75)	
Separate Scripture Index (Includes all Scripture references)			57+ (1976+)
Reference to Greek & Hebrew words not in bibliography under "voces discussae" (Philologia Biblica section)			
In general index under "voces discussae"		38-41 (1957-60)	
In separate index: "voces discussae"			42-56 (1961-75)
In subject index under "voces"			57 (1976)
References to all Greek & Hebrew words			
In subject index under "Graecobiblica" and "Hebraica"		58-59 (1976-78)	
In separate index: "Voces"			60+ (1979+)
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Beginning with v. 61 (1980) an "in memoriam" section indexing notices of and articles on "recently deceased experts" was added as the last section of the bibliography.			