

## Wednesday Workshop: Church Fathers and Mothers

*“Bernard of Chartres used to compare us to dwarfs perched on the shoulders of giants. He pointed out that we see more and farther than our predecessors, not because we have keener vision or greater height, but because we are lifted up and borne aloft on their gigantic stature.”*  
John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon* 3.4 (1159)

### 1. Terms to Know

- a. Patristic: from the Latin *patres*, or “Fathers”
- b. Late Antiquity: bridge from patristic to medieval, via Rome’s “fall”
- c. Medieval: from the Latin *medi aevum*, or “middle age”

### 2. Where to start?

- a. Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church
  - i. Online
  - ii. Pitts Ready Reference: BR 95.O8 2005)
- b. Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature
  - i. Online
  - ii. Pitts stacks: BR67. C25 2004
- c. Encyclopedia of Medieval Literature, through Credo database system
  - i. Online
  - ii. Woodruff Stacks PN669 E52 2000

### 3. What to Ask?

- a. Preliminary Questions (best answered by a reference search)
  - i. What is the author’s name? Be specific!
  - ii. What are the Latin/Greek and English titles?
- b. Questions once you have a translation
  - i. Who is the translator and publisher? Do they have a track record with this particular author or work?
  - ii. WHEN was this published?
  - iii. What *kind* of translation is this?
- c. Ways to assess the value of a translation:
  - i. Read the introduction and notes!
  - ii. Consult reviews
  - iii. COMPARE TRANSLATIONS
  - iv. Keep in mind the historical setting of the original, remembering that translation is an art, not a precise science

### 4. Translation Options:

#### a. **Print**

#### i. **Series**

1. Ante-Nicene as well as Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Reference BR60 R62 and BR60 S4
2. Classics of Western Spirituality: shelved by author
3. Library of Christian Classics: Reference BR60 L53
4. Loeb: Reference PA 6156
5. Fathers of the Church: Reference: BR60 F3 A49

6. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: shelved by biblical book
  - ii. Standalone
  - iii. Topical—subject or work specific
    1. “The Works of Saint Augustine” are online and in Reference BR65. A5. E53
- b. Online**
  - i. Loeb: via Databases@Emory, searchable!
  - ii. Perseus Digital Library (Perseus.org)
  - iii. New Advent (Newadvent.org)
  - iv. Christian Classics Ethereal Library (ccel.org)
  - v. Fordham Sourcebooks (<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/index.asp>)
  - vi. Tertullian.org
5. Citation
  - a. Details
    - i. **Internal** (Turabian 17.5.1): the books, chapters, and paragraph numbers of the original text
    - ii. **External** (Turabian 17.1.1.1-2): the page numbers, translator and publisher information from a translated work
  - b. Examples
    - i. Augustine
      1. Footnote: Augustine, *On the Trinity* 1.10.20.
      2. Bibliography: Augustine. “On the Trinity.” Translated by Arthur West Haddan. In *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, edited by Philip Schaff, Series 1, vol. 3, 17-228. 1886. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
    - ii. Aquinas (an unusual situation)
      1. Elements: part of the summa, question, article, section of article
      2. ST 1. q. 3. a. 1. ad. 1
      3. ST 1. q. 3. a. 1. Translation from: Stephen Brown, ed. *Aquinas on Faith and Reason*. (Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Publishing Company, 1999), 131.
      4. For more see: <http://douglasbeaumont.com/2010/09/21/citing-thomas-aquinass-summa-theologiae/>
6. Questions?
  - a. Email me! sbogue@emory.edu
  - b. Stop by the reference desk any time from 8:30-5

