

A Librarian's Field Guide to Comparative Religion & Religious Studies

How do you collect confidently in a field you're unfamiliar with?

The Problem:

To create a resource with information about the field, discover new content, and assess existing collections.

The Audience:

Selectors tasked with collecting for religion but who don't have extensive subject background.

The Project:

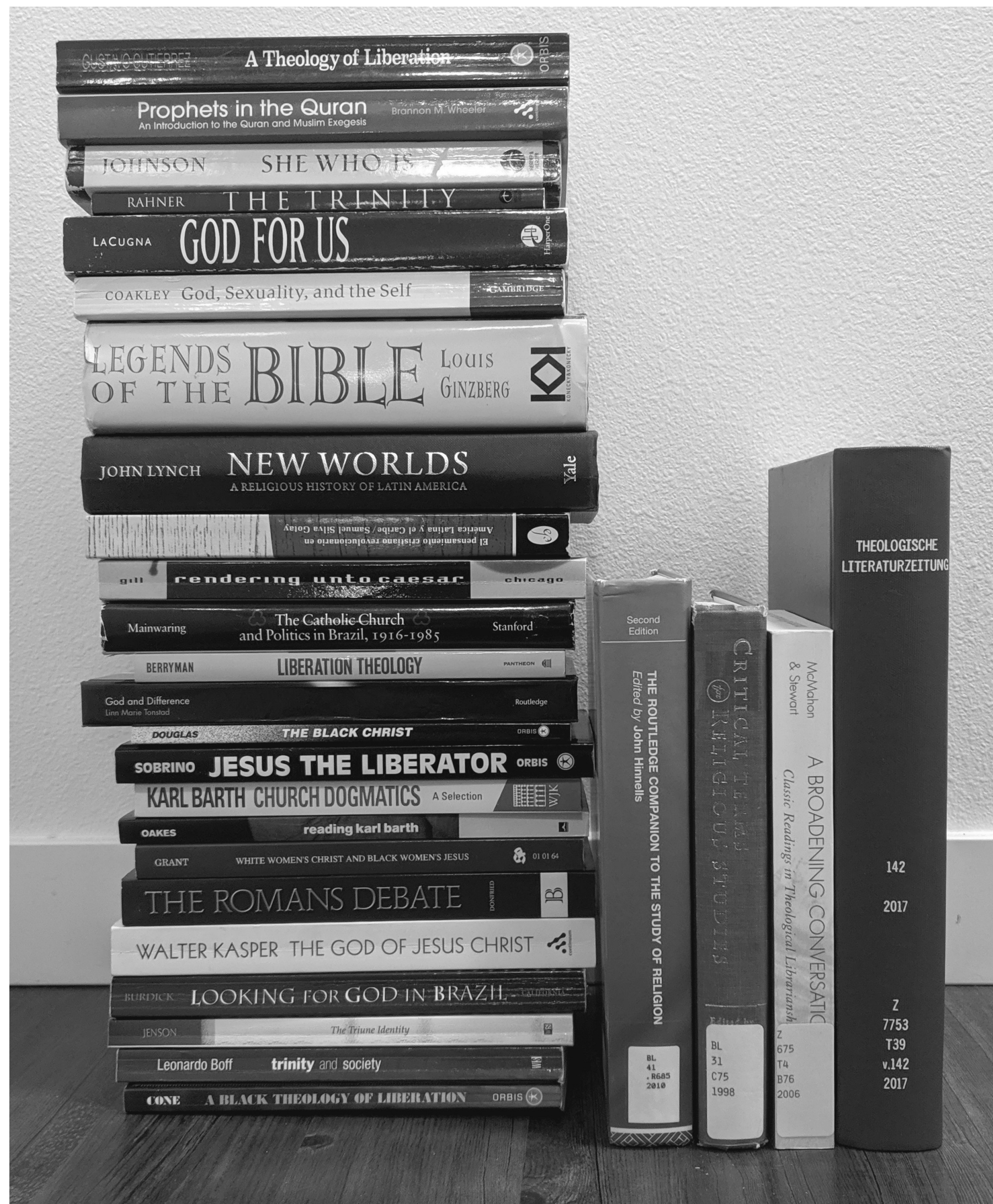
A book: *A Librarian's Field Guide to Comparative Religion & Religious Studies*.

To balance time and the needs of the audience, I wrote the first three chapters for the phase of the project to be evaluate for Capstone:

- Chapter 1, Field Definition: does this chapter describe the major subject areas and the general scope of selecting for religious studies/comparative religion? What is the relationship of religion and theology in the context of collection development.
- Chapter 2, Staying Current in the Field: does this chapter point to a handful of avenues in each of the following media: reference books, newsletters, scholarly societies, podcasts, blogs, and email lists?
- Chapter 3, Collection Development Support: does this chapter point to tools for discovering monographs, serials, and open resources?

Stretch Goals (and next steps):

- Chapter 4: tools for assessing an existing collection.
- Appendix: comparative collection development policies from universities around the US of various sizes.




What belongs in your collection?
How do you make that decision?



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