For this research paper, I used several different kinds of sources. I used both online sources and physical paper sources. I prefer physical books and journals but I recognize the value of the online databases. These databases are where I get a better idea of the direction of my research because of the abundance or lack of research on a topic. The databases help guide and refine my search terms. I also used the software BibleWorks for my translation for the paper. BibleWorks was a valuable resource when a word was too difficult or odd to discern the proper translation. This software is only available to me through the library.

I searched several databases for articles and essays. Databases include ATLA, Academic Search Complete, and New Testament Abstracts. Swilley's catalog was very helpful when searching for commentaries and other books related to my research. Books found in the reference section and in the stacks were used for information pertaining to my research. This was my first time using the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament. I quickly discovered that it is set up slightly different than its Old Testament counterpart, different enough to require a learning curve when using this source.

I chose my sources with a few criteria: I wanted to incorporate Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern elements that paralleled those in my New Testament passage, I used commentaries whose author’s names were at least familiar to me (Dr. Jones did an excellent job of mentioning several leading scholars throughout the course) giving me confidence in the level of scholarship, and I used sources dealing with the original language of my New Testament passage. A couple of the articles I chose also grabbed me by an interesting title or abstract.

This paper broadened my pattern for doing research. I did not know that there were more commentaries located in the stacks outside of the ones in the reference section. I still do not know why this never occurred to me. This has already been an incredibly helpful discovery thanks to a better use of the library's catalog and a little serendipity.