

MOSAIC CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ONLINE LIBRARY USER GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE MOSAIC ONLINE LIBRARY

The Mosaic Online Library serves as the primary learning resource center for Mosaic Christian College. The library supports student learning, biblical and theological research, ministry preparation, academic writing, spiritual formation, and lifelong learning. Through the library, students and faculty have access to books, scholarly journals, reference works, dissertations, research databases, and academic repositories that support the programmes and learning outcomes of the College.

Because MCC is a fully online institution, the library has been designed to provide broad and equitable access to learning resources regardless of a student's location. Students may access resources from home, church, ministry settings, or anywhere internet access is available. This approach reflects the College's commitment to making theological education accessible while supporting our mission of creating disciples of Christ without creating disciples of debt.

ACCESSING THE LIBRARY

The Mosaic Online Library may be accessed at:

www.gomosaic.college/library

The library homepage provides links to theological databases, scholarly journals, academic repositories, digital libraries, research tools, and reference resources. Most resources are available directly through the links provided on the library page.

Students should begin by identifying the type of information needed for an assignment and then selecting the most appropriate resource for their research.

LIBRARY ACCESS FOR ONLINE STUDENTS

All library resources are available to students regardless of geographic location. Because the College serves students in diverse ministry, vocational, and cultural contexts, the library is designed to provide continuous access to academic resources through digital delivery.

Students may access library resources at any time through an internet connection. This model helps ensure that students studying at a distance have access to learning resources comparable to those available through traditional campus-based libraries.

LIBRARY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The Mosaic Online Library provides access to a broad range of academic and ministry resources, including:

- Scholarly books and eBooks

- Theological reference works
- Biblical studies resources
- Church history resources
- Peer-reviewed journals
- Academic journal articles
- Dissertations and theses
- Research databases
- Ministry and leadership resources
- Counseling and Christian education resources
- Open-access academic repositories
- Historical documents and primary source materials

These resources support learning at certificate, diploma, undergraduate, and graduate levels and help students engage both foundational and advanced theological scholarship.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOURCE SELECTION

One of the most important skills students develop during their studies is the ability to identify and use reliable sources. The quality of research is often determined by the quality of the sources consulted. Strong academic work requires sources that are credible, relevant, accurate, and appropriate for the subject being studied.

Not all information available online meets these standards. Students should avoid relying primarily on blogs, opinion websites, social media posts, anonymous internet content, or materials that lack scholarly support. While such sources may occasionally provide background information, they rarely provide sufficient academic support for research assignments.

As Christian scholars and ministry leaders, we are called to pursue truth with integrity. Responsible research reflects respect for Scripture, respect for those we serve, and respect for the work of others. Careful source selection helps students develop sound judgment, theological discernment, and responsible scholarship.

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOURCES

Primary Sources

Primary sources are original materials created by individuals directly involved in the events, circumstances, or writings being studied. Examples include historical documents, letters, sermons, interviews, manuscripts, government records, and original writings.

Secondary Sources

Secondary sources analyze, interpret, or explain primary sources. Most scholarly books, journal articles, commentaries, biographies, and theological studies fall into this category.

Scholarly Sources

Scholarly sources are written by qualified experts and are often reviewed by other scholars before publication. These sources generally provide the strongest support for academic research and theological reflection.

Popular Sources

Popular sources include blogs, magazines, podcasts, news articles, and general websites. While they may provide useful background information, they should normally be supplemented by scholarly sources in academic assignments.

HOW TO EVALUATE SOURCES

Before using a source, students should ask the following questions:

Who is the author?

Does the author possess relevant education, expertise, experience, or recognized authority in the subject area?

Who is the publisher?

Academic publishers, theological institutions, peer-reviewed journals, and established research organizations are generally more reliable than personal websites.

Is the information current?

Some topics require current scholarship, while others benefit from historical sources and classic theological works.

Is evidence provided?

Reliable sources support their conclusions through research, documentation, citations, and engagement with other scholarly work.

Does the source demonstrate bias?

Every author writes from a particular perspective. Students should learn to recognize assumptions, viewpoints, and theological positions while evaluating arguments fairly and critically.

USING PEER-REVIEWED SOURCES

Peer-reviewed journals are among the most valuable resources available through the library. Before publication, articles are reviewed by scholars with expertise in the subject area. This process helps strengthen accuracy, scholarship, and academic quality.

Students should prioritize peer-reviewed sources whenever possible, particularly in upper-level undergraduate and graduate coursework.

CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

Effective research generally follows a structured process:

Step 1: Define the Topic

Clearly identify the question, issue, or ministry challenge being studied.

Step 2: Develop Search Terms

Create a list of keywords, theological terms, and related concepts connected to the topic.

Step 3: Search Multiple Resources

Use several databases, journals, and repositories rather than relying on a single source.

Step 4: Evaluate Sources

Review sources carefully to determine their credibility, relevance, and usefulness.

Step 5: Organize Research

Maintain accurate notes, citations, quotations, and research records throughout the project.

Step 6: Document Sources Properly

Record publication information immediately to avoid citation problems later in the writing process.

Strong researchers compare viewpoints, evaluate evidence, and build conclusions based on careful analysis rather than personal opinion alone.

USING GOOGLE SCHOLAR

Google Scholar is one of the most useful research tools available through the library. Students are encouraged to:

- Use specific search terms.
- Review article abstracts before downloading resources.
- Search for both recent and foundational scholarship.
- Examine bibliographies for additional sources.
- Compare information across multiple scholarly works.

Google Scholar should be used alongside other library resources rather than serving as the sole source of research.

ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL RESEARCH RESOURCES

The Mosaic Online Library provides access to major theological collections, academic repositories, and global library networks. Students conducting advanced research may use these resources to identify additional books, journals, dissertations, and scholarly materials beyond those directly housed within the College's library portal.

These extended research networks are particularly valuable for graduate-level projects, specialized ministry topics, and independent research.

RESEARCH EXPECTATIONS BY PROGRAMME LEVEL

Students are expected to demonstrate increasing research competency as they progress academically.

Certificate and diploma students should learn to locate, evaluate, and use appropriate academic resources.

Undergraduate students should engage scholarly books, journals, and reference works while developing stronger research, analysis, and writing skills.

Graduate students should demonstrate advanced engagement with scholarly literature, theological dialogue, critical analysis, independent research, and evidence-based conclusions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CITATION

Academic integrity is an essential expression of Christian character and responsible scholarship. Students are expected to acknowledge the ideas, words, and research of others through proper citation and documentation.

Plagiarism occurs when another person's work is presented as one's own. Proper citation demonstrates honesty, accountability, and respect for intellectual contributions.

Students should follow the citation requirements established by their programme and instructors and maintain accurate records of all sources consulted during research.

REQUESTING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Students and faculty may recommend additional resources that support programme learning outcomes, ministry preparation, research needs, or emerging areas of study.

Resource recommendations are reviewed as part of the College's Library and Learning Resources Plan and annual library development process. This helps ensure that library resources continue to support student learning, programme requirements, and the mission of the College.

LIBRARY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

Students needing assistance with research, source evaluation, database selection, or library navigation are encouraged to contact their instructor or Student Services.

Faculty members are available to provide guidance regarding research expectations, source selection, academic writing, and scholarly research practices.

For assistance, contact:

Email: info@gomosaic.college

Phone: +1-972-357-0536

LIFELONG LEARNING AND MINISTRY PREPARATION

The Mosaic Online Library exists not only to support academic success but also to encourage lifelong learning, theological reflection, and faithful ministry. Effective Christian leaders continue learning throughout their lives. The habits of reading, research, critical thinking, and responsible scholarship developed during a student's studies help prepare them to serve Christ, the Church, and their communities with wisdom, integrity, and biblical faithfulness.

Students are encouraged to make regular use of library resources throughout their studies and beyond graduation as part of their ongoing commitment to spiritual growth, theological understanding, ministry effectiveness, and Christian service.