Catholic Church Documents in the Atla Religion Database

A Guide to Indexing and Searching[1]

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While there is extensive literature on searching in electronic databases, very little of it pertains to the disciplines of theology and religious studies. A recent article by Bret David Fearrien compared search results across four religion-specific databases and two multidisciplinary databases. While Fearrien described in detail how he constructed the three queries that form the basis of his research, his goal was not to teach users how to search the respective databases, but to point them to the database providing the best results—*Atla's Religion Database,* hereafter *RDB*.[2] His conclusion is supported by Gerrit van Dyk's 2015 analysis of theology LibGuides, which found that 94.6 percent of them recommended *RDB*.[3]

Understanding the indexing practices used in *RDB* is key to searching the database effectively. So far, the only published studies on this topic relate to *RDB*'s earlier iteration on CD-ROM. The first was a workshop given at Atla's 48th annual conference in 1994 on "Searching the ATLA CD-ROM."[4] In an article published three years later, Dennis Norlin discussed searchable fields in *RDB* compared with the *Catholic Periodical & Literature Index,* or *CPLI,* also on CD-ROM.[5] An article in the same issue of *Catholic Library World* described how to make an index guide to searching *CPLI* on CD-ROM, but omitted to give any specific instructions on how to search.[6] The present article aims to partially fill this gap by providing guidance on searching a specific topic in *RDB*.

Church documents are important sources for conducting any kind of research in the field of Catholic studies. Six years ago, members of Atla's Roman Catholic denominational group presented a session on Church documents at the annual conference, which helpfully described different types of Church documents and their relative authority.[7] It also offered a few print and web collections of Church doctrines and documents. It did not, however, provide any guidance on how to find them. Those seeking to locate older material should consult *Vatican Archives: An Inventory and Guide to Historical Documents of the Holy See,* edited by Francis X. Blouin, Jr. (Oxford University Press, 1998).[8] The present study begins by describing the main sources of Church documents indexed in *RDB*. Then it describes how they are indexed, by examining searchable fields. Finally, it discusses how researchers might find information on specific topics.

SOURCES OF CHURCH DOCUMENTS

First, it bears stating that Atla *RDB* only includes Church documents published in the serials that Atla indexes. Atla does not index the Vatican website, for example. The most important source of Church documents is the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis,* the official Acts of the Holy See, or *AAS* for short. The *AAS* is published by the Vatican Press, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, and usually runs about two years behind. All issues have been digitized and are available on the Vatican website.[9] Although *AAS* has been published since 1909, Atla's indexing only goes back to 1980.[10] The primary advantage of using *AAS* as a source is that it is authoritative, and it publishes documents in their original language(s). Thus, if one has a document in translation, it can be very helpful to search *AAS* to find the original, which is usually considered to be the most authoritative version. *AAS* also publishes some documents that cannot be found anywhere else, such as the canonization decrees of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

Next is *L'Osservatore Romano,* the official newspaper of the Vatican, which primarily publishes papal sermons and speeches, as well as articles and commentary. Atla indexes only the weekly, English-language version. Coverage of this title also began in 1980. There are also two ceased titles that Atla used to index that published a lot of papal documents. The first is *The Pope Speaks,* published by Our Sunday Visitor, indexed 1980-2005. The second is *Origins,* a weekly publication of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, indexed 1980-2021. *L'Osservatore Romano, The Pope Speaks* and *Origins* are primarily useful as sources of English translations of papal and Church documents. Most of these, if not all, however, are now available on the Vatican website. Another publication like these, but in French, is *La Documentation Catholique.* Published since 1919, Atla indexed *La Documentation Catholique* from 1980 to 2003 with considerable gaps in the 1990s.

Atla also indexes two dicasterial publications. *Notitiae,* published by the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments since 1965, has been entirely digitized and is available on the dicastery's website.[11] Coverage begins in 1980. *Notitiae* reprints some papal documents, but mostly publishes documents of the dicastery relating to the liturgy, as well as some essays on the liturgy. The other journal, *Communicationes,* reports on the activities of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts.

Lastly, several journals occasionally publish Church documents, such as the Peruvian journal *Páginas,* for which the full text is available in ATLAS Plus. Atla's indexing of *Páginas* currently includes forty-seven papal documents.

FIGURE 1 | Primary Sources of Church Documents in the *RDB*.

- L'Osservatore Romano
- Acta Apostolicae Sedis
- The Pope Speaks
- Origins
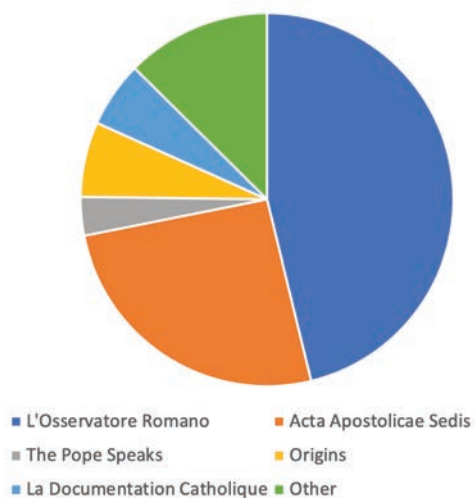- La Documentation Catholique
- Other

Figure 1 is a breakdown by publication of the primary sources of Church documents in *RDB* with the number that each has contributed so far. Only those titles for which Atlas has indexed at least 1,000 documents are included. Every publication with fewer, is lumped together in Other (4,626 documents). The first thing to notice is that there are 36,814 documents in total. Nearly half were published in *L'Osservatore Romano* (17,005 documents) and just over a quarter in *AAS* (9,450 documents). Atla has indexed 2,399

documents in *Origins,* 2,102 documents in *La Documentation Catholique,* and 1,232 documents in *The Pope Speaks.*

Although Atla's indexing of these journals is by no means complete, *RDB* is still the most comprehensive electronic database of Church documents. It should be noted that the Vatican website is not complete either. While its coverage of papal documents is excellent, its coverage of dicasterial documents is incredibly spotty. And even when the Vatican website provides the same documents as *RDB*, the researcher must know what they are looking for to find them. For example, they must know which pope or dicastery authored the document, what genre of document it is, *and* when it was promulgated. By contrast, Church documents can be searched for by topic in *RDB*. This is its primary advantage.

HOW CHURCH DOCUMENTS ARE INDEXED

Before looking at how to search for Catholic Church documents, it is helpful to understand how they are indexed. This can help one know what relevant fields to search and what kinds of content go into those fields. Relevant fields include title, author, language, subject heading, genre heading, and papal date. The focus is on current indexing practices, but users should be aware that indexing practices have varied over the years.

It's useful to examine genre headings first because this is the source of a fundamental distinction between papal documents and Church documents. Thus far, the term "Church documents" has been used in its general sense to describe any kind of document produced by the Catholic Church. Going forward, it will be used in the exclusive sense of a genre heading. In this sense, Church documents are written by the Secretariat of State, any of the dicasteries of the Roman Curia, one of the major tribunals such as the Roman Rota or the Apostolic Penitentiary, an ecumenical council, or the Synod of Bishops. Treaties between the Holy See and another country are also counted as Church documents. Publications of pontifical academies or bishops' conferences, however, are not considered to be Church documents. Papal documents are anything "written" by a pope while in office, but not before or after he held office. Moreover, when a pope issues a document jointly with another religious leader, it is considered a papal document.

One might think that entering document titles is straight-forward, which is mostly true, but AAS is not a typical publication. Here are a few examples:

Figure 2 is a typical decree of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. There are three headings: the first is the Latin name of the diocese in which the canonization cause originates; the second names the person including their religious and secular names; the third names the kind of decree. For this kind of document, the first is ignored, while the second is input as the main title and the third as the subtitle.

Figure 3 is a typical papal document. At the top, there is a section heading: "Acta Ioannis Pauli PP. II." Then there is a document type: "epistula apostolica". Next, a description: "Episcopis, clero, fidelibus anni MM Iubilaeum ad parandum." This is what goes into the index as the main title. Because more significant documents are generally known by their first two or

FIGURE 2 | A decree of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

ACTA IOANNIS PAULI PP. II

EPISTULA APOSTOLICA

Episcopis, clero, fidelibus anni MM Iubilaeum ad parandum

Venerabiles in episcopatu Fratres,
Carissimi in Christo filii filiaequel

1. Tertio millennio adveniente novae quidem aetatis ad apostoli Pauli voces mens ultro recurrit: « Ubi venit plenitudo temporis, misit Deus Filium suum, factum ex muliere » *(Cal 4, 4)*. Temporis autem illa plenitudo cum Verbi Incarnationis congruit mysterio, Filii videlicet consubstantialis Patri, necnon cum orbis arcano Redemptionis. Hoc loco ipso effert sanctus Paulus Dei Filium e muliere ortum natumque sub Lege inter homines venisse, ut quotquot Legi subderentur redimeret qui filiorum adoptionem recipere deinde possent. Et addit: « Quoniam autem estis filii, misit Deus Spiritum Filii sui in corda nostra clamantem: "Abba, Pater" ». Consolatur vero magnopere conclusio eius: « Itaque iam non es servus sed filius; quod si filius, et heres per Deum » *(Gal 4, 6-7)*.

FIGURE 3 | An apostolic letter of Pope Saint John Paul II.

three words, "Tertio millennio adveniente" is input as a variant title. Generally, the kind of document rarely makes it into the title, but usually appears as a subject or genre heading.

When considering the authorship of papal and Church documents, it should first be acknowledged that the people who write them are rarely the ones who sign them. Many are formulaic and probably drafted by a secretary. For indexing purposes, papal documents are always authored by the pope. This is inputted either as a personal name heading ("Francis, Pope, 1936-") or as a corporate name heading ("Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)"). The latter is used for the most authoritative documents of a legal or doctrinal nature, such as decretal letters, encyclical letters, apostolic letters, apostolic constitutions, and apostolic exhortations. The former is used for sermons, speeches, interviews, and messages. There are some gray areas, however, such as consistories and the apostolic letters known in Latin as *epistulae apostolicae* (as opposed to *litterae apostolicae*). If they're in Latin, the corporate form of the pope's name is usually used.

For Church documents, the author is always the name of the dicastery, for example, and not the name of the prefect and secretary who sign it. Agreements between the Vatican and other countries are another gray area. "Catholic Church" is always input as one author, whether negotiated by the pope, the Secretary of State, or an apostolic nuncio; the second author is always the name of the country (as a corporate name heading, not a geographic subject heading).[12] These are always indexed with the genre headings "Church documents" and "Treaties." Additionally, such concordats are the only records input with the genre term "Treaties" in the database, so it's a surefire way to locate them.

As seen in the examples above, document headings and titles in *AAS* are always given in Latin, even when the text of the document is in another language. It is only the latter, however, that is input in *RDB* as a document's language(s). Most Church documents are only in one language, but treaties are typically in two: one for each of the parties to the agreement, e.g. Italian

and Lithuanian. Moreover, Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI often preached in multiple languages during the same homily, especially if they were addressing large, international audiences. For multilingual documents, each language is designated in *RDB*. In the past, because of field limitations, some documents were labelled "multiple languages;" and that can be searched for, too.

More effort goes into choosing appropriate subject headings than into any other field. As argued above, topical indexing is what separates *RDB* from the Vatican website, rendering it a more powerful search tool. Most subject headings are applied in the usual fashion. For example, Pope Francis's encyclical letter *Laudato si'* has the following subject headings: Catholic Church—Social teachings, Ecotheology, Climatic changes, Common good, Creation, Human ecology, Environmentalism, Environmental education and Sustainable development. But there is one more subject heading that is used like a genre: "Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)—Encyclical letters". In other words, this record is an encyclical letter. The same authority, however, is also used in records that are about Pope Francis' encyclicals. The only way to distinguish how they are used is that encyclical letters themselves will also have "Papal documents" as a genre. Additionally, it should be noted that most articles about *Laudato si'* will have that document title as a subdivision (e.g. "Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)—*Laudato si'*") instead of the broader subdivision "Encyclical letters."

It is appropriate to further examine genre headings before returning to subject headings. First of all, every papal and Church document gets an appropriate genre heading: either "Papal documents" or "Church documents," but never both. Many documents, however, get a second genre heading. As discussed above, agreements between the Catholic Church and another country or state also get "Treaties" input as a subject genre. Papal documents can also be labeled as "Sermons," "Speeches," "Interviews," or "Letters."[13] For papal documents that do not have a corresponding genre subject, a name subject heading with topical subdivision

(e.g. "Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis)—Encyclical letters") is assigned. Other topical subdivisions of this type are: "Angelus and Regina Caeli addresses," "Apostolic constitutions," "Apostolic exhortations," "Apostolic letters," "Consistories," "Decretal letters," "General audiences," and "Messages."[14] Sometimes in the literature, one might see a document called a *motu proprio* or a chirograph. This designation sometimes appears in the title of a document, but not in the subject headings.

Other kinds of subject headings relate to the form or subject of papal documents that are not subdivisions. For example, every speech and sermon given by a pope while on his travels gets the subject heading "Papal visits" as well as the geographic subject heading of the country he visits. For these, a city name in addition to or in lieu of the country name is not input, which keeps this kind of material together in a more easily searchable manner. "Papal visits" is also used when the pope travels within Italy but outside of Rome. In such cases, however, the name of the city or region is often input. Another useful subject heading is "Ad limina visits," which is used for papal addresses to groups of visiting bishops. These kinds of documents usually also get a geographic subject heading and sometimes the name of the bishops' conference. For homilies given at beatification and canonization masses, "Beatification sermons" or "Canonization sermons" is input as a subject heading in addition to the subject genre "Sermons."

Lastly, every papal and Church document has a date, which is entered in the papal/Church document date field as an eight-digit number: YYYYMMDD. Sometimes documents have multiple dates, so indexers use their best judgment and choose one, since the database only allows this field to be filled in once.

SEARCHING FOR PAPAL AND CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Now that the primary sources of papal and Church documents in *RDB* have been described and their manner of indexing has been examined, one is ready to begin searching for them on the EBSCOhost platform. Perhaps the first search limiter to be aware of is "Subject genre." One can always type in "papal documents" or "Church documents" and select this field to limit search results. If "papal documents" is searched for in the subject genre field, 31,710 results are returned. One can then limit the number of results to either full text, peer-reviewed, or open access using the widget on the left-hand side of the search results page. None of these choices is recommended, however, because most papal and Church documents indexed in *RDB* were not published in peer-reviewed journals; and many documents not found in full text or open access can be found on the Vatican website.

Looking further down the left-hand side, one gets a range of publication dates: 1908 to 2023. If one limits the date range to 1908-1979, seventy-six results are returned [Figure 4]. These are all records that have been indexed retrospectively and not inherited from *CPLI*. If one removes the date range and then looks further down at the language results, one can see that nearly half of the indexed documents are in English (14,792 documents), followed by Italian (3,032 documents) and Latin (1,953 documents). If one scrolls to the very bottom of the list, there are even documents in Modern Greek, Hungarian, and Slovenian. The Hungarian document, for example, is a beatification sermon in which Pope John Paul II preached in Italian, Spanish, and Hungarian, which were the languages spoken by each of the people he beatified and, therefore, most of his audience.

FIGURE 4 | A search for all papal documents in *RDB.*

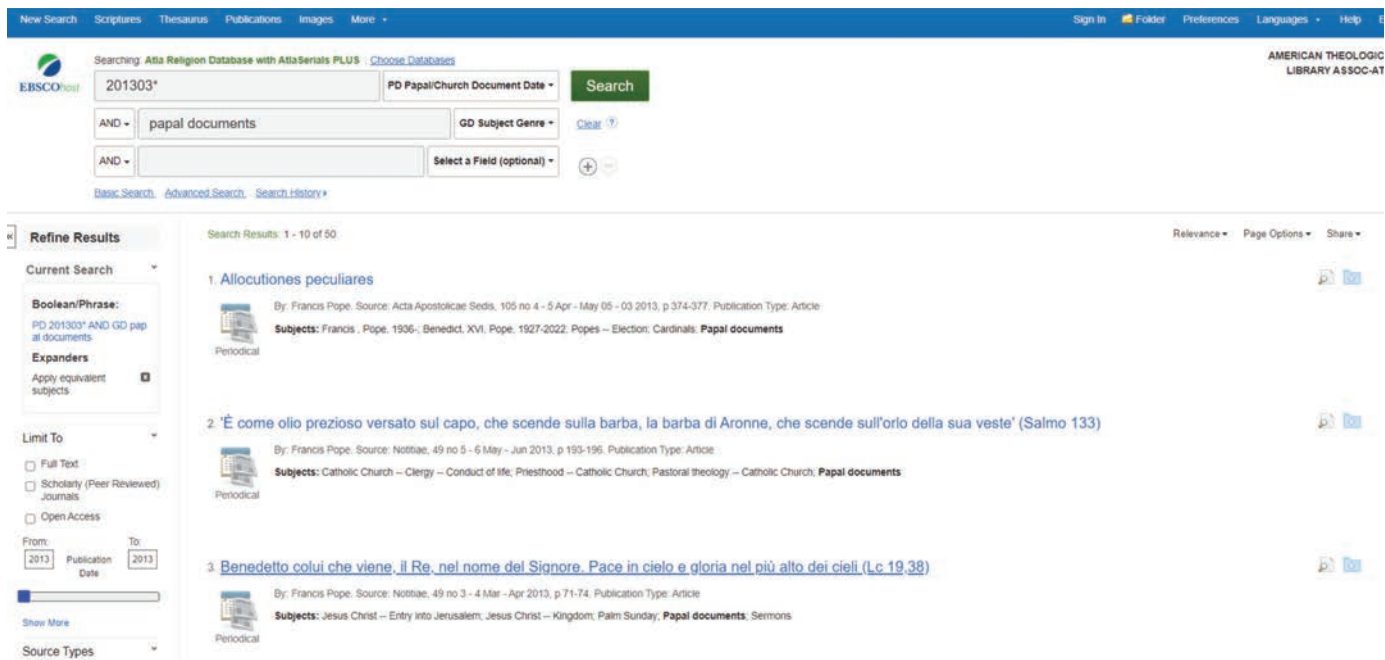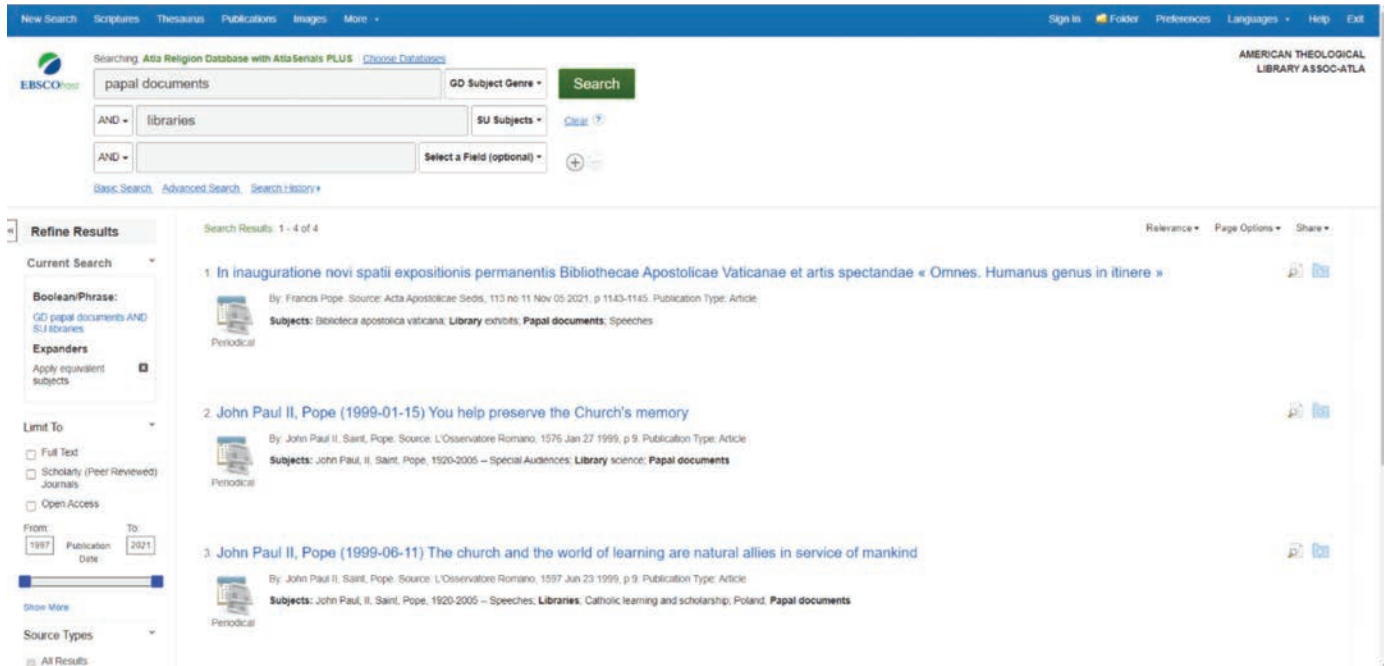FIGURE 5 | A search for papal documents about libraries in *RDB.*

FIGURE 6 | A search for papal Documents using a "fuzzy" papal date.

One can also search for information on specific topics [Figure 5]. For example, have the popes ever talked about libraries? Entering "papal documents" as a subject genre and then "libraries" as a subject yields four results. The first result is in Latin. Since one might prefer to read the speech in English, one could note the papal date (20211105) and then search for it on the Vatican website. Start on the home page (https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html) by selecting "Speeches" under the picture of Pope Francis. This opens a page a new page. From there, select "2021" in the left-hand column and then select "November."15 The speech sought

for is at the bottom of the page, available in English, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

It is also possible to search for a specific papal date using the papal/Church document date field. If one searches for the date of the speech retrieved above, it becomes evident that this is not the only document from that day. The pope also preached at a Mass commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. It should be noted that this field, though similar, is quite distinct from publication date. The date on which a document is published or promulgated by the pope or

FIGURE 7 | A search for Pope Francis' interviews.
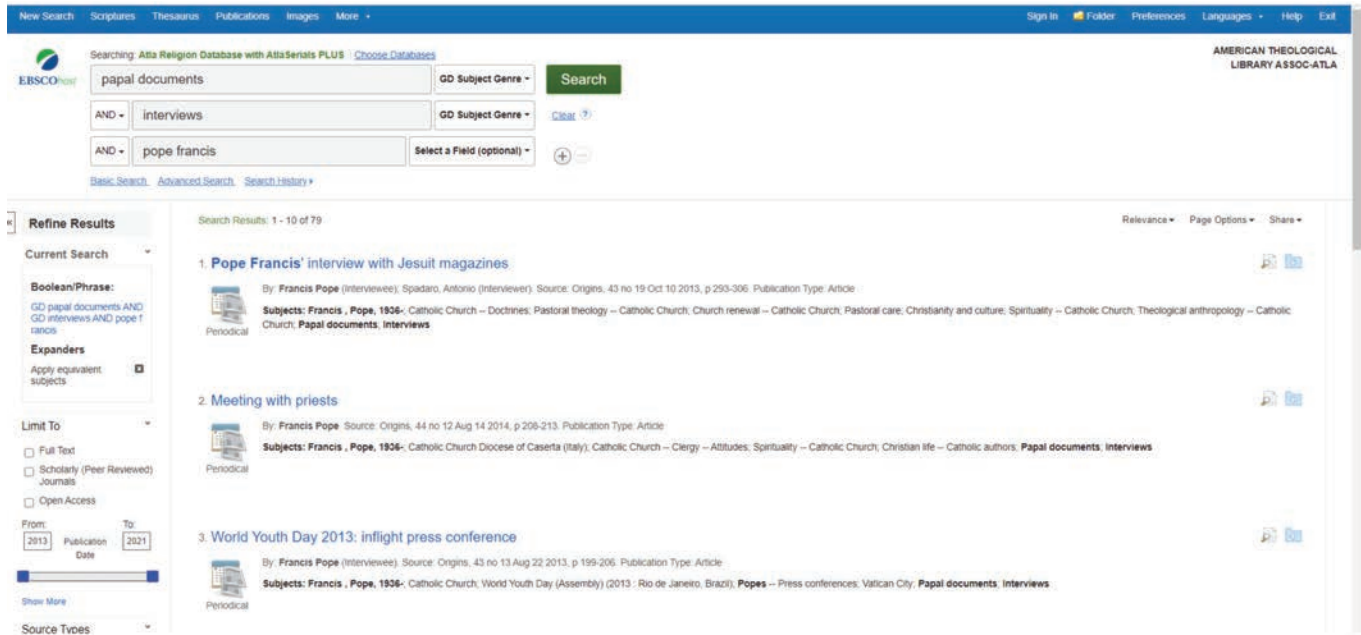
dicastery is not the same date on which it appears in an issue of *L'Osservatore Romano* or *Origins,* though it may be close in time. If one doesn't know the specific date of a document, it is possible to do a fuzzy search where an asterisk substitutes for one or more digits of the date. Thus, a researcher could search for all documents dated during March 2013, the month of Pope Francis's election, by entering "201303*" in the papal/Church document date field [Figure 6]. This yields seventy results. To filter out the Church documents, one could add a second search term "papal documents." There remain fifty papal documents from Pope Francis' first partial month in office.

If a researcher wants to know what Pope Francis has to say during interviews, since interviews are a more extemporaneous way of speaking, they can refine the search again. First, they should keep "papal documents" as a subject genre, add "interviews" as another subject genre, and finally add "pope francis" in a third box without specifying a field [Figure 7]. When those seventy-nine results are refined to full-text (not recommended), one result remains, in Italian. Although there is no Interviews category on the Vatican website, it is possible to find Pope Francis' travel interviews, which he typically gives to journalists on his return flight to Rome. If the researcher wants to see what the pope said on his way home from the United States, they should add a fourth search box, typing in "United States." This returns four results. Since the first two indicate in their titles that the interviews occurred on the pope's return from Colombia, they can be disregarded. The other two happened in 2015. If one returns to the Vatican website, selects "Travels," then the year "2015," and finally "Apostolic Journeys outside Italy," it is possible to find his US visit second from the top.[16] If one clicks on English, this lovely page opens detailing Pope Francis's itinerary, with links to his speeches, homilies, etc. [17] Scroll to the bottom of the page and there is the in-flight press conference, with a link to the English text [Figure 8].

FIGURE 8 | Locating Pope Francis' post-US visit interview on the Vatican website.

A researcher wanting to find everything that the popes have said during their visits to the United States would keep "papal documents" as a subject genre, add "papal visits" as a subject and "United States" as a subject geographic name. This yields sixty-nine results. Unfortunately, they are not all relevant. Some are the result of a pope talking about the United States on his trip somewhere else. If the results are limited to English, they are slightly narrowed to sixty. What did the popes talk about most? For this, the subject widget on the left-hand side shows the most common topics in these records. Discounting the topical headings used as genres, one can see that the popes spoke about ecumenism ten times. If one clicks on "Show more," it is possible to see that they addressed the thorny subject of child sexual abuse by clergy five times. [Figure 9]
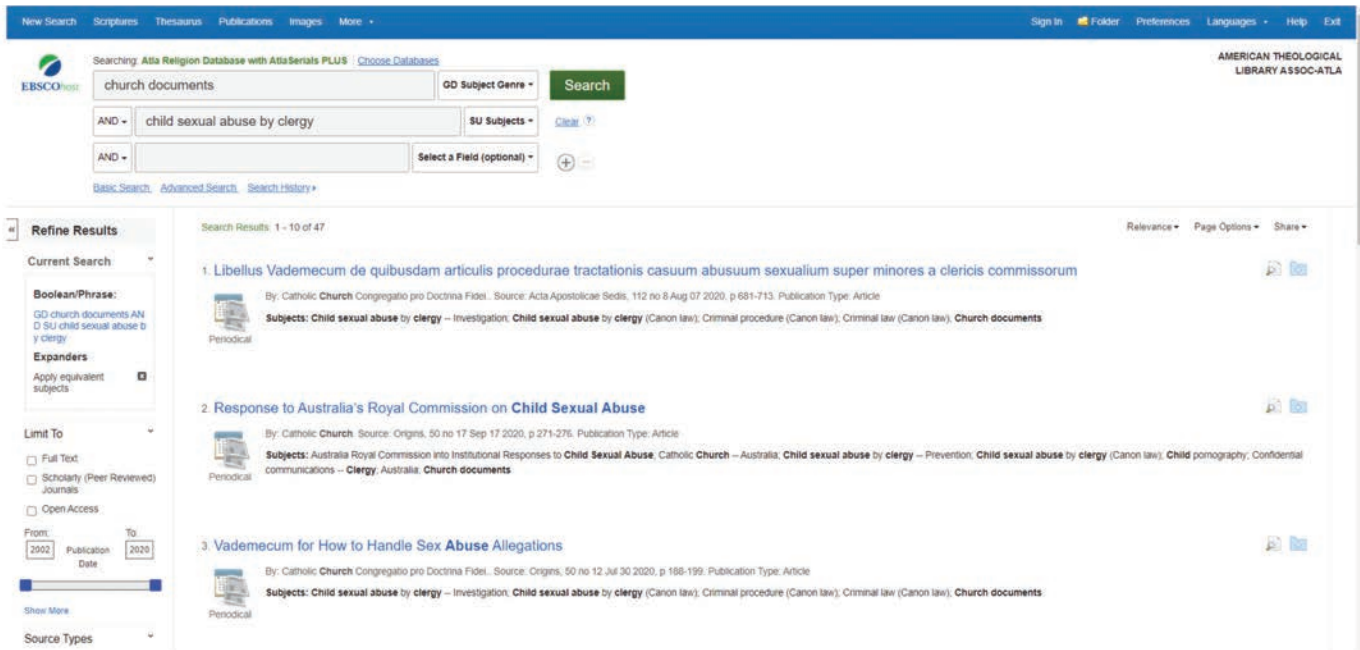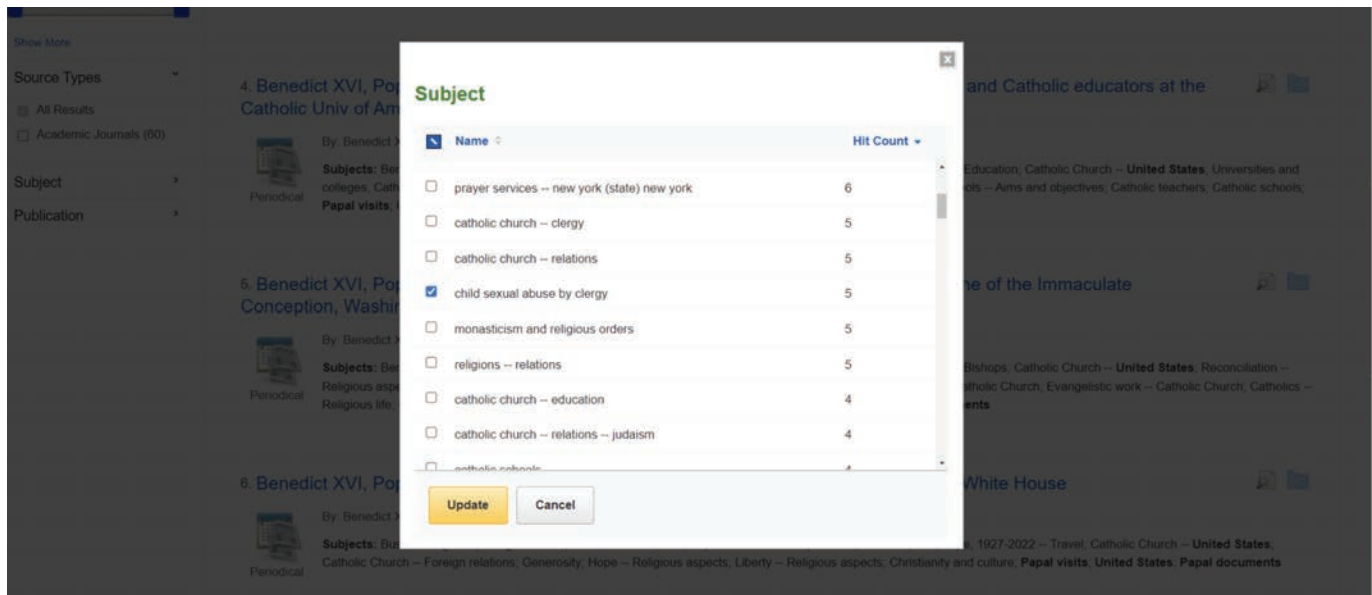
Clergy sex abuse is an interesting topic and the subject of many Church documents. To search, enter "Church documents" in the subject genre field and "child sexual abuse by clergy" as a subject. This yields forty-seven results. The top result is extremely relevant, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith's recent 2020 *vademecum* or handbook on how to handle sex abuse allegations, while the third result is an English translation of the handbook published in *Origins* [Figure 10]. The fifth result is a report on the disgraced former American cardinal Theodore McCarrick.

Lastly, it is instructive to look at some canonization documents since these comprise a substantial portion of all Church documents. Most documents from the early stages of

the canonization process are promulgated by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, while the final documents are issued by the popes as apostolic letters (beatification) or decretal letters (canonization). When one searches for "papal documents" as a subject genre and "decretal letters" as a subject, 140 results are returned. Of these, 134 are in *AAS.* Among the other six results is one from the Spanish journal *Anuario de Historia de la Iglesia* [Figure 11]. This decree of canonization for St. Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei, is notable for being in full text and for containing a rare parallel translation of the Latin. Decrees published by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints are of three types: virtues, martyrdom, or miracle. Each of these is indexed with a corresponding subject heading of "Heroic virtue," "Martyrs (Christianity)," or "Miracles."

FIGURE 11 | A search for decretal letters limited to the journal _Anuario de Historia de la Iglesia._

FIGURE 12 | A search for Church documents about Blessed Carlo Acutis.

FIGURE 13 | A search for articles relating to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

FIGURE 14 | A search for articles authored by the Dicasterium ad Integram Humanam Progressionem Fovenda.
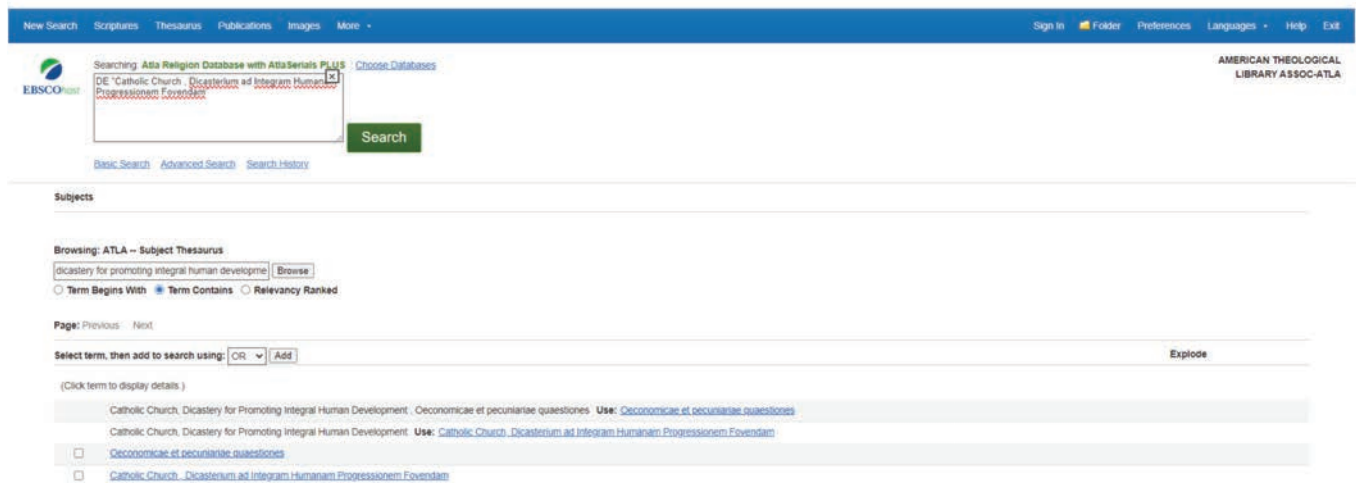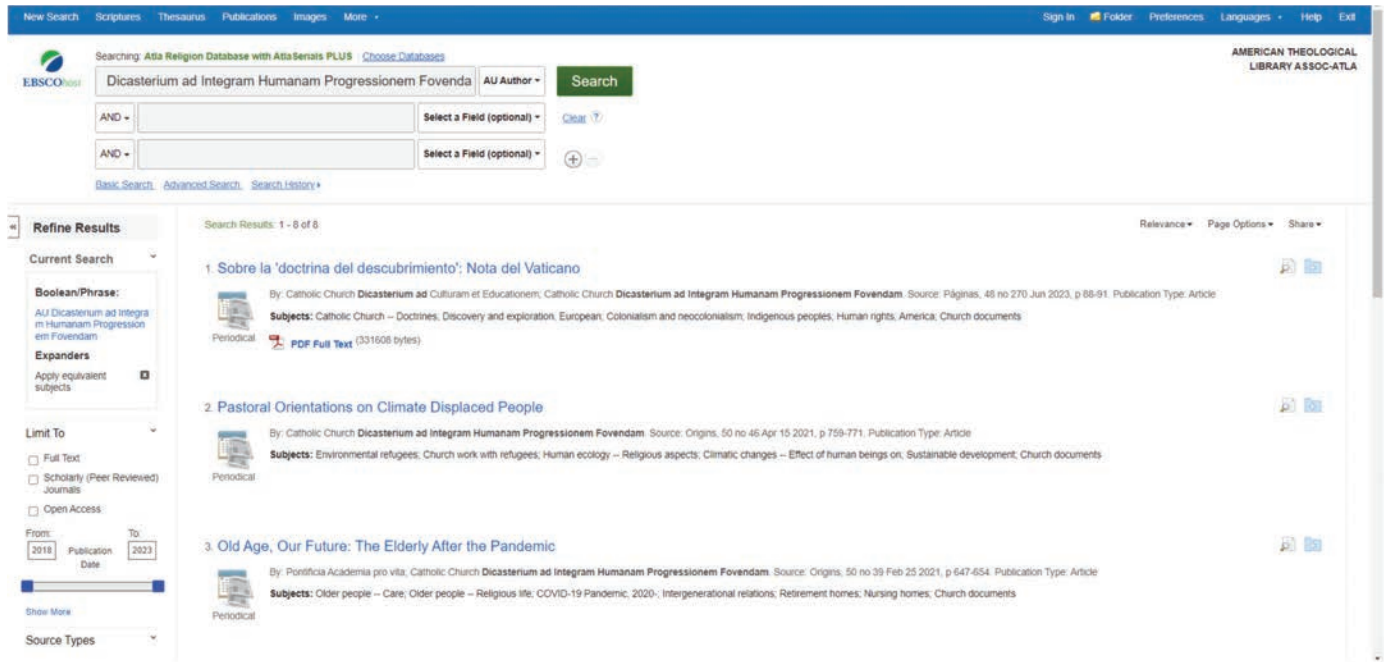

FIGURE 15 | A thesaurus search for the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Perhaps a researcher wants to track the cause of a particular person on the path to sainthood. One could start by looking at one of the Church's newest *beati,* Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006) [Figure 12]. Searching for "Church documents" as a subject genre and "carlo acutis" yields two documents: his decree of heroic virtue and the decree confirming a miracle attributed to his intercession. Then if one changes the search term "Church documents" to "papal documents," the result is Pope Francis' apostolic letter of beatification. It is worth noting here that the titles Venerable, Servant of God, and Blessed are not typically noted in name authorities, though Saint is.

Lastly, a word on searching for dicasteries. The established form of a dicastery name is always in the Latin language. Take, for example, the Dicasterium ad Integram Humanam Progressionem Fovendam. If one searches for the name

in English, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, only eight results are retrieved, all of which have the dicastery's English name in the title [Figure 13].

But if one switches to the Latin form, there are forty-four results. And if the researcher only wants documents authored by this dicastery, they could select the author search field. Now there are just eight documents [Figure 14].

Should the researcher need help finding the Latin name of a dicastery, they could search the English name in the thesaurus, selecting "Term Contains" [Figure 15]. Then one simply selects the correct result and the "Add" button and the search term appears in the box at the top. Clicking on the green search button yields forty-nine results.

CONCLUSION

Once the researcher knows what terms to use in searching for papal and Church documents, they can much more easily find relevant results in the Atla Religion Database. Sometimes, one simply needs to know what subject headings are used to describe certain types of documents. Knowing how to use the various search fields and search widgets on the EBSCOhost platform can help narrow down results. When the desired results have been found, moreover, one has various options for reading the retrieved documents. Some full-text items can be accessed directly, while open access items can be found by clicking through to the journal's website. For items, not accessible in these two modes, a search of the Vatican website can often retrieve results for papal documents—and in a language that one can read.

While most of the search functionality of *RDB* is widely shared among other databases on the EBSCOhost platform, two are unique: scripture search and papal dates. The latter is a feature inherited from *CPLI* along with the papal and Church document genre headings. These special features are part of what makes *RDB* such a useful resource for finding Catholic Church documents. Additionally, it provides subject access that is unavailable from the Vatican website. Atla continues to fill gaps in coverage, add new titles, create new and relevant subject headings, and improve authority control. By means of comprehensive indexing and multi-faceted search tools, access to the riches of Catholic Church doctrine and legislation is opened to researchers. ∎

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ENDNOTES

1 This article is a revised and expanded version of Barnaby Hughes' half of a webinar presented with Joel Schorn entitled "Searching in Atla's Research Databases: Catholic Church Documents and Canon Law" on September 28, 2023. A recording of the webinar can be viewed at https://www.atla.com/webinar/searching-in-atlas-research-databases-catholic-church-documents-and-canon-law/. All data and screenshots provided below were accurate at the time of the webinar.

2 Bret David Fearrien, "Searches among ATLA and Its Database Rivals: A Comparison Study of Search Results and Unique Results for Theological-Specific Research Questions," *Journal of Religious & Theological Information* 22:1 (2023), pp. 1-17. doi:10.1080/10477845.2022.2047381

3 Gerrit van Dyk, "Finding Religion: An Analysis of Theology LibGuides," *Theological Librarianship* 8:2 (2015), pp. 37-45. doi:10.31046/tl.v8i2.384

4 Kevin Davey and Matthew E. Moore, "Searching the ATLA CD-ROM," *ATLA Summary of Proceedings* 48 (1994), p. 207.

5 Dennis A. Norlin, "Ecumenicity and Electronic Publishing: ATLA and CLA in Partnership," *Catholic Library World* 67:4 (1997), pp. 24-28.

6 Joseph Fennewald and Mary Elizabeth Moylan, "Preparing an Index Guide for *CPLI* CD-ROM," *Catholic Library World* 67:4 (1997), pp. 29-33.

7 James Humble, Kathy Harty, Elyse Hayes and Andrew Kosmowski, "Catholic Documents 101: A Theological Librarian's Guide to Identifying, Locating, and Using the Documents of the Catholic Church," *ATLA Summary of Proceedings* 72 (2018), pp. 211-218. doi:10.31046/proceedings.2018.122

8 See also Francis X. Blouin, Jr., Elizabeth Yakel, and Leonard A. Coombs, "Vatican Archives: An Inventory and Guide to Historical Documents of the Holy See—A Ten-Year Retrospective," *American Archivist* 71:2 (2008), pp. 410-432. doi:10.17723/aarc.71.2.d7h22h362311557g

9 https://www.vatican.va/archive/aas/index_en.htm

10 When Atla purchased the Catholic Periodical & Literature Index (*CPLI*) in 2011 from the Catholic Library Association, the terms of the sale only included the portion that had been produced as a database by Atla with coverage back to 1980. The portion of the index covering 1930-1979 remains in print only, although some volumes have been digitized by Villanova University. In 2018, Atla ceased offering *CPLI* as a separate product and merged it into *RDB*.

11 http://www.cultodivino.va/content/cultodivino/it/rivista-notitiae.html

12 Germany, however, is the only country whose states negotiate individually with the Vatican.

13 Letters in this context does not refer to apostolic letters, but to the more informal correspondence between the pope and another individual.

14 "Special audiences" is another subdivision that has been discontinued.

15 https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/november.index.html

16 https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/travels/2015/outside.index.html

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