**Guide to setting up a better Logos framework**

**Why a better framework:**

The biggest question I get from Logos users is: “How do I find what I am looking for, there is just so much information?” Logos is a great tool for Bible study, and having a theological/biblical library can be such a blessing when studying. However, sometimes using Logos can feel like drinking from a fire hose.

The more experienced Logos users have developed ways to manage their libraries to allow for more targeted research. There are lots of videos and other training resources that help users develop better library management, but most of the training involves more time than many Logos users have or want to spend.

That is the reason for this guide: **To assist users in getting more out of Logos utilizing better library management; in less time using community provided resources.**

Here is a diagram of the tools we will develop using this guide:

Using the tools above you will be able to target your research for better results:
Before we start I want to say a big thank you for all those in the Logos community that have shared what they have learned through videos, the Logos Wiki and on the Logos Forums. I would attempt to give them credit individually, but I know I will miss someone. As you read Wiki articles and copy collection formula from Faithlife.com please note those in the community that have made the techniques provided in this guide possible. The Logos community has done much of the heavy lifting making it easier to utilize this framework. Thank You!

I have been using Logos since version 2.0. I had a website called “The Unofficial STEP Newsletter” that reviewed and outlined a few bible programs. Dale Pritchett from Logos offered me a free Logos 2 Scholar’s Library if I would review it on my website. The rest is history. My personal Logos library is “managed” well beyond what I am outlining here. This guide is not to bring you to “power user” status, but to help you along your way. It can be used or adapted without having to get my permission, used for teaching others, or used for your own advancement. It is intended for those that understand how to study the bible and want to better use Logos as a tool to do so.

Resources available for training and learning:
I strongly recommend these training resources for learning the Logos, from the basics to some of the more advanced features. A few of the videos will be referenced below to demonstrate how to do what is being outlined. If you have the time, then please consider utilizing these resources:

Logos Desktop Training Page: https://www.logos.com/training/desktop
Official YouTube Videos: https://www.youtube.com/user/LogosBibleSoftware/videos
Mark Barnes Videos: http://vimeo.com/logostutorials/videos
JR Miller Videos: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6101EE94869F3545
LogosWiki: https://wiki.logos.com
Logos 6 Quickstart Videos found in any Logos 6 base package by going to the Library and typing “Quickstart”:

In addition there are excellent resources that you can buy from Morris Proctor and Learnlogos.com.

**Steps to improving results from Logos 6:**

**Library and Software Management**

**Prioritization of Key Resources:**
Here are some good videos on the subject. Please watch the first video to learn how to prioritize key resources:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egxD6RTqcKE
- http://vimeo.com/24923568
- https://wiki.logos.com/Prioritizing

**What to Prioritize:**

Level 1: Prioritize the top 5 to 10 resources in the categories listed below. I have shown my top prioritized resources for example only. There are different philosophies regarding whether to include the most detailed or the least detailed resources first. You can always go back and change the order after working with your selection for a while.
1. **English Bibles**: I put my favorite five in order then include a few specialized texts, such as those with the Apocrypha.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefer these resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESV: English Standard Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEB: The Lexham English Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NKJV: The New King James Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIV: The New International Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCSB: The Holman Christian Standard Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSV: The New Revised Standard Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The King James Version with Apocrypha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Texts (Charles F. Pfeiffer)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Greek Bibles and Hebrew Bibles**: I include my favorite, then a Greek text from the Majority, Textus Receptus and SBL. I then include a few LXX texts that I prefer. If you have several Hebrew Bibles you can do the same with those texts as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefer these resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Byz: The New Testament in the Original Greek: B…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newberry Interlinear: The Interlinear Literal Tran…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexham LXX Interlinear: The Lexham Greek-Engli…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logos LXX: Septuagint with Logos Morphology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Commentaries: I include my favorites and then a few more specialized commentaries. This prioritization will allow me to choose the order my commentaries show in various drop downs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefer these resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New International Commentary on the Old an...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pillar New Testament Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Socio-Rhetorical Commentary Series</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Letters and Homilies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Chronological Life of Christ</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commentary on the New Testament Use of the O...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exegetical Summaries</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Biblical Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New International Greek Testament Commenta...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New American Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For Everyone Bible Study Guides</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preaching the Word</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus on the Bible Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JPS Tanakh Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boice’s Expository Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Tes...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IVP Bible Background Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Textual Commentary (Metzger): A Textual Comm...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lexham Bible Reference Series</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Study Bible Series</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wiersbe’s “Be” Series</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baker New Testament Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Definition Commentary Series</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MacArthur New Testament Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preacher’s Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holman New Testament Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Press NIV Commentary</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Lexicons

Prefer these resources:

- BDAG: A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament
- LXGRCANLEX: The Lexham Analytical Lexicon to the Greek New Testament
- Louw-Nida: Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament
- TLNT: Theological Lexicon of the New Testament
- EDNT: The Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament
- WSNTDICT: The Complete Word Study Dictionary
- TDNT: The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
- DBL Greek: Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Commentary
- BDB: Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon
- TWOT: Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

5. Bible Dictionaries

Prefer these resources:

- LBD: The Lexham Bible Dictionary
- Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible
- DJG: Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels
- DPL: Dictionary of Paul and His Letters
- DNTB: Dictionary of New Testament Background
- Dictionary of Biblical Imagery
- The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia,

Level 2: Prioritize some additional resources:

1. Apostolic Fathers for the Ancient Text PG section pop up. When you hover over a link to the Apostolic Fathers it may come up in
Greek and you want English or visa versa. This allows you to decide which resource will show in the pop up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefer these resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LakeAF: Lake's Apostolic Fathers in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LakeAFG: Lake's Apostolic Fathers in Greek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephus: The Works of Josephus: New Updated…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMSDT: Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Works of Philo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Devotionals for the day will show up on the Logos Homepage. If you want to choose the order they show up you can prioritize them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefer these resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grace for the Moment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Words: A Devotional for the Rest of Us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the Love of God, Volume One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the Love of God, Volume Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truth for Today</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* You should make sure you prioritize a Bible Text with apocryphal books for popup within other resources. See Item 1 above includes NRSV and KJV Apocrypha.

**Creating the Most useful Collections:**

**Overview:**

The next most important library management task is to create collections or categories of books to allow your searches to be more targeted. There are several videos and training resources that teach how to create these collections. However, to save time and get similar results we are going to use collections already built and posted for us by the Logos Community. These resources are found at the Faithlife.com website.
In order to copy the collections you will need to join the group and then select the documents section of the group.

Then select the documents tab. To find the recommended collections more quickly you can type the name in the document search box.

Then on the right side of the collection you want to copy when you hover over the collection name you will see an action button; click on it and then click on copy. You
will now have that collection to use with your library.
Set up collections for the following resource types: Bibles and Bible Commentaries.


2. Copy the following from Commentary Collections under Documents:
   a. Commentaries: Intermediate
   b. Commentaries: Expository
   c. Commentaries: Historical 1750-1950
   d. Commentaries: Technical
   e. Commentaries: Background
   f. Commentaries: One Volume
   g. Commentaries: Special

3. Copy the following from Logos Collections:
   a. English Bibles
   b. Greek Bibles
   c. Hebrew Bibles (+Dead Sea Scrolls).

Set up subject collections:

4. Copy the following from Logos Collections:
   a. Bible Background
   b. Hermeneutics
c. Bible Introductions & Textbooks  
d. Apologetics  
e. Theology (subsections if desired)  
f. Preaching  
g. Counsel + Psychology  
h. Bible Study & Teaching  
i. Journals  
j. History - Church  
k. History – Councils and Creeds  
l. Devotional Calendar and Literature  
m. Worship and Music  
n. Sermons  

5. Now go to the top menu and select Tools and then click on Collections.  
a. This window will show you all the collections you have copied from Faithlife.com and allow you to make any adjustments you want. One adjustment I suggest is to have certain collections “Show in parallel resources” To do this open one of the commentary collections  
b. When the collection opens check the “Show in parallel resources” box.  
c. The following collections should be checked to “Show in parallel resources”:  
   i. Commentaries: Intermediate  
   ii. Commentaries: Expository  
   iii. Commentaries: Historical 1750-1950  
   iv. Commentaries: Technical  
   v. Commentaries: Background  
   vi. Commentaries: One Volume  
   vii. Commentaries: Special  
   viii. English Bibles  
   ix. Greek Bibles  
   x. Hebrew Bibles (+Dead Sea Scrolls)
6. Collected Works. You may have some collected works by certain authors. Depending on how important it is to have targeted access to these collections you can either: create collections for each important author. Most of these collections will be available at Faithlife.com in the Logos Author Collection Group. You can copy those collections that are of interest to you.

Creating Custom Guides:

The next steps include taking the standard guides provided by Logos and customizing them for better and more targeted results.

Here is a short video that shows you how and why you would want to set up a custom guide: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy9taS_QdRI. After you view the video, you should be able to set up the following custom guides as shown below:

1. Set up a My Passage Guide
   a. Go to Guides and at the bottom select “Make a new Guide Template.”
   b. Name the Guide “My Passage Guide”
c. In the “All Selections From” section on the left click on Passage Guide.

d. Where the commentary section is shown, click on settings and type Technical; a choice to choose your Commentary Technical collections should appear. By selecting it you will have a section in your new Passage Guide that will show your Technical Commentaries.

e. Now drag from the left column another commentary into the guide section and repeat the process for any of your commentary collections that you want in your Passage Guide. You can type commentary into the selection box to show the ones you have created.

f. Next drag from the left column a collection tab into the guide section. Click on settings and type apologetics. You should be able to select your Apologetics collection as a section in your Passage Guide.

g. Repeat this process for any of your additional collections. The important ones for me are the following:

   i. Bible Background

   ii. Bible Introductions & Textbooks
iii. Apologetics  
iv. Theology (subsections if desired)  
v. Counsel + Psychology  
vi. Bible Study & Teaching  
vii. Journals  
viii. History – Councils and Creeds  

You can always add more or delete those you do not use by editing the Guide.

h. I now go through the remaining sections and delete those I do not use. For me these would include: Media Resources, Music, Interesting Words, Compare Versions, Bookstore, all the ones ending in “.com”. You may use some of these and remove others. You can always edit this guide later.

i. Close the guide template and you will now have a “My Passage Guide” which will open instead of the standard Passage Guide. You can always access the standard guide, as it will always be in the Guide selection.

2. Set up a My Exegetical Guide
   a. Follow the steps above except name the guide “My Exegetical Guide”; choose Exegetical Guide from the “All Selections From” in left column.
   b. I suggest you drag a “Collection” from the left column into the guide, select setting, type “hermeneutics” and select your hermeneutics collection.
   c. Go to the Word By Word section and check the boxes as shown in the image below. This will allow for the Word by Word section of the guide to open but not populate every word. You simply click on the words you want that section of the guide to populate with the additional information.
3. **Set up a My Topic Guide**
   
a. Follow the steps included in the Passage Guide sections except select “Topic” from the drop down box on the upper right and name the guide “My Topic Guide”.

   ![My Topic Guide](image)

b. The main customization to this guide is to move collections into the guide and using the settings dropdown creating several collection sections. Having collection in this guide is different from the Passage Guide. Here they will be searched for certain topics rather than references to bible verses. The collections I
recommend including in this guide are as follows:

- Bible Background
- Hermeneutics
- Bible Introductions & Textbooks
- Apologetics
- Theology (subsections if desired)
- Preaching
- Counsel + Psychology
- Bible Study & Teaching
- Journals
- History - Church
- History – Councils and Creeds
- Devotional Calendar and Literature
- Worship and Music
- Sermons

4. **Set up Information Window to populate with a click rather than hover**

The Information Window is a very useful way to underlying information on a word level without having to consult other guides or resources. The main problem I have with the guide is that it is set to populate on every word that your mouse hovers over and then changes when you move to the next word. This is simply too much, too fast. To get this window to allow you to target what information you want you need to:
a. Go to Tool on the menu and open the Information Window.

b. Once the Information Window opens select “click” rather than “hover” as shown below and close the window.

Congratulations, you have completed the first steps to your managing your Logos Library. I would encourage you to spend some time studying with your new framework in place and enjoy the benefits. There are a few additional items that may improve your
studies even further that will be discussed in an upcoming installment of this guide.