TEXTS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

The Second Vatican Council met from 1962 to 1965 in four sessions (October-December 1962, September-December 1963, September-November 1964, and September-December 1965). Sixteen major documents were produced: two dogmatic and pastoral constitutions, nine decrees and three declarations. The authoritative Latin text of each of these documents can be found in Tanner’s *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* or on the Vatican website (listed below).

There are at least five English translations of the sixteen documents; in addition there are other English translations of individual documents. The variety of ways in which the documents have been dealt with by translators shows the necessity of referring to the authoritative Latin text.

**Documents of the II Vatican Council.**
[Available online: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/]

The official Latin text with English, Italian, and Spanish translations. The English translations are those prepared by the National Catholic Welfare Conference (the predecessor body to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). There are also French, German, and Portuguese translations of some documents.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 825 .A1990 v.2]


[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 830 1962 .A3 F55 v.1]

CONCORDANCES

A concordance is an alphabetical list of all the words in a work. It can be used to locate a known passage or to learn how a particular word or concept is used in the documents of the Council.


A concordance citing the use of each Latin word in context from all the Council documents. Because this work was created by a computer, forms of the same word (e.g. libertas, libertate, libertatem) are listed separately.


Each volume of this set cites the use of each Latin word in context from one single Council document (e.g. from Dei verbum). Forms of the same word are listed together under the dictionary form (e.g. capite and capitibus are listed under “caput”).


A French-language word-index which cites paragraph numbers.


A search engine which uses the English-language translation edited by Walter M. Abbott.

SUBJECT ARRANGEMENTS


Paragraph-length excerpts in Italian arranged by subject heading.
COUNCIL DEBATES AND SPEECHES


This work is the official record of the Council’s business. It includes the full-text of all speeches (almost always in Latin). Also included are submissions made in writing to the Council’s various secretariats and commissions. The index volume allows one to find the debates on a particular document as well as the speeches by a particular council father. A guide to this work appears in *Revue théologique de Louvain* 11 (1980): 325-351.


English translations of a selection of the most influential speeches from the first three sessions of the Council.

CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS

There are a number of works published at the time of the Council which record the Council’s day-to-day activities, and provide some analysis of these activities. These works often serve as a vernacular language index to the official Latin-language record in the *Acta synodalia* (listed above).


Based on articles originally written by Redemptorist priest Francis X. Murphy for the monthly magazine *New Yorker.* The most famous example of this type of literature about the Council.

Based on the press releases of the predecessor body to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Includes English translations of some speeches.


Written by a French Augustinian priest. The first volume has been translated into English (St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – BX 830 1962 .W413 1966 v.1).

**Le Concile au Jour le Jour.** By Yves Congar. Paris : Cerf, 1963-1966. 4 volumes. [St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – BX 830 1962 .C66 1963 (Library has volumes 1, 2, and 4 only)]

Congar was a member of the Preparatory Commission, and a *peritus* (official theological advisor) at the Council. The first two volumes have been translated into English (*Report from Rome*, St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – BX 830 1962 .C6613 1963).


Laurentin was a *peritus* at the Council.


Based on reports originally written for the Italian Jesuit journal *La Civiltà Cattolica*.


Horton was a leading minister of the [American] United Church of Christ and one of the official Protestant observers at the Council.


Lackmann was a Lutheran minister from Germany who acted as a news reporter at the Council.
COMMENTARIES

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 830 1962 .Z913 (3rd Floor circulating copy also)]

Originally written in German, this work was compiled immediately after the Council. To this day it continues to be the standard commentary on each of the Council documents. There are contributions by some of the most important theologians of the time, including Yves Congar, Bernhard Häring, Josef Jungmann, Karl Rahner, and Josef Ratzinger.


A more recent collection of essays which analyzes how the Council’s teachings have been enacted.

OTHER WORKS


The records of the commissions which prepared draft documents for the Council. Includes the full-text of submissions from bishops around the world.


The definitive history of the Council. Particularly useful for explanations of the organizational structure.

FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

*Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI).*
[Available online (1981 - present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Over 200,000 bibliographic citations to Catholic books, book reviews, and journal articles from more than 160 Catholic magazines. Since the online index only begins in 1981, it is essential to use the print version to find earlier materials.

*ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials.*
[Available online (1949 - present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Over one million bibliographic citations to journal articles, essays in books, and book reviews in the field of religion.
It’s not hard to find some books about Vatican II, but it can be difficult to do a comprehensive search. If you are looking in the University of Toronto Libraries catalog for books about a particular document, click on “Advanced Search” and then on “Browse Search”. Then do a “Subject” search for “Vatican Council 2”. You will get an alphabetical list of subject headings. The sixteen documents of Vatican II are listed under their official titles (e.g. Constitutio dogmatica de Ecclesia), not under their common Latin titles (e.g. Lumen gentium).

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 830 1962 .D64 1969]

A listing of books and journal articles published during and immediately after the Council. No annotations.

“Recherches et publications récentes autour de Vatican II.” Edited by Gilles Routhier. *Laval théologique et philosophique.*

[St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – BX 802 .L3]

Every few years since 1997 this journal has published a review article listing major recent publications about the Council with extensive annotations. Some articles also include a very brief list of dissertations and important journal articles.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 830 1962 .L33 1995]

Cardinal Léger, Archbishop of Montréal during the Council, was also a member of the Central Commission for the Council. This work is an inventory of the publications he collected which are now available in the library of the Grand Séminaire de Montréal. The work is particularly useful for determining the textual history of each of the sixteen documents promulgated by the Council.

There are a number of other similar archival collections of the papers of bishops or periti who attended the Council. Some of these have published inventories:

**Concile Vatican II et église contemporaine: Archives de Louvain-la-Neuve.** Louvain-la Neuve: Publications de la Faculté de théologie, 1989-1993. 4 volumes. 
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – CD 1689 .L69 C64 1989]

[UTL at Downsview (request online) – BX 830 1962 .V48 1998]

[UTL at Downsview (request online) – BX 830 1962 .L48 1998]

This research guide is maintained by Noel S. McFerran (noel.mcferran@utoronto.ca). It was last updated October 2011. The latest version is available online: http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/research_guides/vaticanII.asp