

Subject: Proposed New SBL Global Education & Research Technology section (GERT)

The Global Education & Research Technology section (GERT) is organizing its inaugural sessions for the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, Nov 23-26, 2013. Approval for this proposed new section is still pending, but the inaugural steering committee is very working hard to fulfill all requirements and to stimulate abundant interest and support, in order to make sure we will be an official SBL program unit by March 2013, in time for official inclusion in the 2013 SBL Annual Meeting program.

The focus of this proposed new section is not only on the development and use of tools, simulations, and social media for global research and education in the wide-ranging disciplines in the field of biblical studies, but also the design frameworks, the development, the deployment, the assessment, and the dissemination of innovative technology for wider user groups in academia, society, and religious communities. We seek to explore how such tools may extend existing scholarship into digital domains or may introduce new methodologies, novel research questions, and new areas of inquiry. For example, we are interested not only in how to develop databases, but also about how to apply databases in such a way that it helps to stimulate methodological debate on biblical interpretation and potentially open up new or alternative avenues of research. In addition, we are interested in stimulating thinking about how theories of learning (Hebrew and Greek Language, OT and NT Literature) can be influenced and improved by technology.

We are in the process of organizing these sessions by private invitation and expect to complete the process by early January. However, we would be very happy to consider worthy paper proposals for either 2013 or 2014 (though mainly for 2014) in any area of educational or research technology, if they are submitted to us by January 6, 2013. So, please contact us at GERTSBL@gmail.com with your best paper proposal for consideration for either our 2013 or 2014 sessions. (Proposals submitted for 2013 may be offered acceptance for 2014 if they are considered worthy, but do not fit into the limited slots remaining for 2013. If we receive an abundance of worthy proposals, we may consider sponsoring an additional session.)

Besides the projected title of your paper and your personal contact information, proposals must include an abstract of between 200-300 words. If your paper proposal is accepted, expect to be allotted 20-25 minutes to present at the session, with 5-10 minutes for discussion of your paper. You need to be/become an SBL member and register for the Annual Meeting at which you will be presenting. More details are included in the attached PDF.