Do not panic at the length of this list! It borders on being exhaustive, but primarily for reference purposes. Example lists of what you might actually purchase are given at various points. Further advice can be given.

a) Essential reading for the unit is the Bible. The ACT recommends the use of the NRSV, RSV, NIV/TNIV or ESV. Ridley staff will teach from the NRSV, and a copy of the NRSV will be supplied in exams; it is a good version with which to become familiar.

b) Readings will be frequently set from a New Testament introduction or reference. The following is both an excellent summary of many matters, as well as a stage-by-stage study of the texts involved. While advanced students may find it a little simple and prefer to focus on more technical works, most will find this helpful:


Whether or not you purchase Blomberg, you would be well served to have regular access to at least one of the following. (These are ranked roughly from simplest to most complex. Feel free to seek advice about which one[s] might best suit you. You may already have one from first semester.)


[most students are about here]

c) Regular access to one or two commentaries on Acts is essential. An exhaustive list, including works both lighter than heavier than these, is available in the matching commentary list. Most students will find themselves benefitting from the following more recent volumes (roughly simpler to harder):


Longenecker’s volume is also available separately (Zondervan, 1995), and has now been lightly revised (Zondervan, 2007: 10:663–1102). The changes are sufficiently superficial that the older, more accessible volume(s) will suffice. Should you consider buying the EBC series, the revised edition (still in progress) is much more legible, and Acts is now joined by better companion works.


Ideally, you should consider buying (at least one of) the lighter and (at least one of) the more scholarly. The most ideal, complete, middle-of-the-road starting point is probably Peterson.
d) Other helpful studies of Acts, including matters of application today:


e) A New Testament Theology will hold many issues in perspective (more useful to less useful):


f) Specific studies of Pauline Theology include:


g) An introduction to hermeneutics (biblical interpretation) is beneficial as a resource for years to come:


h) Other works which will be useful, and regularly referred to, include:


A great many of these are now available, together, as *The Essential IVP Reference Collection* on CD-ROM.

i) While we do not explore much depth in the remaining epistles of the NT, there are good commentaries available. These are listed in a matching PDF file.

**Summary**

The ideal first-year library might develop *in roughly the following order* (ignoring commentaries on the wider epistles):

- Blomberg
- Carson & Moo or deSilva
- a commentary or two on Acts
- **DPL, DLNT** (again, the *IVP Reference Collection* is a very cost-effective library)
- a New Testament theology
- start to collect one or two good commentaries on each epistle
- more of each category above