The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University is pleased to announce that this month the Seminary has officially become a collaborator and partner of the Global Learning Initiative (http://global-learning.org/).

Dr. Moskala, Seminary dean, states: "I am very pleased that the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary is now partnering with prestigious European universities in collaboration on electronic databases for learning biblical languages. This outstanding achievement was made possible by the very diligent work of Oliver Glanz, PhD, assistant professor of Old Testament, who is our expert in electronic work with the biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek. This will help our and worldwide students to work closely with the biblical languages. It makes this work easier by providing a better understanding of the original intent of the biblical material with its grammar and syntax, and for better preaching and teaching of the Word of God."

The GLI started as a European Union funded research project (http://www.eplot.eu/) in which the well-known Biblical Hebrew Database of the Free University of Amsterdam was implemented in a software based learning environment that would allow for facilitating "persuasive learning object technology" (PLOT). The project was based upon a partnership between Aalborg University, Leeds Metropolitan University, London Metropolitan University, and a few other European institutions. The intention was to utilize modern insights about learning efficiency and apply it to the learning of biblical languages. Out of this project grew a new initiative to develop the Bible Online Learner (http://bibleol.3bmoodle.dk/). This open source site creates a persuasive Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek learning environment that can be used by any institution (registration is free).

The collaboration with GLI consists in improving (a) the Hebrew and Greek databases, (b) programming features for language exercise development, and (c) enriching the grading experience for language instructors. With these improvements, the initiative intends to cater to the specific needs of the biblical language learner and institutions who want to improve the quality and efficiency of their biblical language courses.

Recently, Dr. Oliver Glanz has developed the necessary EMDROS database queries for developing exercises that focus on the different Hebrew verbal classes (e.g. I"Nun, III"Hey) within the Bible Online Learner. As a next major project, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary's Old Testament Department will collaborate with Professor Nicolai Winther-Nielsen (Allborg University, Dansk Bibel Institut)on producing a state of the art Hebrew dictionary for the Amsterdam database. This will help to increase the vocabulary learning efficiency of students.