When Quoting from the Bible in Academic Papers for Columbia Evangelical Seminary

The first time you use a reference from the Bible, you place a footnote with it. That footnote explains *which translation* you intend to use throughout your paper. This footnote is **not** the place to indicate where the citation comes from in the Bible. Footnotes are not used to show the citation for every Bible quote. Your citation of the passage is to be in the text. Here is an example: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, *NASB*).[1]

Note a couple of things with the quote and citation above. (1) The final punctuation (the period) comes after the citation, which is in parenthesis ( ) not brackets [ ]. (2) Then, after the final punctuation, comes the footnote number. (3) Also, in-text citations require the full spelling of the Bible books; Thus, it is John 3:16, not Jn. 3:16.

Since you have now established—in your footnote—that all Scripture quotations are taken from the *New American Standard Bible* version unless otherwise noted, you do **not** have to put *NASB* after your succeeding quotes, and you do **not** use footnotes again for NASB quote citations. So, your next *NASB* quote would look like this: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24). Again, note where the final period goes: after the citation. And, note also that the name *Romans* is not abbreviated.

If at some point, you use a different translation, then you would—as you said you would in your footnote—indicate to the reader that it is a different translation. Here's how that is done: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1, *NIV*).[2] You write a new footnote for the Bible quote from the *NIV*, giving the necessary bibliographic information. After this, if you use the *NIV* again, you would simply put *NIV* at the end of the quote, but you would **not** repeat the footnote. So, the next citation would be simply (Romans 8:2, *NIV*), with no footnote.

Each time you introduce a new translation, you do **one** footnote to explain the necessary bibliographic information, then after that, you simply use the abbreviation in the text citation.

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[1] All Scripture quotations are taken from the *New American Standard Bible* version unless otherwise noted, The Lockman Foundation, 1977. **<—** be sure to put in the correct year for the one you are using.

[2] *The Holy Bible: New International Version.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.