



# Religion

The public library has print and electronic resources that will aid consumers in evaluating and purchasing products. The most popular and useful sources are discussed below. If you have trouble finding information, please see a staff member. We're here to help!

**SUBJECTS:** (keywords to use when searching the online card catalog)

[Psychology, religious](#)

[Religion and Science](#)

[Religion and Culture](#)

[Spiritual Life](#)

[Cults](#)

[Religions](#)

[Rites and Ceremonies](#)

[God](#)

[Mythology](#)

[Folklore](#)

[Holidays](#)

[Festivals](#)

## ONLINE DATABASES: .

### [Academic Search Premier](#)

*Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.*

Both academic and general articles are indexed in this database. Type your search in the "Find" box.

### [Biography in Context](#)

*Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.*

Find information on religious leaders and notable persons such as Moses, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Joan of Arc, and many more.

### [CQ Researcher](#)

*Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.*

A quick search on "religion" will link you to hot news topics such as Creationism vs. Evolution, Cults in America, Religion in Schools, Muslims in America, Faith-based Initiatives, and Religion in Politics, to name just a few.

### [CultureGrams](#)

*Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.*

Information on more than 190 countries and territories and all 50 states; search for a particular country, territory, or state and check out the information on that place's religion, festivals, and holidays. Includes recipes, too!

## [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

Under the heading "Religion," this database houses searchable, digitized versions of the *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* (2004), the *Encyclopedia of Religion* (2005), and the *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion* (2003).

## BOOKS:

### General

#### [New Religions Guide: new religious movements, sects and alternative spiritualities](#) edited by Christopher Partridge

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 200 NEW

Partridge has compiled an encyclopedic work covering more than 200 religious movements. He defines a "new religion" as "a religion, sect or alternative spirituality that emerged or *rose to prominence* during the 20th century," which allows the inclusion of groups like Freemasonry and the Baha'i Faith, with roots in the 18th and 19th centuries.

#### [The Atlas of Religion](#) by Joanne O'Brien and Martin Palmer

**Location:** *Nonfiction* 200.22 OBRIE

This book maps the current nature, extent, and influence of each of the major religions and shows, country by country, how religions are spread through broadcasting, missionary work, schooling, and banking; how they relate to government, laws, and world hunger; and the role they play in wars. It traces the emergence of new religious movements, the survival of traditional beliefs, and the presence of atheism and agnosticism. *The Atlas of Religion* also locates the origin, the heartland, and the sacred places of each of the major religions and provides essential background with a valuable table showing the fundamental beliefs of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Taoism.

#### [The Great Transformation: the beginning of our religious traditions](#) by Karen Armstrong

**Location:** *Nonfiction* 200.9 ARMST

This book examines the origins of the religious traditions of the world during the ninth century B.C.E. in four distinct regions--Confucianism and Daoism in China, Hinduism and Buddhism in India, monotheism in Israel, and philosophical rationalism in Greece. Taking the Axial Age, which spans roughly 900 B.C.E. to 200 B.C.E., as her focal point, Armstrong examines the ways that specific religious traditions from Buddhism and Confucianism to Taoism and Judaism responded to the various cultural forces they faced during this period.

#### [Don't Know Much about Mythology: everything you need to know about the greatest stories in human history but never learned](#) by Kenneth C. Davis

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 201 DAVIS

This book ranges from Mount Olympus and the Maya of Central America to ancient Rome and the land of the Norse to share tales and accessible commentary pertaining to mythological creation stories, gods, and heroes. Students will find this book useful both as a quick reference source and as a means of gaining greater understanding of complex ancient religions, or learning which events were shaping different countries at the same time.

**The Complete World of Greek Mythology** by Richard Buxton

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 292.1 BUXTO

Buxton treats his subject thematically, covering Greek origin myths, the character and functions of the Olympian gods, the exploits of heroes, the Homeric epics and the sagas of the House of Atreus and other tragic clans in which there is a "seamless connection...between heroic exploits and domestic catastrophes." Maps and family trees are provided to chart the progress of mythic quests and to help keep straight the tangled ancestry and couplings of gods and mortals, along with hundreds of superb photos of landscapes, ruins and objets d'art that steep readers in the atmospherics of ancient Greece.

**The New Penguin Handbook of Living Religions** by John R. Hinnells

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 291 NEW

This has been completely revised, with all chapters updated to include discussion of modern developments and recent scholarship. Compiled by a team of leading international scholars, it is an authoritative guide to understanding the religious beliefs and practices of the world today.

**Bulfinch's Mythology** by Thomas Bulfinch; foreword by Alberto Manguel

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 291.1 BULFI

Description

**Holidays, festivals, and celebrations of the world dictionary: detailing more than 2,000 observances from all 50 states and more than 100 nations** compiled by Sue Ellen Thompson and Barbara W. Carlson

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 394.2 THOMPS

A compendious reference guide to popular, ethnic, religious, national, and ancient holidays, festivals, celebrations, commemorations, holy days, feasts, and fasts, supplemented by a special section on calendar systems, tables of state and national public holidays, special indexes of chronological, cultural and ethnic, geographic, historical, religious, and sports holidays, and a general and key-word index.

**Holidays of the World Cookbook for Students** by Lois Sinaiko Webb

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 641.5 WEBB

This book is a collection of 388 recipes from more than 136 countries plus an introduction describing local holidays, customs, and foods that are part of the holiday tradition in each country.

**Reference** (in library use only)

**The Encyclopedia of Religion**

**Located:** *Reference* 200.3 ENCYC

A digitized version of the *Encyclopedia of Religion* is available in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)

**Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices**

**Located:** *Reference* 200.9 WORLD

With editing and writing by an international group of leading scholars in religion, comparative religion, history, anthropology, and other topics, the essays and entries in

this three-volume reference are of high quality and are also accessible to the undergraduate student and general reader.

**[The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible](#)** by James Strong

**Located:** *Reference* 220.5 STRON

An index to every word of the King James Version of the Bible includes a dictionary of Greek and Hebrew words, Strong's numbering system, and the words of Christ emphasized.

**[A New Handbook of Living Religions](#)** edited by John R. Hinnells

**Located:** *Reference* 291 NEW

A team of over twenty leading international scholars provides up-to-date information on: the sources and history of the world's religions—from Buddhism to Zoroastrianism, their teaching, practices, and popular traditions, gender and spirituality, the black African diaspora and developments in the twentieth century and recent scholarship.

**[Bulfinch's Mythology](#)** by Thomas Bulfinch; foreword by Alberto Manguel

**Located:** *Nonfiction* 291.1 BULFI

For almost a century and a half, Bulfinch's Mythology has been the text by which the great tales of the gods and goddesses, Greek and Roman antiquity; Scandinavian, Celtic, and Oriental fables and myths; and the age of chivalry have been known.

**[The Facts on File Encyclopedia of World Mythology and Legend](#)**

**Located:** *Reference* 291.1 MERCA

A survey of myths, fables, and legends from around the world and throughout the ages.

## WEBSITES:

### **Adherents**

<http://www.adherents.com/>

This site is a growing collection of over 32,000 adherent statistics and religious geography citations. Researchers can use this site to answer such questions as "What are the major religions of Taiwan?", "How many Hindus are in South Africa?" or "What percentage of Bolivians are Protestant?"

### **American Religion Data Archive (ARDA)**

<http://www.thearda.com/>

A project funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. that acts to preserve quantitative data on American religion. The ARDA collection includes data on churches and church membership, religious professionals, and religious groups (individuals, congregations and denominations).

### **The Journal of Southern Religion**

<http://jsr.fsu.edu/>

*The Journal of Southern Religion* is a fully peer-reviewed academic journal reflecting the best traditions of objective and critical scholarship. It is published, in its entirety, on the Web.

### **Religion Online**

<http://www.religion-online.org/>

This site is an extensive digital library of over 250 book chapters, monographs, speeches, and articles on the socio-cultural aspects of Christianity. The texts, written by religious scholars, are arranged into twenty subject sections, such as Church and Society, Church History, Comparative Religion, and Sociology of Religion, among many others.

### **Tables of Contents of Journals of Interest to Classicists (TOCS-IN)**

<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/amphoras/tocs.html>

A site that provides citations for articles published in 153 journals on Classics, Archaeology, Religious and Near Eastern Studies, and a few others, starting with 1992. The archive contains over 11,000 articles, fully searchable, with links to those which are available (full texts or abstracts) on the Internet.

### **USC-MSA Compendium of Muslim Texts**

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/>

A website run by the Muslim Students Association at USC, Los Angeles. Here you will find Islamic reference materials including extensive Qur'an and Hadith collections.

### **Virtual Religion Index**

<http://virtualreligion.net/vri/>

This Virtual Religion Index is a tool for students with little time. It analyzes & highlights important content of religion-related websites to speed research.

### **Yale University Religion Resources**

<http://www.library.yale.edu/rsc/religion/>

Online information supported by Yale University Libraries covering various aspects of Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Hinduism.