This guide is an overview of resources for students interested in the study of the works of Early Christianity. Early Christianity is defined for this document as the time period from the death of Christ (ca. 33 C.E.) to the end of the sixth century. The focus is on the early church’s writers and theologians in primary and secondary materials. It is meant to serve as a guide to help you make the most of the many resources available here at the Bishop Payne Library.

**Library Catalog**

The library’s online catalog is a logical place to begin your research. You can search the catalog by author, title, Library of Congress subject heading (LCSH), or keyword. Some representative Library of Congress subject headings to search in the library’s catalog include:

- Church history—Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600
- Apostolic Fathers
- Fathers of the Church—History and Criticism
- Sermons—Early Christian

The call numbers for these headings are generally in the range of BR 60 – BR 67.

**Reference Works**

**Ref. BR 66.5 .D622 1992 (2 vol.)**
Detailed coverage of a range of topics including archaeology, philosophy, linguistics, history and geography during the time of the Early Church.

**Ref. BR 67 .Q1 1966 (4 vol.)**
Biographical information on significant theologians of the Early Church. Entries include brief biography, writings, and theological aspects of each person’s career.
Vol. 1: The Beginnings of Patristic Literature
Vol. 2: Ante-Nicene Literature after Irenaeus
Vol. 3: Golden Age of Greek Patristic Literature from the Council of Nicea to the Council of Calcedon
Vol. 4: Golden Age of Latin Patristic Literature from the Council of Nicea to the Council of Calcedon

**Ref. BR 95 .K29 1992**
Deals with Christianity from the first through the sixth centuries. Brief entries dealing with the significant individuals of Early Christianity.

Ref. BR 95 .S65 (4 vol.)
_A Dictionary of Christian Biography, Literature, Sects and Doctrines During the First Eight Centuries._ Edited by William Smith and Henry Wace. London: John Murray, Ablemarle Street, 1887.
Very detailed accounts of the lives and works of the Early Christian writers in four volume set.

Ref. BR 98 .A881
A text of Christian history from the beginning through Vatican II which includes maps and illustrations.

Ref. BR 138 .B811 1995
Provides an overview of research methods in the areas of history and theology. Includes a bibliography of selected resources in the study of church history and historical theology.

Ref. BR162.2 .E56 1997 (2 vol.)
This work covers the time period from the life of Jesus to the seventh century. Entries include persons, places, doctrines, practices, art, liturgy, heresies, and schisms.

Ref. BX 841 .B845 1998
This work translates and explains Latin phrases that are often found in theological writings.

Primary Sources in English

_Br 60 .A35 (58 vol.) also available in Open Stacks_
A collection of the English translations of ancient Christian writers.

_Br 60 .A62 G5_
Includes material from “The Doctrina” to “An Address to Dioginetus”. 
Ref. BR 60 .A62 G7 v. 1-6
Consists of writings from the late first century through the early second century. Includes the writings of Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, Barnabas, and Hermes.
Vol. 1: Introduction and General Information
Vol. 2: First and Second Clement
Vol. 3: Barnabas and the Didache
Vol. 4: Ignatius of Antioch
Vol. 5: Polycarp, Martyrdom of Polycarp, and Fragments of Papias
Vol. 6: Hermas

Ref. BR 60 .A62 L52 1989 (2 vol.)
From the original translation done in 1866-72 by Joseph Barber Lightfoot.
Vol. 1: Clement of Rome
Vol. 2: Ignatius and Polycarp

Ref. BR60 .A627 1950 (10 vol.) also available in Open Stacks
Includes the English translations of works of the Fathers up to the date of the first general council held at Nicea (325 C.E.).
Vol. 1: The Apostolic Fathers with Justin Martyr and Irenaeus
Vol. 3: Latin Christianity: Tertullian
Vol. 4: Fathers of the Third Century: Tertullian, Minucius, Felix, Commodian, Origen
Vol. 5: Hippolytus, Cyprian, Caius, Novatian
Vol. 6: Gregory Thaumaturgus, Dionysius the Great, Julius Africanus, Anatolius, Methodius, Arnobius
Vol. 7: Fathers of the Third and Fourth Centuries: Lactantius, Venantius, Asterius, Victorinus, Dionysius
Vol. 8: The Twelve Patriarchs, the Clementina, Apocrypha, Decretals, Memoirs of the Edessa and Syriac documents
Vol. 9 & 10: Supplement to the American edition

Ref BR 60 .F3 (vol. 1-) also available in Open Stacks
Provides contemporary English translations of the writings of the church fathers.

BR 60 .L697 v.1
Part of the Library of Christian Classics series. Includes the writings of Clement through the writers of the second century.

Ref. BR 60 .S42 1952 (14 volumes) also available in Open Stacks
Vol. 1: Eusebius
Vol. 2: Socrates Sozomenus
Vol. 3: Theodoret; Jerome Gennadius, Rufinus and Jerome
Vol. 4: Athanasius
Vol. 5: Gregory of Nyssa
Vol. 6: Jerome
Vol. 7: Cyril of Jerusalem; Gregory Nazianzen
Vol. 8: Basil
Vol. 9: Hilary of Poitiers; John of Damascus
Vol. 10: Ambrose
Vol. 11: Sulpitius Severus; Vincent of Lerins; John Cassian
Vol. 12: Leo the Great; Gregory the Great
Vol. 13: Gregory the Great; Ephraim Syrus; Aphrahat
Vol. 14: Seven ecumenical councils

BR 60 .T915

BR1705 .J21

Secondary Sources in English

BR60 .A65 J44 1996
BR117 .K11 1995
An annotated bibliography that lists the writings of nearly 250 Christian women who wrote before 1500 C.E. and that have appeared in print since 1800.

BR 162.2 .R665 1993
Annotated bibliography of prominent resources that have been translated into English that cover the time period of the Early Church.

BR 1705 .L425
An introduction to the study of the Apostolic Fathers for the beginning scholar.

Primary Sources in Latin

BR60 .C464 SUPPL.
A concordance of the Jewish pseudepigrapha preserved in Latin.

BR 60 .C492 (194 vol.) in process

BR60 .P314 (217 vol.)

Primary Sources in Greek

BR 60 .C482 in process
A new, critical, scholarly edition of the primary texts of Christian writings in Greek from the first eight centuries.

BR 60 .A6 M5 1857 (161 vol.)
Classical critical series of early church writings from Greek texts, now being revised by
Corpus Christianorum, Series Graeca.

Selected Periodicals on Early Christianity

The following periodical titles are available in the Bishop Payne Library. Articles can be
located by using the ATLA Religion Index through FirstSearch, or by accessing the
ProQuest database. You are encouraged to ask a librarian for log-in instructions and
assistance in searching these computer indexes, if necessary.

Church History
Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum
Journal of Early Christian Studies
Journal of Ecclesiastical History
Journal of Theological Studies
Second Century
Theological Studies
Vigiliae Christianae
Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft

Some additional titles that are not listed in ATLA Religion Index, but available at the
Bishop Payne Library include:

Patristics
Studia Patristica

Web Sites

Text from the Apostolic Fathers by Kirsope Lake in the Loeb Classical Library.

Christian Classics Ethereal Library www.ccel.org/fathers2
Writings of the Ante-Nicene Fathers to A.D. 325. Easily searchable site.

Fordham University www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook11.html
Multiple links to resources on topics from the origins of Christianity through the third
century. Site includes lists of print and electronic resources.

North American Patristics Society http://moses.creighton.edu/NAPS Links provided to
many primary, secondary, and reference resources that are available online.
CD-ROM

CDROM BR 60 .E37 1997

Logos Early Church Fathers. Installed on the library’s PC’s.
Complete set of the writings of the Early Church Fathers translated into English.

ORGANIZATIONS

American Society of Church History, P.O. Box 8517, Red Bank, NJ 07701;
Telephone: (732) 345-1787; Website: www.churchhistory.org E-mail: ACHNOFF@aol.org

North American Patristics Society, c/o Clayton N. Jefford, St. Meinrad School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1020; Website:
http://moses.creighton.edu/NAPS E-mail: cjefford@saintmeinrad.edu