This guide is an overview of resources and strategies for students engaged in research on world religions. It is meant to serve as a guide to help you make the most of the many resources available at the Bishop Payne Library.

This guide starts out by covering general works on world religions. Specific resources on Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism are also provided.

**Library Catalog**

The library’s online catalog is the logical place to begin your research. Searching can be done by author, title, Library of Congress subject heading (LCSH) or keyword. Some representative Library of Congress subject searches include:

**Religions** [The call numbers in this area typically range from BL74 – BL98]

- **Buddhism**
- **Hinduism**
- **Islam**
- **Judaism**

Each of these headings can be subdivided geographically (Ex. Buddhism – China). Searches can also be limited by more specific categories. For example, Buddhism – Rituals or Hinduism – Missions.

**Reference Sources**

**Ref. BL 31 .E54 (16 vol.)**
The best non-denominational religion encyclopedia available. Comparative religions covered.

**Ref. BL 31 .O98 1997**
Guide to all aspects of the world’s religions, past and present. Includes an extensive topic index and cross-references.

**Ref. BL 80.2 .E57 1998**
Nearly 500 entries that are aimed at students and general audiences. Includes extensive cross-referencing to other entries within the same volume.

**Ref. BL 80.2 .W747 2000**
Chronology of significant events in religious history from 100,000 BCE through 2000 CE. Supplemented by 250 information sidebars keying in on major events and biographies.

**Ref. BL 80.2 .I29 1998**
This work focuses on world religions that include Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese and Japanese traditional religions.

**Ref. BL 80.3 .R382 2002 (4 vol.)**
Designed to survey the state of world religion at the start of the twenty-first century.

**Ref. BL 458 .E56 1999**
Reflects scholarship on women and world religion from various perspectives.

**General Sources**

**BL80.2 .B959 1996**
Arranged in three sections: Religions of Indian origin; Religions of Chinese origin; and Religions of Semitic origin. Designed for beginning students of world religion, it includes maps, questions for discussion and suggestions for additional reading.

**BL 80.2 .C178 2002**
A comprehensive survey of world religion from prehistoric times to the present. Includes a substantial bibliography, a detailed chronology, and information on various religious calendars.

**BL80.2 .E77 2002**
Looks at religions through time from premodern, modern, and postmodern periods to show the growth and evolution of each faith.

**BL 80.2 .L879 2001**
This work offers brief descriptions of major world religions and denominations within the Christian tradition.

**BL80.2 .R384 1993**
This work describes in clear terms the principal doctrines, issues, and motifs of each religion and shows how the traditions have responded to their cultural, social, and geographic contexts. Includes maps and timelines.

**BL 80.2 .S649 1991**
An easily accessible introduction to world religions with suggestions for further reading that accompany each chapter. Enables the reader to appreciate the impact of each religion on those who live it.

**BL 80.2 .W9258 1996 (Eastern Traditions)**
**BL 80.2 .W9258 1996 (Western Traditions)**
A comprehensive look at major world religions in two volumes.

**Judaism**

**Primary Sources**

**Ref. BM 487 .A3 G22 2000 (2 vol.)**
Contains newly edited Hebrew and Aramaic transcriptions and English translations of nonbiblical scrolls. Summary of the contents of biblical scrolls from Qumran.

**BM 497.5 .E5 N48 1988**
Presents the Mishnah in as close to a literal translation from Hebrew to American English as possible.

**BM 499.5 .E4 1989 (21 volumes)**

**BM 560 .G211 1993**
Compilation of four volumes of Jewish laws and customs with a section of notes.

Ref. BM 660 .N969 1993
Information on each and every prayer recited in the Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions.

Ref. BM 674.243 .S617 1991
Edition of the Authorised Prayer Book that was issued to celebrate the centenary of its first appearance in 1890. Parallel Hebrew/English text.

**Secondary Sources**

BM 42 .B632 2000
Presents the facts of Judaism and its history within the larger setting of Judaic theology, religious practice, and evolving social order.

BM 43 .B632 2001
Includes passages from Scripture, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Rabbinic writings, medieval and modern Jewish philosophy and theology with editorial comment.

Ref. BM 50 .D555 1996 (2 vol.)
Defines words from the Bible and related writings of the period, places commonly mentioned, and kings and emperors of the period. Maps are included.

Ref. BM 50 .E56 1999 (4 vol.)
Useful for finding quick definitions of facts, persons, places, things, events, and practices viewed through the eyes of Judaism.

Ref. BM 50 .O98 1997
Signed scholarly entries covering the whole of Jewish religion. Includes bibliographies.
BM 560 .S819
Written about the beliefs, ideals, and practices that make up the historic Jewish faith.

BM 561 .D723 1995
This book “invites” one into the world of Judaism. Includes sections on Jewish beliefs, people, literature, holidays, and worship.

BM 561 .M211 1998
An informative, lively guide to Jewish history and traditions.

Ref. BS 1222 .L716 2001
Contains Hebrew text and English translation along with a Commentary and Midrash for each book of the Pentateuch.

BS 1225.3 .J59 (5 vol.)
Parallel columns of the Scripture in Hebrew and in English followed by commentary.

Ref. DS 102.8 .E56

Islam
Primary Sources

Ref. BP 109 .A397 1992
Specially created by arrangement with Princeton University Press. Translation of the Muslim religious text with parallel columns of English and Arabic text.

BP 161.2 .I82
An anthology of Islamic writings that are primarily concerned with religious life. The contributions have been written by Islamic sources.
Literary and visual primary sources that cover a broad range of themes and provide understanding of Islamic spirituality and religious life.

Secondary Sources

Ref. BP 40 .M987 1996
Provides a perspective on Muslim communities in various regions of the world.

Ref. BP 40 .N4766 1997
A dictionary of items that one is most likely to encounter in books on Islam, including biographies on imminent Muslim scholars.

Ref. BP 133 .E23 5 vol. (in process)
Combines alphabetically-arranged articles about the contents of the Qur’an with extended essays on important themes and topics.

BP161.2 .G6641 2002
Concise volume that explains many aspects of Islam.

BP 161.2 .N827 1999
Sets out the basic framework of Islamic belief from its origins to today.

BP 161.2 .R976 2000
Overview of the Islamic religion in historical, geographic, and social settings.

Ref. DS 35.53 .O98 1995 4 volumes
Comprehensive coverage of all aspects of Muslim social and religious life.

Ref. DS 37 .E5 11 volumes
Extensive entries covering items relating to the practice of Islam.

**Buddhism**

**Primary Sources**

**BQ 1110 .C769**
A selection of Buddhist Scriptures that are common to the numerous schools of the Buddhist religion.

Ref. **BQ 1372 .E54 C38 1992**
Includes text with transliteration and commentary on Buddhism’s sacred writings.

**BQ 1992 .E5 P74 1990**
Translations of the *Diamond Sutra*, the most treasured book of Buddhist literature and the central teachings of Buddhist scripture, *The Sutra of Hui-neng*.

**BQ2240 .A856**
Biographical work of the major events in the life of King Asoka.

**BQ 24080 .U2222 E57 1994**
Translation from the Chinese of 139 of the scriptural texts of Buddha’s teachings.

**Secondary Sources**

**BQ 266 .C768**
The history of Buddhism divided into four time frames.

**BQ 266 .M681 2002**
An introduction to the history, sacred writings, and traditions of Buddhism.
**PAM 1956 152**
Brief explanation of the development of the Buddhist faith.

**Hinduism**

**Primary Sources**

**BL 1010 .S3 v.42**
English translation of poems and spells for use in Vedic services.

**Ref. BL 1112.52 .E54 G85 1992**
Part of the Sacred Writings series. The oldest of the four Vedas in the Hindu faith, this work is comprised of over 1,000 hymns of praise.

**BL 1120 .A3 H8 1992**
The “fundamental truths of being” translated from the Sanskrit texts and representative of the great thinkers of early India.

**BL 1138.62 .E5 2000B**
English translation of the most widely known Hindu religious text.

**Secondary Sources**

**Ref. BL 1105 .K66 1998**
This encyclopedia covers the major systems of thought, major figures, and locations that are important to the study of Hinduism.

**BL 1138.66 .M66**
A collection of studies by modern commentators on the Bhagavadgita.

**BL 1202 .B575 2002**
A comprehensive study of Hinduism for beginning students as well as Hindus who are seeking to learn more about their religion.
**BL 1202 .K66 1998**
A comprehensive overview of Hinduism.

**BL 1202 .L764 1994**
Intended as an introduction to Hinduism while still a resource for scholars.

### Periodicals

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

- Areopagus
- Eastern Buddhist
- Hebrew Union College Annual
- History of Religions
- Islam & Christian-Muslim Relations
- Japanese Journal of Religious Studies
- Journal of Dharma
- Journal of Religious Studies
- Journal of the American Academy of Religion
- Kairos
- Muslim World
- Numen
- Religion
- Religion and Society
- Religion Studies Review
- Religious Studies and Theology
- Studies in Comparative Religion
- Tricycle

### Web Sites

Finding God in Cyberspace. [http://facultyweb.fontbonne.edu/~jgresham/fgic/relig.htm](http://facultyweb.fontbonne.edu/~jgresham/fgic/relig.htm)
John Gresham has built and maintained this site for several years with a comprehensive section on world religion.

The Pluralism Project was developed by Diana L. Eck at Harvard University to study and document the growing religious diversity of the United States.
Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. [http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/internet/front.htm](http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/internet/front.htm). Well-organized site that offers access to electronic resources, including E-journals and bibliographies from a wide selection of world religions.


Judaism and Jewish Resources. [http://www.shamash.org/trb/judaism.html](http://www.shamash.org/trb/judaism.html). Provides 29 pages of links accompanied by a Table of Contents on the first page for help in navigation.


**Organizations**

Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions (IASWR), RD 2, Rte 301, Carmel, NY 10512. Phone: (914) 225-1445. Website: [www.iaswr.org](http://www.iaswr.org). E-mail: iaswr@aol.com.

Council of Societies for the Study of Religion (CSSR). Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN 46383. Phone: (888) 422-2777. Website: [www.cssr.org](http://www.cssr.org). E-Mail: cssr@valpo.edu.