



There are an enormous number of theological reference works which provide an overview of a particular topic, and lead the student to the most important books and journal articles. Determining which reference sources are “standard” largely depends on the theological perspective and denominational background of the particular user. This guide aims to identify and describe some of the most important reference sources, emphasizing (but not exclusively) those written from the Catholic perspective.

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ENCYCLOPEDIAS

New Catholic Encyclopedia. 2nd edition. Washington, DC: Gale, 2003. **Online UofT**
15 volumes+supplements.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 841 .N44 2003]

This work is the major English-language encyclopedia on Catholic topics. It contains some 17,000 articles, each with a bibliography. The 2003/online edition includes multiple supplements with articles on topics of current interest. Unfortunately many of the articles in the 2003/online edition are reprints from the 1967 edition without any updating or merely with a few changes in the bibliography. The 1967 edition (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area BX 841 .N44 1967) and the 1907 edition of the *Catholic Encyclopedia* (available online: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen>; St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 841 .C25 1907) include some articles on topics not included in the 2003/online edition of the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. These older works may be useful for some historical topics.

The Encyclopedia of Christianity. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999 – 2008. 5 vols. **Online UofT**
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .E8913 1999]

This work is the major English-language theological encyclopedia from a Protestant perspective. It emphasizes post-Reformation and particularly contemporary Christianity. The articles included are substantial but selective; there are many topics which are not addressed. Many of the articles are translated from the German-language *Evangelisches Kirchenlexikon* (Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .E92 1986).

DICTIONARIES

See also the separate *Research Guide to Systematic Theology*.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church. Edited by F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone. 3rd edition revised. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .O8 2005]

Online UofT

Brief, scholarly articles with bibliographies on over 6,000 topics. This dictionary is particularly good for identifying individuals and for historical topics.

A Concise Dictionary of Theology. By Gerald O'Collins and Edward G. Farrugia. 3rd edition. New York: Paulist, 2013.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .O25 2013]

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Precise paragraph-length definitions of theological terms, as well as some biblical, catechetical, ethical, historical, liturgical, and philosophical terms used in theological studies. Written from a Catholic perspective. A similar Catholic work is *Saint Mary's Press Glossary of Theological Terms* by John T. Ford (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference BX1751.3 .F66 2006). A similar Protestant work is *Essential Theological Terms* by Justo L. Gonzalez (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference BR 96.5 .G66 2005).

Evangelical Dictionary of Theology. 3rd edition. Edited by Daniel J. Treier and Walter A. Elwell. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.
[Trinity College Reference – BR95 .E87 2017]

Online UofT

Essay-length articles on almost 1000 topics and deceased persons.

The New Dictionary of Theology. Edited by Joseph A. Komonchak. Wilmington, DE: Glazier, 1987.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .N38 1991]

Over 200 essay-length articles which explain the official teaching of the Catholic Church as well as theological opinions held by individual scholars. Includes bibliographies.

Dictionary of Fundamental Theology. Edited by René Latourelle and Rino Fisichella. New York: Crossroad, 1994.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BT 1102 .D5814 1994]

This work includes some 220 articles, over half of which were written by professors of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Thirty of the articles are major essays (e.g. christology, Church, revelation) which serve as guides to the other articles in the dictionary. A similar work is *Handbook of Catholic Theology*, edited by Wolfgang Beinert and Francis Schüssler Fiorenza (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 1747.5 .L4913 1995).

The Dictionary of Historical Theology. Edited by Trevor A. Hart. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BT 21.2 .D53 2000]

Over 300 articles on the key figures, theological movements, and texts that have shaped Christian thought. The choice of topics in the modern period is overwhelmingly Protestant.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES – PERIODS AND TOPICS

See also the separate *Research Guide to Church History*.

Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity. Produced by the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2014. 3 volumes.
[Emmanuel College Reference Area – BR66.5 .D5813 2014]
[1992 edition St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 66.5 .D5813 1992]

The most scholarly English-language dictionary of Christian antiquity with twice as many articles and a broader coverage than Everett Ferguson's *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity* (available online for UofT use: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca.>).

The New SCM Dictionary of Church History. Edited by Robert Benedetto. London: SCM Press, 2008.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .N49 2008]

Also published under the title *The New Westminster Dictionary of Church History*, this work is very comparable to the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (above). Only volume 1 (early church to 1700) has been published so far.

The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. Online UofT
3 volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – DF 521 .O93 1991]

Major survey articles as well as shorter articles on lesser topics. Covers the Byzantine Empire from the 4th to the 15th centuries.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation. Edited by Hans J. Hillerbrand. Online UofT
New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. 4 volumes.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 302.8 .O93 1996]

More than 1,200 scholarly articles. Many of the bibliographies are annotated and are divided into separate lists of primary and secondary sources.

The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity. Edited by Ken Parry. Online UofT
Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 100.7 .B53 1999]

This work covers Catholic and Orthodox, Byzantine and non-Byzantine, Chalcedonian and non-Chalcedonian traditions. Articles on geographical areas, important persons, theological issues, and liturgical items. Includes bibliographical references, mostly to English-language works.

Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement. Edited by Nicholas Lossky and others. 2nd edition. Geneva: WCC Publications, 2003.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 6.3 .D53 2003]

Articles on the ecumenical aspects of particular theological topics (e.g. grace), as well as articles on important persons and groups in ecumenical dialogue. This work is generally more useful than the *Historical Dictionary of Ecumenical Christianity* (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 6.3 .V36 1994), which does, however, include more biographical articles.

BIBLICAL RESOURCES

See also the separate *Research Guide to the Bible*.

Bible Gateway.

Online

[Available online: <http://www.biblegateway.org>]

One of the most comprehensive online collections of Bible translations.

Catholic Bible Dictionary. Edited by Scott Hahn. New York: Doubleday, 2009.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 440 .H23 2009]

The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary. General editor, Mark Allan Powell. 3rd edition. New York: HarperOne, 2011.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 440 .H235 2011]

Bible dictionaries include articles about Biblical persons, places, events, concepts, and institutions. The articles are normally brief; they note the most relevant Scriptural passages, but usually do not include any bibliographies.

Oxford Biblical Studies Online.

Online UofT

Includes the *Oxford Encyclopedias of the Bible*, as well as other dictionaries.

New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2006–2009. 5 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 440 .N443 2006]

The Anchor Bible Dictionary. Edited by David Noel Freedman. New York: Doubleday, 1992. 6 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 440 .A54 1992]

NIBD and *ABD* are the standard scholarly English-language encyclopedias on Biblical topics. *NIBD* is more current and is directed to pastors and theological students. *ABD* often has longer more in-depth articles with significantly more bibliographical references (but now dated).

Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament. Edited by G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren. Grand Rapids, IN: Eerdmans, 1973–2006. 15 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 440 .T452]

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament. Edited by Gerhard Kittel. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964–1976. 10 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 440 .K58]

The *TDOT* and the *TDNT* ("Kittel") are respectively the standard works for biblical word studies in Hebrew and Greek. Each article includes a discussion of the etymology of the word, an examination of its secular use, and a more extensive examination of its theological significance.

The New Jerome Biblical Commentary. Edited by Raymond E. Brown, Joseph A. Fitzmyer, Roland E. Murphy. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 491.2 .N485 1990]

Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible.

Online UofT

Edited by James D.G. Dunn and John W. Rogerson. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 491.3 .E37 2003]

There are a number of one-volume scholarly commentaries to the Bible. New Jerome is from a Catholic perspective; Eerdmans is from a Protestant perspective.

The following two works, both written by evangelicals, list the major commentaries on specific books of the Bible, clearly stating the particular perspective of individual commentaries.

Old Testament Commentary Survey. By Tremper Longman. 5th edition.
Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 1151.52 .L66 2013]

Online UofT

New Testament Commentary Survey. By D. A. Carson. 7th edition.
Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BS 2341.2 .C37 2013]

Online UofT

OTHER PRIMARY SOURCES

Enchiridion symbolorum definitionum et declarationum de rebus fidei et morum = Compendium of Creeds, Definitions, and Declarations on Matters of Faith and Morals. Originally edited by Heinrich Denzinger. Bilingual edition edited by Peter Hunermann. 43rd edition. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2012.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 1749 .D4 2012]

"Denzinger" is the appropriate tool to use when looking for the most important excerpts from papal and conciliar statements – whether the original language text (usually Greek or Latin) or an English translation. The excerpts are arranged chronologically. A similar work, *The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church*, called "Neuner-Dupuis" after its editors (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 1747.5 .C4813 2001), arranges excerpts (in English translation only) by broad theological topic (e.g. the Trinity).

Documents of the Christian Church. Selected and edited by Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder. 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 129 .D6 2011]

Online UofT

Excerpts from the primary sources most frequently referred to in theological study from antiquity to the modern period and including both Catholic and Protestant documents.

Aquinas, Thomas. ***Summa theologiae.*** London: Blackfriars, 1964–1976. 61 volumes.
[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BX 1749 .T5 S913 1964]

Saint Thomas' *Summa theologiae* is the principal doctrinal synthesis of Catholic theology. This edition includes the Latin text and an English-language translation. An older English-language translation is available online (<http://www.newadvent.org/summa>).

HANDBOOKS

The Catechism of the Catholic Church. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1999.
[Available online: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm>]
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 1959.3 .E5 1999]

Online

"A statement of the Church's faith and of catholic doctrine, attested to or illumined by Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic Tradition, and the Church's Magisterium. ... A sure norm for teaching the faith." (John Paul II, *Fidei depositum*).

Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma. By Ludwig Ott. Rockford, IL: Tan, 1974.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 1751.2 .O813 1974]

This book is a basic outline of the teachings of the Catholic Church which presents essential statements of doctrine and attempts to explain the foundations of that teaching in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. It is excellent for determining how official a particular teaching is (e.g. *de fide* or merely the more probable opinion held by most theologians). Since it was published in 1955, it does not include any references to sources from the past sixty years. There is a more recent English translation (St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BX 1751.2 .O813 2018).

Oxford Handbooks Online.

Online UofT

[Available online: <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca>]

This is a series of comprehensive introductory handbooks, with essays by leading scholars. It includes works on Biblical studies, Jewish studies, early Christian studies, the Trinity, evangelical theology, feminist theology, theological ethics, Thomas Aquinas, and more.

FINDING MORE RESOURCES

Atla Religion Database with AtlaSerials.

Online UofT

[Available online (1949 – present) for UofT use: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca>]

Over one million bibliographic citations to journal articles, essays in books, and book reviews in the field of religion. Covers all aspects of the major world religions and now includes all the content of the online *Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*. For Catholic journal articles published between 1930 and 1980 use the print version of *Catholic Periodical and Literature Index* (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area - AI 3 .C3).

Index Theologicus.

Online

[Available online: <http://www.ixtheo.de>]

Over one million bibliographic citations to articles from over 1200 journals, with significantly more European content than the *Atla Religion Database*.

Oxford Bibliographies Online.

Online UofT

[Available online: <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca>]

Thousands of research guides created by professors and librarians are arranged in broad subject areas. Each guide lists the most important works on a topic. There is no subject area for Christianity or Religion, but there is one for Biblical Studies (with over 100 bibliographies on specific biblical books, genres, and periods). The subject areas on Jewish Studies, Medieval Studies, and Renaissance and Reformation include many useful topics. Some pastoral topics can be found in the subject areas Psychology and Social Work.