



RESEARCH GUIDE TO CHURCH HISTORY

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MULTI-VOLUME ENCYCLOPEDIAS – GENERAL

New Catholic Encyclopedia.

Online UofT

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

The major English-language encyclopedia on Catholic topics, it contains some 17,000 articles, each with a bibliography emphasizing the primary sources. Unfortunately many of the articles in the 2003/online edition are reprints from the 1967 edition without any updating. Use this work to get an overview of a subject and to see how it can be divided into narrower topics for a paper.

CONTENTS

Multi-Volume Encyclopedias	1
One Volume Dictionaries	2
Encyclopedia and Dictionaries by Period	2
Collections of Documents	3
Atlases	4
Timelines	4
General Histories	4
Biography	5
Finding Journal Articles	6
More Resources	6

The Catholic Encyclopedia.

Online

New York: Encyclopedia Press, 1905–1922. 16 volumes + 2 supplements.
[Available online: <http://newadvent.org/cathen/>]
[Print version: St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 841 .C25 1907]

For over fifty years this work was the chief source of information on the Catholic Church in English-speaking countries. Owing to its length (it has almost twice as many words as the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*) and its emphasis on historical articles, it is still useful for some topics. In some articles the writers adopt an apologetic, even polemical, approach.

The Encyclopedia of Christianity.

Online UofT

Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999–2008. 5 volumes.
[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 *Evangelisches Kirchenlexikon* (Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .E92 1986).

Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought, Social Science, and Social Policy.

Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2007. 2 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 1753 .E595 2007]

A comprehensive and broad-ranging analysis of how the Catholic religious, moral, and intellectual tradition has and should shape society and social life.

Dictionnaire d'Histoire et de Géographie Ecclésiastiques.

Online UofT

Paris: Letouzey et Ané, 1912–present. 28 volumes (in progress).

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .D52 1912]

The most comprehensive reference work in Church history; mostly brief articles (with bibliographies) on terms, persons, places, events, and movements. Complete to the letter “L”.

ONE-VOLUME DICTIONARIES – GENERAL

Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church.

Online UofT

Edited by F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone. 3rd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 95 .O8 2005]

Brief, scholarly articles on over 6,000 topics. The bibliographies identify the primary sources and the most important secondary works. This dictionary is particularly good for identifying individuals and for historical topics.

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* (above). Only volume 1 (early church to 1700) has been published so far.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES – BY PERIOD

See also the separate *Research Guide to Patristics*.

Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity. Istitutum Patristicum Augustinianum.

Online UofT

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 Ferguson's *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity* (below). The entries, ranging from one or two paragraphs to five or six pages in length, include substantial bibliographies of primary sources and major secondary works in English as well as in other Western European languages.

Encyclopedia of Early Christianity.**Online UofT**

Edited by Everett Ferguson. New York: Garland, 1997. 2 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 162.2 .E53 1997]

A slightly more readable dictionary of Christian antiquity than the *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity* (above). Specialists in patristics and early Christian history will find it useful for concise, accurate summaries, ready access to facts, and basic bibliographies.

The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium.**Online UofT**

New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. 3 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – DF 521 .O93 1991]

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

Dictionary of the Middle Ages. New York: Charles Scribners' Sons, 1982 – 1989. 13 volumes.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – D 114 .D5]

Articles (many of essay length) on all aspects of medieval scholarship. The *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* edited by Andre Vauchez is a much smaller work than the *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* – but it is more up-to-date and available online for UofT use.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation.**Online UofT**

Edited by Hans J. Hillerbrand. 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.

COLLECTIONS OF DOCUMENTS

Documents of the Christian Church.**Online UofT**

Edited by Henry Bettenson. 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 141 .D63 2011]

A highly selective collection of major Christian documents, including statements from popes, bishops, councils, and synods.

Readings in World Christian History.**Online UofT**

Edited by John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BR 145.3 .R43 2004 v.1]

Primary source documents with an emphasis on Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean,

Readings in Church History.

Edited by Colman J. Barry. Revised edition. Westminster, MD: Christian Classics, 1985.

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BR 141 .R43 1985]

Over 300 contemporary writings which illustrate the history of the Church (excluding America).

Internet Medieval Sourcebook.

Online

[Available online: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.asp>]

Primary sources arranged according to type, excerpts from other writings, and lives of the saints from ancient, medieval and Byzantine sources.

ATLASES

In addition to maps, these works also include numerous illustrations that provide a graphical representation of the history of Christianity.

Atlas of Christian History.

Online UofT

Edited by Tim Dowley. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2016.

[Trinity / Emmanuel BR 98 .D692 2016]

Atlas of the European Reformations.

Online UofT

Edited by Tim Dowley. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2015.

[Knox / Trinity / Pratt G1797.21 .E42 D69 2015]

Historical Atlas of Christianity.

Franklin H. Littell. 2nd revised and expanded edition. New York: Continuum, 2001.

[Emmanuel / Trinity Reference – G 1046 .E4 L5 2001]

Atlas of the Christian Church.

Edited by Henry Chadwick and G.R. Evans. New York: Facts on File, 1987.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 98 .A74 1987]

Atlas zur Kirchengeschichte: Die Christlichen Kirchen in Geschichte und Gegenwart.

Edited by Jochen Martin. Freiburg: Herder, 1970.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 146.5 .J43]

TIMELINES***The Timetables of History.***

Bernard Grun. 4th revised edition. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005.

[Victoria Pratt Library – D11 .G78 2005]

[3rd edition: St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – D 11 .G78 1991]

Contemporary names and events in various fields are presented in parallel columns (history, politics; literature, theater; religion, philosophy, learning; visual arts; music; science, technology, growth; daily life).

Chronological and Background Charts of Church History.

Online UofT

Robert C. Walton. Revised edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

[1st edition: Regis / Emmanuel / Trinity Reference Area – BR 146 .W35 1985]

Over 80 charts for use by both students and teachers of church history "as a way to gain rapid access to basic information . . . and as a way of providing orderly categories into which that information may be placed."

GENERAL HISTORIES

The following works are comprehensive histories and are recognized as standards in their field. Each volume includes excellent bibliographies which list the most important primary and secondary works.

The Cambridge History of Christianity.

[Online UofT](#)

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006 – 2009. 9 volumes.

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BR 145.3 .C35 2006]

History of the Church.

Edited by Hubert Jedin and John Dolan. New York: Seabury Press, 1980. 10 volumes.

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BR 145.2 .J413]

The I.B. Tauris History of the Christian Church.

New York: I.B. Tauris, 2007 – present. 7 volumes.

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – volumes have individual call numbers; check catalogue]

BIOGRAPHY

The Oxford Dictionary of Popes.

[Online UofT](#)

J.N.D. Kelly. 3rd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 955.2 .K45 2005]

A chronological arrangement of concise biographies of the popes and major anti-popes. The bibliographies include primary sources as well as specialized and more general studies.

The Book of Saints: A Comprehensive Biographical Dictionary.

[Online UofT](#)

8th edition. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2016.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 4655.3 .B66 2016]

The most complete list of saints and blessed in English. Very brief biographies including birth and death years and feast days.

Butler's Lives of the Saints. New full edition.

Edited by Paul Burns. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1995-2000. 12 volumes + 1 supplement.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 4654 .B8 1995]

The standard English-language reference work on the saints; biographies are arranged according to the feast day of the saint. This work provides the best brief biographies of the saints together with excellent bibliographies. The current edition includes many of those canonized or beatified in the last twenty years. The former edition edited by Herbert Thurston and Donald Attwater (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 4654 .B8 1956) is still sometimes useful.

Dictionary of Catholic Biography.

John J. Delaney and James Edward Tobin. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1961.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 4651.2 .D52 1961]

A biographical dictionary of "outstanding Catholics from the time of the Apostles to the present day". Contains some 16,000 brief entries, many citing one or two sources.

FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

Atla Religion Database with Atla Serials.
1949 – present.

Online UofT

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).

Historical Abstracts.
1949 – present.

Online UofT

Index with abstracts to journal articles on historical topics from 1450 to the present (excluding North America).

FINDING MORE RESOURCES

Oxford Bibliographies Online.

Online UofT

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 Church History, but there are subject areas on Jewish Studies, Medieval Studies, and Renaissance and Reformation.

Oxford Handbooks Online.

Online UofT

This series of comprehensive introductory handbooks includes many articles on historical topics.

Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods.

Online UofT

By James E. Bradley and Richard A. Muller. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016.
[Knox / Regis / Emmanuel / Trinity – BR 138 .B69 2016]
[1st edition: St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 138 .B69 1995]

The Early Church: An Annotated Bibliography of Literature in English.

By Thomas A. Robinson. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1993.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 162.2 .R63 1993]

Reformation Europe: A Guide to Research.

By Steven Ozment. St. Louis, MO: Center for Reformation Research, 1982.
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 305.2 .R39]

The Ashgate Research Companion to the Counter-Reformation.

Online UofT

Edited by Alexandra Bamji, Geert H. Janssen, and Mary Laven. Farnham, England: Ashgate, 2013.
[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BR 430 .A84 2013]