MULTI-VOLUME ENCYCLOPEDIAS – GENERAL


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.


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.


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).

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


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

**ONE-VOLUME DICTIONARIES – GENERAL**


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.


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.


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.
2 volumes.
[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[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.

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[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.

[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.** Edited by Hans J. Hillerbrand. Online
[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

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**

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 141 .D6 1999]

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

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BQX 24 .R42]

Over 300 contemporary writings which illustrate the history of the Church (excluding America).
Internet Medieval Sourcebook.  
[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.

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

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – G 1046 .E4 L5]

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

TIMELINES


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).

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR955 .C73 1926]

Chronological tables showing in parallel columns the popes, councils, heresies, and major theologians of the Church. Do not be deterred by the Latin title of the work.

[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.

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

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

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

BIOGRAPHY

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]  
[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.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 4655.3 .B66 2002]

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

[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.

[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 ATLASerials.  
[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).

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

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

Humanities Abstracts.  
[Available online (1949 - present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Index with abstracts to over 400 humanities journals, including the most significant English-language history journals.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES


[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 162.2 .R63 1993]

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 305.2 .R39]

The Catholic Mobile : Church History  
[Available online: http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/history.htm]

This research guide is maintained by Noel S. McFerran (noel.mcferran@utoronto.ca). It was last updated August 2018. The most recent version can be found online: http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/kellychurchhistory