

RELIGIOUS AND THEOLOGICAL INTERNET RESOURCES General Bibliography

Books

025.04/H685. Hock, Randolph. The Extreme Searcher's Internet Handbook: A Guide for the Serious Searcher. 2nd ed. Medford, NJ: CyberAge Books, 2007.

“A guide for researchers, writers, librarians, teachers, and others, covering what serious users need to know to fully take advantage of Internet tools and resources.” The first chapter is a basic introduction to the Internet, Web directories, search engines, search strategies, and assessing content quality. Other chapters treat in detail the following: Web directories; search engines; groups & mailing lists; reference tools; images, audio & video; news resources; and finding products online. The Extreme Searcher's Web Page (<http://www.extremesearcher.com>) provides links to all the resources in the book and updates regarding changes to the search engines discussed in chapter 4.

R.R.025.0622/W932. Worth, Roland H. Jr. Biblical Studies on the Internet: A Resource Guide. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2002.

URLs from over 3,300 Websites to full-text resources for use online or to be downloaded to personal computers. Subject areas covered include: Bibles (English & non-English); audio Bibles & hymns; Greek, Hebrew, & other ancient language resources; Bible study aids, including reference works; commentaries; Apocryphal works; Jewish works (Josephus, Philo, Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.); church fathers; and archaeological, historical & related materials.

Specialized Theological Web Directories

Wabash Center Internet Guide

(http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/guide_headings.aspx)

This “Guide to Internet Resources for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion” was set up “with the specific intention of locating and organizing Internet resources for the benefit of students and teachers in religious studies.” Has over 2,000 annotated links (arranged by subject) to the following resources on the Internet: syllabi, electronic texts, electronic journals, Web sites, bibliographies, liturgies, reference resources, software, etc. Identifies highest quality sites as **Top Site**. This best Web directory in this subject field is maintained by Charles K. Bellinger, theological librarian and assistant professor of theology and ethics at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX.

Virtual Religion Index (<http://virtualreligion.net/vri/>)

“Analyzes and highlights important content of religion-related websites.” Arranged under 18 general headings with multiple subheadings, it provides links to homepages, directories, and documents. Maintained by the religion department at Rutgers University. Information may be dated.

Religion online (<http://www.religion-online.org>)

William Fore created this site in the late 1990s. Contains over 5,700 full-text sources by recognized religious scholars organized by subject. Among these are about 200 books.

Finding God in Cyberspace (<http://www.kenrickparish.com/gresham/contents.htm>)

John L. Gresham's guide to religious studies resources on the Internet. Dr. Gresham, a professor of Catholic theology in St. Louis, “provides a selective listing of the best Internet resources of interest

to religious studies scholars and students of religion. Rather than attempt a comprehensive listing of religious information on the Internet, this guide selectively points to the best gateways to specific types of religious information.” Links are arranged under 8 categories. The links under **Digital Resources**, particularly under the **Religious and Theological Text** heading are extremely valuable.

Religious Studies Web Guide (<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~lipton/index.html>)

This directory maintained by Saundra Lipton (University of Calgary) arranges Internet resources under the following headings: resources arranged by format (bibliographies, images, indexes, texts, etc.), resources organized by religious group/selected topics, and other useful Web sites for the academic study of religion.

Internet for Religious Studies Tutorial (<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/he/tutorial/religion>)

One of the tutorials provided by Virtual Training Suite (VTS) “aimed at students, lecturers and researchers in UK higher and further education.” VTS is part of INTUTE, a UK national Internet service that provides a guide to the best of the Web for learning and research. It is funded by JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee). The service is run by a team at the Institute for Learning and Research Technology at the University of Bristol. The tutorial provides a look at the range of religious information on the Internet, a guide to some key Web sites, and a way to make a list of useful Web sites. It compares different search tools, gives search strategy tips, offers test searches of some tools, and suggests evaluation criteria for Internet materials.

Biblical Studies Web Directories

Resource Pages for Biblical Studies (<http://torreys.org/bible>)

These pages compiled by Torrey Seland of Volda University College, Volda, Norway, “are intended as a resource for serious, scholarly studies of the early Christian writings and their social world.” Page one provides links to Bible texts (in the original languages, in several English versions, and in many European and east Asian translations), Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha, Gospel of Thomas, Qumran texts, Josephus, Philo, Gnostic texts, classical texts, rabbinic texts, and the Church Fathers. Page two provides links to electronically published biblical studies; page three provides links to resources for the study of the Greco-Roman world. Contains a separate page for the study of Philo.

Old Testament Gateway (<http://www.otgateway.com>)

“A comprehensive annotated academic directory of internet sites on the O.T.” Has annotated links for the following subject areas: O.T. archaeology, Ancient Near East, Dead Sea Scrolls, Bibles, noncanonical works, and commentaries on O.T. books. Maintained under the auspices of Tabor College Victoria, Australia.

New Testament Gateway (<http://www.ntgateway.com>)

Has annotated links for the following subject areas: Greek N.T., Bible translations, textual criticism, noncanonical texts, Gospels & Acts, Synoptic problem & Q, historical Jesus, Paul, Book of Revelation, Judaica, early church, women & gender, archaeology, maps, arts & images, and Jesus in film. Among other resources are links to bibliographies and information on and links to scholars, societies, and academic E-lists. Compiled by Dr. Mark Goodacre, University of Birmingham.

Resources for New Testament Exegesis (<http://home.comcast.net/~rciampa>)
Dr. Roy E. Ciampa's (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) links to useful Internet resources for New Testament research.

Christian Web Directories

Cross Daily.com (<http://www.crossdaily.com>)

One of the top Christian sites. Links are categorized under 3 main headings: personal resources, church & business resources, and community.

Gospel.com (<http://www.gospel.com>)

Resources are organized by topic. Click on "topics" to get list.

Christianity Online Site Directory (<http://www.christianitytoday.com>)

Maintained by Christianity Today.

Christian Website.com (<http://www.christianwebsite.com/index.html>)

One of the largest Christian directories with over 80,000 Web sites.

OnePlace.com (<http://www.oneplace.com>)

Began operation in 1998 with aim to offer "everything for the Christian community."

Now is the leading provider of Christian audio content on the Internet.

Major General Web Directories

Yahoo! Directory. (<http://dir.yahoo.com>)

Click on **Society & Culture** and then on the heading **Religion and Spirituality**. This reveals over 50 subheadings to search. This directory can also be used as a search engine by using the search box. This moves the searcher from an editorially selected collection of sites to a much larger nonselective collection. Results are ranked by popularity.

Open Directory (<http://dmoz.org>)

This is the largest Web directory. Google uses this as its directory database. The home page reveals 16 categories. Click on **Society** and then on **Religion and Spirituality**. This reveals subheadings to search. Among these are over a dozen non-Christian religions. Clicking on **Christianity** reveals over 40 headings, including **Denominations**, which leads to links to about 70 groups. Results of searches from the search box are arranged by relevance. At the bottom of the screen are links to other search engines. Clicking on these will execute a search of the current category by the chosen search engine.

Librarians' Index to the Internet (<http://lii.org>)

"A searchable, browsable collection of over 16,000 high-quality Websites" judged to be useful to public library users. Links are arranged under 15 major categories which are also subdivided into categories. Websites are annotated.

Search Engines

AllTheWeb (<http://alltheweb.com>)

One of the three largest Web databases; it indexes over 2 billion pages, as well as news, pictures, video, audio, and FTP databases. Boolean searches are available from home-page search and searches from the advanced search screen are very flexible.

AltaVista (<http://www.altavista.com>)

Provides search capabilities not found on many search engines: truncation, NEAR, and case sensitivity. Uses Open Directory's directory database. Click on **Directory** at the top of the home-page screen, then on **Society & Culture** and on **Religion and Spirituality**. This reveals over 55 headings to choose from.

Google (<http://www.google.com>)

The most popular search engine. Contains about 3 billion records. Ranks search results by popularity of a Web site. Uses Open Directory's directory database. Reach religious materials through directory in same way as on AltaVista by clicking on **More** on the home page and then on **Directory**.

HotBot (<http://www.hotbot.com>)

One of the oldest search engines. Can choose to search from MSN, Yahoo, or Lycos from bars on the home page.

Vivisimo (<http://vivisimo.com>)

A step beyond a meta search engine this clustering engine was created by Carnegie Mellon University research computer scientists in June 2000. It "automatically clusters search results into categories that are intelligently selected from the words and phrases contained in the search results themselves." Since the indexing occurs at the moment of the search, it's as up-to-date as the Web itself. Clustering allows users to identify useful search results by grouping Web-pages which share keywords beyond the original search terms.

Specialized Internet Search Tools

Google Book Search (<http://books.google.com>)

Searches retrieve book pages containing search terms. Sometimes displays full page with option to move back or forward from that page. Viewing some texts may require user to set up a free account with Google. Full text of books in public domain may be viewed. The "find this book in a library" link offers the option of searching for the library holding the book by zip code or state.

Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>)

Can search for scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources such as: "peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations.

Google Blog Search (<http://blogsearch.google.com>)

Indexes material contained in Web logs. Biblioblog (<http://www.biblioblog.net>)

“Aggregates blogs and lists about biblical studies and related disciplines. Can view by date (the default screen), category, or source.

Allen Black’s Bloglines (<http://www.bloglines.com/public/ablack>)

Dr. Allen Black’s collection of a few of the best academic blogs in the biblical field with the last 10 entries for each.

Evaluating and Citing Internet Materials

“Evaluating the Quality of WWW Resources” (<http://www.valpo.edu/library/user/evaluation.html>)

From the Moellering Library at Valparaiso University. Suggests criteria by which to evaluate Web pages, and provides links to other sites on Web evaluation and a bibliography for evaluating Web resources.

“Evaluating the Quality of Information on the Internet” (<http://www.virtualchase.com/quality>)

Genie Tyburski offers suggestions for evaluating Internet resources. See her **checklist**.

“The Good, the Bad & the Ugly: or, Why It’s a Good Idea to Evaluate Web Sources”

(<http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/evalcrit.html>)

Susan Beck from the New Mexico State University Library offers evaluation criteria for Web sources.

Harnack, Andrew, and Eugene Kleppinger. Online! A Reference Guide to Using Internet Sources. 2003 ed. St. Martins Press (<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/index.html>). The full-text of chapters 5-7, which deal respectively with using MLA, APA, and Chicago styles is available on the Internet. A paperback print copy of the 2000 ed. can be obtained from St. Martins Press for \$15.95.