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.

Routledge Religion Resources Online. [Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

An online collection of thirty different encyclopedias and dictionaries on various religious topics. Because it is a compilation of several works, rather than a single encyclopedia, it is strong in some areas, but weak in others. Includes the Encyclopedia of Early Christianity, Encyclopedia of Monasticism, The Encyclopedia of Protestantism, and The Papacy: An Encyclopedia.


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).
[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.** Paris: Letouzey et Ané, Online
1912–present. 28 volumes (in progress).
[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[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 “K”.

**ONE-VOLUME DICTIONARIES – GENERAL**

**Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church.** Edited by F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone. Online
[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[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.

[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*.


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.

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


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


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.


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

**C O L L E C T I O N S O F D O C U M E N T S**


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


Over 300 contemporary writings which illustrate the history of the Church (excluding America).
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 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 145.3 .C35 2006]

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

BIOGRAPHY

[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 blesseds 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**

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<td>Index with abstracts to journal articles on historical topics from 1450 to the present (excluding North America).</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIES**

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This research guide is maintained by Noel S. McFerran (noel.mcferran@utoronto.ca). It was last updated July 2012. The latest version is available online: [http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/research_guides/church_history.asp](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/research_guides/church_history.asp)
Researching parish history can be very rewarding and involves looking, listening, reading and researching on many different levels. I’ve certainly found that exploring our past can help and inform present ministry. Fr Nicholas Schofield. A Guide to Exploring Church and Parish History. Exploring and researching the history of a Catholic church and parish can be rewarding, but it can seem rather daunting. The most useful histories of Catholic churches and parishes do not simply relate to bricks and mortar rather they will give insights into the people and life of the parish, perhaps themes in the history of the church, and also its interaction with the local community. The following are aspects of church life that you might wish to explore. Guide to Chicago Church and Synagogue Records. Rev. 4/10/2014. Available at the Neighborhood History Research Collection, Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave. Manual of the First Congregational Church and Society of Ravenswood, Illinois. Chicago: First Congregational Church and Society, 1876.