

## RELIGIOUS AND THEOLOGICAL INTERNET RESOURCES

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### General Bibliography

025.04/H685/2013. Hock, Randolph. *The Extreme Searcher's Internet Handbook: A Guide for the Serious Searcher*. 4th ed. Medford, NJ: CyberAge Books, 2013.

“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. Other chapters treat in detail the following: Web directories; search engines; discussion groups, forums, newsgroups & their relatives; reference tools; sights & sounds; news resources; finding products online; and your own place on the Web. 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.

### Specialized Theological Web Directories

\*Wabash Center Internet Guide ([http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/guide\\_headings.aspx](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, websites, bibliographies, liturgies, reference resources, software, etc. Identifies highest quality sites as **Top Site**. Charles K. Bellinger, theological librarian and assistant professor of theology and ethics at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX, maintains this best Web directory in this subject field. Choose “Advanced Search,” and then search “Bellinger” and “Bibliography” for a list of over 100 bibliographies on theological and historical topics. The cut-off date for almost all of these bibliographies is 2012.

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. 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.

Internet for Religious Studies Tutorial (<http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/tutorial/religiousstudies>)

One of the tutorials provided by Virtual Training Suite (VTS) “aimed at students, lecturers and researchers in UK higher and further education. The tutorials aim to help students learn how to make discerning use of the Internet to help find information for coursework, literature reviews or personal research.” It is hosted and managed by TutorPro. The tutorial provides a look at the range of religious information on the Internet, a guide to some key websites, and a way to make a list of useful websites. 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.” Divided into 3 major subject areas: Texts & Translations, Social World of NT, and Philo of Alexandria. Section one provides links to Bible texts (in the original languages, in several English versions, and in many European and east Asian translations); Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha; Qumran, Josephus, & Rabbinica; Gnostic & Church Fathers; Classical Texts; and Linguistic Resources. Section two provides links to Resources for Studying the Greco-Roman World; Collections of Images and other Artifacts; Selected Features of Antiquity; Social Scientific Studies of the Greco-Roman World; Post-Colonial NT Studies; and Links to Archaeological Studies & Sources. The last section is dedicated to 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, non-canonical 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.

### Free Full Text Religion Journals

<https://www.westernseminary.edu/files/resources/sj-library/Free%20Religion%20Journals%20on%20the%20Internet.pdf>

This list produced by John Jaeger, reference librarian at Dallas Baptist University, includes journals (and some magazines) all currently in publication, with at least some content in each issue in full text, and some articles available in English. The list was last revised April 2012. To get to this list Google “John Jaeger Free Full Text Religion Journals.”

## Christian Web Directories

### 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.

### 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

### Open Directory (<http://www.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.

### Search Engines

Yahoo (<http://search.yahoo.com>)

Yahoo acquired AltaVista, AlltheWeb, and Inktomi and built its own search engine using features from these three. A good second choice behind Google. Can search Yahoo and Google simultaneously from the following site: <http://www.googleguy.de/google-yahoo/>. Search results appear side by side. Requires JavaScript.

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

The most popular search engine. Contains about 3 billion records. Ranks search results by popularity of a Web site. Type a few letters in the search field and the “advanced search” link will appear to right of the field.

Yippy (<http://yippy.com/>)

Yippy is a metasearch engine; it queries several top search engines, combines the results, and generates an ordered list based on comparative ranking. Arranges search results by subtopics on the left side of the screen. Click on desired topic for links. Clicking on “sources” at the top of this grouping reveals the directories from which results were obtained. The same list can be seen by clicking on “details” at the top of the screen. From “advanced search” can limit search by URL, language, or file type. Searches can be limited by standard operators: enclose words in quotation marks for phrase search; type in **NOT** or minus sign before terms to exclude; an automatic “and” is assumed for terms entered in a search field, and an **OR** between terms retrieves documents with either term.

### 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 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.” Click on **Scholar Help** at the top of the screen for explanation of search results.

\*Internet Archive ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org))

The texts collection of over 10,000,000 titles includes digitized books from libraries around the world. Includes almost 900,000 Google-digitized books. Can select to read book online or download a PDF file. Click on “advanced search” and fill in appropriate fields. This site also provides access to the Wayback Machine, “a digital archive of the World Wide Web and other information on the Internet created by the

Internet Archive.” Since 1996 they have been archiving cached pages of websites. They revisit sites every few weeks or months and archive a new version if the content has changed. Enter the URL and choose the date from the screen.

\*Princeton Theological Seminary Theological Commons (<http://commons.ptsem.edu/>)

A digital library of over 80,000 resources on theology and religion most from the 19th century. Can search by author, title or subject anywhere within a book. Phrase searches are possible by entering phrases in quotation marks. Can limit search by date (within a 25 year range), language, or broad subject. A search retrieves a list of books containing the search term or phrase. “By clicking on any particular book, users can see a list of pages with the search term along with snippets of text from the surrounding context.” A book can be read online, downloaded as a PDF, or in many cases be sent without cost to an Amazon Kindle.

[www.blogsearchengine.org/](http://www.blogsearchengine.org/)

Searches blogs.

<http://biblioblogtop50.wordpress.com/biblioblogs/>

This is a list of currently active biblioblogs (Biblical Studies Blogs). “Biblioblogs” are blogs which deal primarily with matters concerning academic biblical studies. While this is the most useful, most up-to-date and best list of biblical studies blogs available, it is not ‘official’ or ‘authoritative’ or even really complete. The Biblioblog search engine at this site allows you to search the content from the posts of every blog listed on *The Complete List of Biblioblogs*. Must register to access this site.

### General Reference Internet Resources

YourDictionary.com (<http://www.yourdictionary.com>)

Provides links to over 2,500 dictionaries and to grammars in over 300 languages. Includes multilingual and specialized dictionaries.

InfoPlease (<http://www.infoplease.com>)

Material is categorized under the following headings: world, United States, history & government, people, business, science & health, calendar & holidays, and The Fifty States. Also contains the *Columbia Encyclopedia* (6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2001), the Infoplease Dictionary, Infoplease Atlas, and several useful features, e.g., chronologies, statistics, calendars, and country profiles.

Bartleby (<http://bartleby.com>)

Contains several quotation sources, including Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations* (1919), handbooks, anthologies, and collected works of famous authors. Also contains the Harvard Classics and *The World Factbook* (2008) among its more than 200 full-text works.

CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>)

Provides information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 267 world entities. Also includes: maps of the major world regions, as well as Flags of the World, a Physical Map of the World, a Political Map of the World, a World Oceans map, and a Standard Time Zones of the World map. Revised bi-weekly.

Star Free Online Translators ([www.stars21.com/translator](http://www.stars21.com/translator))

Offers translations for 66 languages into English and from English into the same 66 languages. Also provides translations between other languages (e.g. Italian to Spanish; French to Greek, Russian to Spanish, etc.)

EThOS (<http://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do;jsessionid=23E15697A9C4CE777CCCD8CEADB864BE>)

This Electronic Theses Online Service provides access to over 400,000 theses produced in the UK. Many can be downloaded free as PDF files. An advanced search screen offers several ways to limit a search.

### Evaluating and Citing Internet Materials

“Evaluating the Quality of WWW Resources” (<http://libguides.valpo.edu/c.php?g=335189&p=2255312>)

From the Moellering Library at Valparaiso University. Suggests criteria by which to evaluate Web pages, and provides links to sites that evaluate the validity or accuracy of information on the Internet.

“Web Evaluation Criteria” (<http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/reference/documents/WebEvaluationCriteria.pdf>)

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

200.72/V996/2014. Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean, and Terry Dwain Robertson. *Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. (See pages 150-52)