Choosing your topic

Before you start searching, make sure you have narrowed down your topic and have chosen several keywords. This will help you get better results in all research tools.

E.g. If you are searching for newspaper articles on sacred music in the Catholic church in Quebec, your keywords could be “sacred music”, Catholic and Quebec.

Resources


For selected resources in the Religion field.


Encyclopedia articles can help you know your subject better and get ideas for further research.

You can find encyclopedia using CLUES, Online reference (http://library.concordia.ca/research/internet/encyclopedias.php) and the Religion Research Guide.

E.g.: Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, Oxford reference online premium, Encyclopedia of religion, Encyclopedia of new religious movements, Encyclopedia of women and world religion, The encyclopedia of politics and religion, ...

CLUES: [http://clues.concordia.ca/](http://clues.concordia.ca/)

CLUES catalogue will help you find books, e-books, journals (not articles), databases, atlases, scores, ...

Databases

Databases will help your find scholar and popular articles, as well as newspapers articles. From the library homepage (http://library.concordia.ca) select Databases (Articles and more). You can choose to see databases by subject or search by name. Some databases specific to the field are proposed on the Religion Research Guide.

Some databases of interest for scholarly, peer reviewed journals:

Academic Search Complete, JSTOR, ATLA, Religious and Theological Abstracts, Religion & philosophy collection, RAMBI: Index to articles on Jewish Studies.
Don’t hesitate to search in database in other fields you are studying. E.g.,
Religion and sociology or anthropology: Sociological Abstracts
Religion and Philosophy: Philosopher’s Index
Religion and psychology: PsycINFO

Some databases of interest for newspapers and magazines:

Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies – Canadian Newspapers (includes newspapers) *CPI.Q (Canadian Periodical Index) (includes journals and magazines) *Eureka.cc (includes full text access to English and French language Canadian newspapers, magazines, newswires, blogs and broadcast transcripts) *Factiva (includes broadcast transcripts (BBC, NPR, CNN etc) and magazines)

Relevant internet sites

Some are suggested on the Religion Research Guide. Don’t hesitate to use Google Advanced Search for a more narrowed search. (You may want to look at Google Scholar and Google books, for free access to other academic material.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluate the web sites you find!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use these criteria to evaluate web-based information:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Currency:</strong> Can you determine when the page or document was created/updated? Is the date recent enough for your topic?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Relevance:</strong> Does the information answer your question? Is it at an appropriate level?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuracy:</strong> Where does the information come from? Does the site link to reputable sites? Are there spelling, grammar, or other errors?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authority:</strong> What are the author’s credentials? What kind of organization sponsors or supports the site?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> Does it seem meant to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?</td>
</tr>
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</table>


Additional help

Use the Library Website: [http://library.concordia.ca](http://library.concordia.ca)

Library “How To” Guides: [http://library.concordia.ca/index.php#help_tab](http://library.concordia.ca/index.php#help_tab)

Try different strategies

Ask for help at the Reference Desk, or on Chat