Library Resources and Research Techniques for Religion 231C3

Databases: Provide access to published material in magazines, journals, newspapers, and other sources. The UMW Library subscribes to these databases and they are part of the “Deep Web,” as opposed to the “Surface Web” or “Free Web.”

Finding the Religion Research and Subject Guide

- Click on “Guides” in the blue tab on the Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu, or click on “Research Guides” in the “Get Help” section.
  - Click on “Religion” (http://libguides.umw.edu/relg.)

Finding Background Material (subject encyclopedias and other reference works)

- Define and narrow your topic; provide background material.
- Provide lists of other significant resources (that is, bibliographies).
- See UMW Libraries Religion subject guide for a list of some useful titles. A few subject encyclopedias and other works in the Reference Collection include:
  - Encyclopedia of Global Religion (REFB BL 80.3 .E52 2012)
  - The Holy Qur’an (REFB BP 109 2004)
  - The New Strong’s Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (REFB BS 425 .S8 2001)
  - The Oxford Bible Commentary (REFB BS 491.3 .O94 2001)
  - The Qur’an: An Encyclopedia (REFB BP 133 .Q87 2006)
  - The Qur’an and the Bible (REFB BP 134 .B4 R469 2018)

Finding Books

- Find books by author (last name first), title, subject headings (approved words and phrases that describe a topic), or just by typing words in the “anywhere” search window.
- Books are shelved by call number: A – L (third floor) and M – Z (second floor).
- Reference books are on the first floor near the Reference Desk.
- Try a Browse Search. For example:
  - Bible
  - Koran
Finding Books and Articles

**Quest**
- A new search tool that allows users to find print and online resources at UMW Libraries through a single interface.
- Click on “Quest” from Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu.
- A search in Quest will locate:
  - Books, e-books, journals, magazines, and newspapers, and DVDs
  - Articles from journals, magazines, newspapers, and much more

**Subject headings (Not an Exhaustive List)**

| Bible—Islamic interpretations | Islam—Relations |
| Bible—Criticism, interpretation, etc. | Islam—Relations—Christianity |
| Bible. New Testament—Criticism, interpretation, etc. | Koran—Commentaries |
| Bible. Old Testament—Criticism, interpretation, etc. | Koran—Criticism, interpretation, etc. |
| Christianity and other religions—Islam | Koran—Encyclopedias |
| Islam—Encyclopedias | Qur’an—Criticism, interpretation, etc. |
| Qur’an—Relation to the Bible |

Finding Articles

Links to databases and other resources that provide abstracts of articles (summaries) and full-text articles are available in the “Locating Articles” section of the UMW Libraries Religion subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/relg). An excellent one is:

**Academic Search Complete** (coverage varies; as far back as the 1880s to date)
- Includes thousands of full-text academic journals and periodicals in a wide variety of disciplines.
- Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases, such as America: History and Life, Humanities International Complete, Humanities Full Text, Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984; MasterFILE Premier, OmniFile Full Text Mega, ATLA Religion Database, and Religion and Philosophy Collection.
- Can also choose all the databases that are provided.

A Few Web Resources

- The King James Bible (https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/)
- The Noble Qur’an (https://quran.com/)
- https://www.altafsir.com/ (a searchable translation of the Qur’an and also commentary)

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