Dictionaries and encyclopedias

Some overarching collections of creeds and confessions


A few works of “comparative symbolics”


Overarching dictionaries and encyclopedias of theology (religion, too)


• *Encyclopedic dictionary of religion*. Ed. Meagher, O'Brien, & Aherne. 3 vols. 1979. REF BR95 .E494. A Catholic dictionary that focuses most on the Christian tradition, not so much religion (or the religions) generally, as its title implies.


Predecessor:


Some dictionaries and encyclopedias of the Reformation and/or Protestantism generally


Some additional period dictionaries and encyclopedias (patristic, medieval, and so forth)

Some regional dictionaries and encyclopedias


• *Encyclopedia of religion in the South.* 2005. See under American Christianity, below.


• *Dictionary of Scottish church history and theology.* 1993. See under Reformed, Presbyterians, below.

A few basic works of reference on Christian spirituality


A few basic works of reference on Christian liturgy and worship


A few basic works of reference on Christian ethics

**Denominational**

**Amish**


**Anabaptists**. See also Brethren, Mennonites, etc.


**Anglicans, Episcopalians**

• Wood. *Cyclopedic dictionary of ecclesiastical terms according to the use of the Episcopal Church*. 1984.


**Baptists**
- Baptist Confessions, [http://www.baptistcenter.net/confessions_page.html](http://www.baptistcenter.net/confessions_page.html)

**Brethren**

**Catholics**
• *Catholic dictionary of theology: a work projected with the approval of the Catholic hierarchy of England and Wales*. 3 vols. to date. 1962-. Summit.


**Catholics, Uniate (overarching LCSH: Catholic Church—Oriental rites)**

**Churches of Christ**

Congregationalists

Copts

Free Methodists (see also Holiness movement, Methodism, Wesleyan tradition, etc.)

Fundamentalists

Holiness movement (fill this out; see also Free Methodism, Methodism, Wesleyan tradition, etc.)

Hutterites
Lutherans

- *Concordia cyclopedia: a handbook of religious information, with special reference to the history, doctrine, work, and usages of the Lutheran church.* Ed. Fuebringer, Engelder, & Kretzmann. 1927.

Mennonites


- Mennonite Bibliography (Mennonite life), [http://mennonitelife.bethelks.edu/bibliographies/](http://mennonitelife.bethelks.edu/bibliographies/)

Methodists (see also Free Methodists, Holiness movement, etc.)

• Ashgate Research Companion to World Methodism (in progress).
• A to Z of Methodism. Ed. Yrigoyen & Warrick. 2009. SPU has the identical (?) Historical dictionary of Methodism, below.
• Cornish. Cyclopaedia of Methodism in Canada. 1880. REF BX8211 .S5 1878.

Miscellaneous
• Milkias. Dictionary of Ethiopian Christianity. REF BX140.5 .M55 2010.

Orthodoxy (see also, in part, under the Syriac tradition)


• Day. **Liturgical dictionary of Eastern Christianity.** 1993.

• **Modern encyclopedia of religions in Russia and the Soviet Union.** Ed. Steeves. 7 vols. to date (Aaron-Eastern Siberia). 1988-. Summit.


• Langford-James. **Dictionary of the Eastern Orthodox Church.** 1975 (1923).

• Clugnet. **Dictionnaire grec-français des noms liturgiques en usage dans l’église grecque.** 1895. [http://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89097201107](http://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89097201107).


Atlases. For example,


**Pentecostals/Charismatics (fill this out)**


**Presbyterians and Reformed**


• Picken. *Historical dictionary of Calvinism.* 2012. Picken is far from a specialist.


• *Encyclopedia of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, including the northern and southern assemblies.* Ed. Nevin. 1884.


**Radical Reformation in general**

**Restoration Movement**


• Restoration Serials Index, [http://www.restorationserialsindex.org/](http://www.restorationserialsindex.org/)

**Quakers**


**Salvation Army**

**Seventh Day Adventists**

**Syriac tradition**

**Unitarians and Universalists**

• Dictionary of Unitarian and Universalist Biography, 
  http://www.uua.org/uuhs/duub/.

**Wesleyan tradition** (see also Free Methodism, Holiness movement, Methodism, etc.)

**American Christianity and/or religion generally**


• *Blackwell companion to religion in America.* Ed. Goff. 2010. Summit.


• *Who’s who in religion.*


Bibliographies
(I give an example only)


Atlases
(I give a few examples only)

Statistical handbooks
(I give three examples only)

An unfinished note on the non-denominational or independent traditions
(for further help, please contact me)

Is it given a name (no matter how specific)?
If yes,
try a keyword search in catalogs and databases both scholarly (ATLA Religion Database) and popular (Christian Periodical Index). E.g. Restorationists, Restorationism, etc.: <Restorationis*> in Default Fields. Or Overlake Christian Church: <“Overlake Christian Church”> in Default Fields. And then note the subject headings assigned (House churches, Restorationism; Overlake Christian Church (Seattle, Wash)).
If no,
browse via one or more of the following subject headings (or others you run across):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library of Congress</th>
<th>ATLA Religion Database</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian sects</td>
<td>Christian sects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community churches</td>
<td>Community churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelicalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free churches</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentalism</td>
<td>Fundamentalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentalist churches</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiness churches</td>
<td>Holiness churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House churches</td>
<td>House churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent churches</td>
<td>Independent churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>Indigenous churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-institutional churches</td>
<td>Non-institutional churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecostal churches</td>
<td>Pentecostal churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecostalism</td>
<td>Pentecostalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>Religious movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restorationist movement (Christianity)</td>
<td>Restorationism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

be creative. *Is there anything else upon which you can search?* A leader, say (Bennett, Dennis J.), or a city (Seattle)?
try a newspaper index. There are others, but we have at least the following in electronic form ([http://www.spu.edu/depts/library/databases/](http://www.spu.edu/depts/library/databases)):
New York Times Index
Washington State Newsstand
Newspaper Abstracts
Newspaper Source
ask, read, browse, and scan (dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, back-of-the-book indices, etc.)!
interview the pastor, or an informed church member.