Research Guide for Catholicism

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Dictionaries & Encyclopedias:

Sacramentum Mundi is a great place to start on almost any topic and represents scholarship from an international community of scholars. The New Catholic Encyclopedia also represents exemplary scholarship and proves very useful.


Marc Nicholas, Baylor University Libraries, Rev. 2/15/08


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**Patrology (Church Fathers):**

The *Ancient Christian Writers, Classics of Western Spirituality* and *The Fathers of the Church* provide good English translations of primary material with accompanying scholarly introductions and notes. Both the *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers* and *Ante-Nicene Fathers* are dated translations but are still useful. Both the *Library of Christian Classics* and *The Faith of the Early Fathers* are selections from full length works and carry the limitations of such excerptions.

Quasten's *Patrology* is immensely useful and erudite, along with Kelly’s *Early Christian Doctrines* and Ferguson’s *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity.*
Primary Sources:

Sources Chrétiennes (SC)- Series
Ancient Christian Writers (ACW)- Series
Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers-Series I (NPNF)- Jones Ref BR60 .S4
Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers Series II (NPNF)- Jones Ref BR60 .S43 1957
The Ante-Nicene Fathers (ANF)- Jones Ref BR60 .A5
Patrologia Cursus Complectus, Series Graeca (PG)- Series
Patrologia Cursus Complectus, Series Latina (PL)- Series
Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina (CCSL)- Series
Library of Christian Classics, (volumes 1-13)- Series
The Faith of the Early Fathers, 3 volumes- Moody General BR63 .J87
The Fathers of the Church- Series
The Classics of Western Spirituality (CWS)- Series

Secondary Sources:


Brennecke, H. C., and E. Mühlenberg. Patristische Texte und Studien, 63+ volumes (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1976-). Series


Halton, Thomas. The Message of the Fathers of the Church, 22+ volumes (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical
Press, 1997-).  **Series**


Von Rompay, L.  *Traditio Exegetica Graeca*, 14+ volumes (Louvain: Éditions Peeters, 1992-).  **Series**

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**General Church Histories and Resources:**

Bokenkotter’s work is extremely compressed but worthwhile with a wonderfully helpful bibliography of its own. Pelikan’s work is excellent and more expansive than Bokenkotter’s. McManners’ will also be very useful.


Brepols.  *Medieval Church Studies*, 13+ volumes (Belgium: Brepols Publishers, 2001-).  **Series**


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**Canon Law:**

*The New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law* is a comprehensive work compiled by an international panel of canonists.


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**Doctrine:**

The doctrinal encyclopedias put out by Michael Glazier and edited by O’Carroll provide a focused approach to Catholic doctrine and provide a good basis for investigation into specific doctrinal arenas. Daniélou’s work is indispensable for investigating doctrine in the early Church.

Attwater, Donald. *Dictionary of Mary* (New York: Kennedy, 1956). **On order**


Shaw, Russell B. *Our Sunday Visitor’s Encyclopedia of Catholic Doctrine* (Huntington, Ind.: Our Sunday Visitor, 1997). **Jones Ref BX1745.5**

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**Vatican and the Papacy:**

Carlen’s works are indispensable collections when looking into both papal encyclicals and pronouncements. Kelly’s dictionary will be helpful in identifying and beginning research into particular pontiffs. Coppa’s work is also very helpful. [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) (listed below) is, of course, the most important website in this regard.

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Coppa, Frank J. *The Great Popes through History: An Encyclopedia*, 2 volumes (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press). *Jones Ref BX955.3 .G74 2002*


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**Liturgy:**

The official documents issued in English by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are fundamental. Searle’s book is slim but helpful and accessible. The monographs by Casel, Daniélou, Dix, and Jungmann should not be overlooked.


*Textes et Études Liturgique*, 22+ volumes (Leven: Peeters, 1953-). [Series](http://www.usccb.org/www2/wwwsas/liturgical/litour,f.htm)


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**Spirituality/Mystical Theology:**

*Dictionnaire de spiritualité ascétique et mystique, doctrine et histoire* is still considered the authoritative work in the field and contains articles by a variety of prominent scholars. In English, McGinn’s work has gained wide authority. The *Traditions of Christian Spirituality* series provides a number of relatively brief and accessible studies of the major schools of spirituality (i.e. Benedictine, Cistercian, etc.).


General BX2350.65 .A96 1985

**Moody General BV4490 .H513**

**Moody General BX2350.2 .B653**

**Moody General BX2350.3 .S43 2002**

**Jones Ref BX2350.65 .N49 1993**

**Moody General BV4490 .C49 1989**

**Moody General BV4490 .S78 1986b**

**Moody General BV5075 .M37 1991**

**Moody General BV4490 .C464 1985**

**Moody General BV4490 .C48 1987**

Viller, Marcel, et al. *Dictionnaire de spiritualité ascétique et mystique, doctrine et histoire*, 16 volumes (Paris: Beauchesne, 1932-).  
**Jones Ref BX841 .D67**

**Moody General BV4490.W541980**

Statistics:

Although *Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae* constitutes the definitive statistics on the Catholic Church, *The World Christian Encyclopedia* competently provides a comparative survey of churches and religions across the world.

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*Annuario Pontificio*. (Roma: Typografia Poliglotta Vaticana, 1912-).  
**Use Osofast to request**

*Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae/Statistical Yearbook of the Church* (Roma: Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis, 1).  
**Use Osofast to request**

**Jones Ref BR157 .W67 1982**
Catechetics:

There simply is no substitute for the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). However, at 2865 paragraphs, some other materials may be a little more manageable for some. Of note are *Compendium* and “We Believe” which are both indexed to the CCC. Aidan Nichols’ two volumes are a nice commentary on the CCC and is also indexed to it.

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*The Catholic Almanac* (Huntington, Ind.: Our Sunday Visitor 1969-).  *Jones Ref AY81.R6 N3*


*The Official Catholic Directory* (New York: P.L. Kennedy, 1886-).  *Jones Ref BX845 .C5*

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**Biographical Sources:**

The two electronic resources will provide concise biographical data on select individuals with accompanying bibliographic resources. *Biography Resource Center* has printable information from the database while *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* will point to print sources with biographical information.


*Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (Farmington Hills, Mich.: Gale). Electronic Resource

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**Saints:**

During the pontificate of John Paul II, 482 saints were canonized (and an additional 1,338 beati were beatified), leaving some works prior to his pontificate lacking. However, the following sources will provide information on the most well-known saints.


Abstracts and Indexes:

ATLA Religion Database is the primary theological database in American academia but covers a far broader scope in theological studies than just Catholic studies. Though it covers all material contained in both Religion Index One and Religion Index Two, importantly it does not cover much of the material indexed in The Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI). CPLI is indispensible for research in the area of Catholic studies.


ATLA Religion Database with ATLA Serials (Evanston, Ill.: American Theological Library Association). Electronic Resource

Useful Websites:

The website of the Holy See (www.vatican.va) is central to Catholic life on the internet. New Advent contains a large number of works by the Church Fathers and the 1917 version of The Catholic Encyclopedia. Fordham’s Medieval Sourcebook is immensely useful. The website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides Church documents, new links, and information on various areas of Church activity.

www.vatican.va
www.newadvent.com
www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html
www.usccb.org
www.catholic-pages.com
www.catholicculture.org
www.canonlaw.info