

THE  
LONDON  
LIBRARY

A GUIDE TO THE:  
RELIGION  
COLLECTION



## Scope of the Collection

The Library's extensive religion collections cover most of the world's living religions. Theology and the Christian tradition are particularly well represented, but it has also been the Library's aim over the years to acquire important sacred texts, key commentaries and scholarly studies of Eastern religions and other non-Christian traditions. The main areas of interest are: history, literature, doctrine, practice, institutions, key figures, contemporary issues and comparative religion.

## Shelving Arrangements

The main Religion section of the book-stacks is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. All books shelved here have a shelfmark beginning R. There are over 200 subject subdivisions within the Religion section, arranged on the shelves in alphabetical order from R. 'Action Française' Case to R. Zoroaster. Oversize books have a size indicator included in their shelfmarks: either '4to.' (quarto) or 'Folio'. Quarto volumes are shelved on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, while the smaller number of very large Folio volumes are housed in secure accommodation and can be consulted on application to the Enquiries Desk.

## Religions

Each of the major religions has its own shelfmark:

- eg R. Buddhism
- R. Hinduism
- R. Jainism
- R. Mohammed &c. (for Islam).

There are 2 exceptions:

1. **Judaism** is divided instead between:
  - H. Jews in the main History section on Level 3; and
  - L. Hebrew in the main Literature section on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.
2. There is no single shelfmark for **Christianity**, which is broken up into its many constituents:
  - eg R. Bibles
  - R. Jesus
  - R. Liturgies
  - R. Church (The)and branches:
  - eg R. Eastern Churches
  - R. Presbyterianism
  - R. Protestantism
  - R. Roman Catholic Church

The history of Christianity in England can be found at:  
R. England, Eccles. Hist.,  
and there are similar shelfmarks for other countries or regions such as Africa, France,  
Germany, India etc.

Works covering several religions are shelved at:

R. Religions of the World.

## Religious belief and practice

Many aspects of religious belief and practice have their own shelfmarks:

eg R. Angels  
R. Dissent  
R. Fanaticism  
R. Mysticism  
R. Persecutions  
R. Sacrifice.

## Bible

The Library has an extremely rich collection of Bibles dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards.  
These are located at:

R. Bibles

(with some larger-format copies at Religion 4to. and Religion Folio).

As well as the Hebrew, Greek and Latin texts, the collection includes translations into  
languages as diverse as English, Eskimo, Finnish, French, German, Swahili, Tahitian and Tamil.

The individual books of the Bible additionally have their own shelfmarks, where specific  
commentaries can be found. Commentaries on the whole Bible are shelved at R. Bible  
Comms. (before R. Bibles).

## Religious literature

Apart from the Bible and the Koran, which have their own shelfmarks in the Religion section  
(R. Bibles and R. Koran), other religious texts, translations, commentaries and accompanying  
historical studies can be found under the relevant language in the main Literature section.

eg L. Hebrew (Literature 4<sup>th</sup> Floor) – for translations of the Jewish Talmud,  
Midrash, Mishnah, Kabbalah, the works of Moses Maimonides, and the Dead Sea  
Scrolls.

L. Sanskrit (Literature 4<sup>th</sup> Floor) – for the Vedic literature and the  
Mahabharata of Hinduism.

L. Tibetan (Literature 4<sup>th</sup> Floor) – for the Tibetan Book of the Dead.

Translations of Buddhist texts can be found at R. Buddhism but there is also a set of Pali Text Society translations at L. Pali (Literature 4<sup>th</sup> Floor). The Library also has the 50 volume set *Sacred books of the East*, edited by F. Max Muller, which comprises English translations of the great texts of Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Jainism, Taoism and Zoroastrianism, and the Koran. This is shelved at L. Oriental (Literature 4<sup>th</sup> Floor).

There is a large section of Christian literature - theological and devotional writings, sermons and commentaries - at R. Religious & Theol. Lit. The works of thinkers such as Origen, St. Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Wesley, Soren Kierkegaard, Hans Kung, and many others can be found here. Titles in the *Corpus Christianorum* series are also shelved here.

The Library also holds the complete sets of J. P. Migne's *Patrologia graeca* and *Patrologia latina*, shelved in Religion 4to.

Please note that lives of the Saints are shelved in the main Biography section (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Floors) under Augustine, Francis, etc.

The *Acta Sanctorum* is kept in Religion Folio, available for consultation on application to the Enquiries Desk.

## Religious art and architecture

Studies of religious art and architecture can be found in the main Art section. Christian art has its own shelfmark (A. Christian Art), but books on the art of other religions are shelved under the broader categories used in the Art section.

Architectural studies of religious buildings are shelved at A. Architecture (and 4to., Folio, etc). More general books on churches, mosques, temples, etc will be found in the main Topography section (Level 1) under the relevant countries. There is also a unique shelfmark, T. England, Cathedrals.

Please note that studies of cathedrals as *institutions* are shelved at R. Cathedrals; studies of monastic life at R. Monasteries, and historical-archaeological studies of the Jerusalem Temple at R. Temple (The).

## Reference works

A wide range of religious reference works are shelved in the Library's Reading Room (1st Floor); the collection includes works in English, French, German, Italian and Russian.

The number of works relating to Christianity and the Bible is notably large; the following is a small selection:

*The book of saints; A Catholic dictionary of theology; The Coptic encyclopedia; Cruden's complete concordance to the Old and New Testaments; Dictionnaire de theologie*

*catholique; Dictionnaire d'histoire et de géographie ecclésiastiques; Encyclopedia of early Christianity; Encyclopedia of heresies and heretics; Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls; A new dictionary of liturgy and worship; The Oxford companion to the Bible; The Oxford encyclopedia of the Reformation; Who's who in the New Testament; Who's who in the Old Testament.*

Reference works on comparative religion and non-Christian traditions include:

*A dictionary of comparative religion; An illustrated encyclopaedia of mysticism and the mystery religions; Macmillan dictionary of religion; The Oxford dictionary of world religions; Oxford dictionary of the Jewish religion; Hindu world; Historical dictionary of Hinduism; Zen dictionary.*

All of the above are shelved at R.R. Dicts., Religion (on the left-hand gallery of the main Reading Room).

The Library also has several major multi-volume encyclopaedias covering aspects of religion and theology. The following can be found at R.R. Encyclopaedias:

*Encyclopaedia Hebraica; Encyclopaedia Iranica; Encyclopaedia Judaica; The encyclopaedia of Islam; Encyclopedia of religion; The Oxford encyclopedia of the modern Islamic world; Dictionary of Jewish lore and legend.*

Current editions of the following directories and yearbooks are shelved at R.R. Annuals (main Reading Room): *The Catholic directory; Crockford's clerical directory; The Jewish year book; London Diocese book; The official year-book of the Church of England.* The Library has retained its holdings of the earlier editions; these are shelved in the main Annuals section (Level 7), together with the holdings of titles that have ceased publication, such as the *Clergy list* (1841-1914).

## Periodicals

The Library maintains subscriptions to all of the following titles: *Alcuin Club collections; Ars orientalis; Canterbury Cathedral chronicle; Catholic Record Society; Church monuments; Church times; Church of England Record Society; Concilium; Culture & Religion; Downside review; European Judaism; Heythrop journal; Journal of the American Academy of Religion; Journal of stained glass; Journal of theological studies; Middle Eastern studies; Modern Asian studies; The month; Reformation; Religious studies; Revue Bénédictine; Revue Biblique; Revue ecclésiastique; Scottish journal of theology; Theology; Traditio; Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft.*

Current and recent back issues are available for consultation in the Reading Room; earlier issues of most titles are available for loan in bound volumes from the main Periodicals and Societies sections in the Basement; please check the catalogues for precise shelfmarks.

Some periodicals can also be accessed online:

Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory; Journal of Buddhist Ethics; Journal of Ecclesiastical History; Journal of Religion and Society; Journal of Theological Studies; Religious Studies

## **Online sources**

The following recommended selection of relevant websites can be freely accessed via the Internet:

**The American Theological Library Association - Center for Electronic Resources in Theology and Religion, including the ATLA Serials Project**

[www.atla.com/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.atla.com/Pages/default.aspx)

**Intute: Arts and Humanities**

[www.intute.ac.uk/humanities/](http://www.intute.ac.uk/humanities/)

**Virtual Religion Index**

[virtualreligion.net/vri/](http://virtualreligion.net/vri/)

**The New Testament Gateway**

[www.ntgateway.com/](http://www.ntgateway.com/)

**RAMBI - The Index of articles on Jewish studies**

[sites.huji.ac.il/jnul/rambi](http://sites.huji.ac.il/jnul/rambi)