

Religion
Information Access Policy
Clemson University Libraries

Languages Librarian: Edward J. Rock
revised: 6/2022, based on 6/2011, 3/2004, 4/2000 by P. Draper

I. Purpose:

Primary: To support the teaching and research requirements of Religion faculty and students of the [Department of Philosophy and Religion](#) at Clemson University.

Secondary: To provide a broad basic collection of informational material about major religions of the world.

Primary Users:

- Religious Studies [majors](#) and [minors](#) (Religious Studies or Mid-Eastern Studies)
- Students taking religion courses as electives
- Religion [faculty](#)

Secondary Users:

- Students or faculty involved in courses requiring religion information
- Students, faculty, staff, or community members seeking religion information

II. General Collection Guidelines:

A. Languages:

English is the primary language of collection, with exceptions where appropriate.

B. Chronological Guidelines:

No restrictions. Materials may be purchased about religions of any time period, from the ancient world to the present.

C. Geographical Guidelines:

Emphasis is on the Middle East, western Europe, the United States, and Asia, though materials may be purchased on religions in any part of the world.

D. Types of Material Collected:

- i. **Books:** Monographs and edited books about specific subjects will be purchased, as well as biographies of significant figures, dictionaries and encyclopedias of religion, Biblical commentaries and concordances, new translations of Bibles and other sacred texts, and atlases. Books may be purchased in print or electronic format, depending on the type of book, the cost, the type of use expected, and the preference of users.
- ii. **Journals:** Every effort will be made to preserve the current journal collection and to add new titles requested by faculty as funds allow. All journals will be purchased in electronic format if possible. Selection of new journals will be based on faculty requests.
- iii. **Indexes & Abstracts:** Currently held indexes and abstracts most relevant to research in religion:
 - ATLA Religion database*
 - Index Islamicus database*
 - Academic Search Complete*
 - Web of Science (includes Arts and Humanities Citation Index)*
 - ProQuest Dissertations & Theses*
 - Old, New Testament*
 - Abstracts*
- iv. **DVDs** (and streaming) are collected upon request.
- v. **Excluded Materials:**
 1. Sectarian materials of an inflammatory or proselytizing nature or obviously denominational materials whose primary purpose is to present one sect as superior to another, unless they have historical or research value.
 2. Works of pastoral theology (education/training of ministers or lay workers, preaching, homiletics, and practical church work), unless they have historical or research value.
 3. Inspirational or devotional literature, unless it has historical or research value.
 4. Works of ecclesiastical theology (church management, religious vocations, church finance, religious education and social life), missions, and evangelism, unless they have historical or research value.

5. Bibliographies
6. Textbooks: Books that are used as textbooks in Clemson classes will not be purchased solely for that reason, but use as a textbook will not exclude the purchase if useful.

E. Date of Publication:

Generally, current publications will be selected, with exceptions where appropriate.

F. Other General Considerations:

Because of the broad range of subjects that a student of Religion may find relevant, acquisition policy for materials covered by many [Information Access Policies](#) may also be of interest.

III. Access to Information Not Owned by Clemson:

Pascal Delivers and **Interlibrary Loan** are the primary means of access to books and journals not owned or accessible by the Libraries. This service is available free to Clemson University students, faculty, and staff.

IV. Selection Tools:

- Faculty, student recommendations
- Review sources such as *Choice*
- Publishers' catalogs
- Vendor databases (GOBI)
- Indexes, bibliographies, serial lists
- Faculty teaching, research interests
- Circulation activity

V. Deselection (Weeding) Guidelines

Books may be weeded from the collection if they:

- are in such bad condition that they cannot be repaired (a replacement copy will be purchased if available for important titles)
- do not fit current collection guidelines (unless deemed to have historical research value)
- have little or no circulation activity (if not widely held in other South Carolina libraries, they may be sent to Remote Storage)
- are older editions with no circulation activity in the last fifteen years whose content is covered by newer books in the collection.

VI. Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning Tools:

- Circulation statistics
- *Books for College Libraries, Magazines for Libraries*
- Bibliographic and series lists
- Benchmarking projects
- Interlibrary Loan activity

