

Research Guide: Selected African Religious Sources

April 5, 2012

Encyclopedias and Surveys

Asante, Molefi Kete and Ama Mazama, eds. *Encyclopedia of African Religion*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2009. 2 v. Q. 299.603 En192 IAS Africana Reference and online

Barrett, David. *World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Study of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*. 2nd ed. Nairobi; New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. 2 vols. Q. 270 W892001 Main Ref.; BR157 .W67 2001 Undergrad

Eliade, Mircea, editor in chief. *Encyclopedia of Religion*. New York: Macmillan, 2005. 15 vols. Q. 200.321 En192005 Main Ref.
“Important ideas, practices and persons in humankind’s religious experience from the Paleolithic past to our day.” Religion in its theoretical, practical, and sociological dimensions. African religions are covered in depth.

The Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition = Encyclopédie de l’Islam, Nouvelle Édition. Leiden: Brill, 1960-2003. 11 vols. With continuing supplements and index. Online
This monumental work has been developed since 1913 by a large number of scholars. Volumes and supplement fascicles have been published sequentially over time. There are detailed fold-out maps, charts, and photos.

Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck, John L. Esposito, with Elizabeth Hiel and Hibba Abugideiri. *The Islamic Revival Since 1988: A Critical Survey and Bibliography*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1997. 295p. 016.29709 H117i IAS Africana Ref, and Main Stacks
Updates The Contemporary Islamic Revival, 1991. Includes 1,246 annotated entries organized geographically, with author, title, and subject indexes.

Levtzion, Nehemia. “**Islam in Africa to 1800: Merchants, Chiefs, and Saints.**” In The Oxford History of Islam, edited by John L. Esposito, 474-507. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. 297.09 Ox2 Main Stacks; BP50 .O95 1999 Undergrad

Martin, Richard C., ed. *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*. Macmillan Reference USA, 2004. 2 vols. 823 p. Q.909.097671 En195 History, Philosophy, and Newspaper Reference; Undergrad Reference, and online

Mbiti, John S. *African Religions and Philosophy*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Heinemann, 1990, 1999. 288p. 299.6 M45A1990 Main Stacks.
For a popular version, see Mbiti’s Introduction to African Religion, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Heinemann Educational, 1991).

Nanji, Azim A., ed. *Muslim Almanac: A Reference Work on the History, Faith, Culture, and Peoples of Islam*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1996. 581p. BP40 .M83 1996 Undergrad; 297 M974 Oak Street
Sections for sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and the Mediterranean.

Ranger, Terence O. “**Religious Movements and Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa.**” African Studies Review 29, no. 2 (1986): 1-69. Q. 200.967 R163R1985 Main Stacks
Research review dealing with traditional and Christian movements in the last one hundred years, with a focus on rural areas.

Sundkler, Bengt, and Christopher Stead. *A History of the Church in Africa*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000. 1232p. 276 Su72h History, Philosophy, & Newspaper
This is a chronological treatment by appropriate time periods arranged by regions and countries. The last chapter is on “Ecumenical Perspectives.” See the name and subject indexes.

Indexes and Abstracts

Note: Religion is also covered in the humanities indexes such as Humanities Index, British Humanities Index, and in the anthropology indexes such as Anthropology Plus, and also try the Web of Knowledge.

ATLA Religion. Chicago: American Theological Library Association, 1949-. Online
Indexes international periodicals in religious and theological studies.

Francis (Humanities & Social Sciences). Nancy, France: Institut de l’information scientifique et technique, 1984-. Online
Covers 4,200 journals; abstracts for 80 percent of records, subject descriptions are in English and French.

Index Islamicus. East Grinstead, West Sussex, UK: Bowker-Saur, 1976-. Online
Includes North and West Africa, Sudan, and East Africa.

Bibliographies

See also Haddad above.

Gray, John. Ashè. *Traditional Religion and Healing in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Diaspora: A Classified International Bibliography*. New York: Greenwood, 1989. 518p. 016.2996 G793A Main Stacks
Includes books, dissertations, unpublished papers, articles, films, and videotapes. General, regional, and country coverage (3,187 entries for Africa). Ethnic groups, subjects, and authors are indexed.

Ofori, Patrick E. *Black African Traditional Religions and Philosophy: A Select Bibliographic Survey of the Sources from the Earliest Times to 1974*. Nendeln, Liechtenstein: Kraus-Thomson, 1975. 421p. 016.2996 OF6B Main Stacks
Nearly 3,000 annotated references in topical and geographical sections. Author and ethnic indexes. Also see Ofori's works on Christianity in Tropical Africa: A Selective Annotated Bibliography, 1977, and Islam in Africa South of the Sahara, 1977.

Schrijver, Paul. *Bibliography on Islam in Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa*. Leiden: African Studies Centre, 2006. 016.2970967 Sch74b

Streit, Robert, ed. *Bibliotheca Missionum*. Rome; Freiburg: Herder, 1916, 1952-1975. 30 vols. in 32. 016.2662 ST8b Oak Street
This massive work includes anything produced by the missions, even dictionaries and Bible translations. Five volumes for African mission literature, from 1053 to 1940. Author, person, and subject indexes in each volume.

Young, Josiah U. *African Theology: A Critical Analysis and Annotated Bibliography*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1993. 257p. 230.0967 Y85A History, Philosophy & Newspaper
Divided into history and social analysis; African traditional religion and religio-cultural analysis; African theology, old and new guards; Black South African theology.

Atlases

Al-Faruqi, Isma'il R., and Lois Lamy' al Faruqi. *The Cultural Atlas of Islam*. New York: Macmillan, 1986. 512p. Q. 909.097671 AL28C Map & Geography, and Main Reference
It is mainly text, but includes many maps and photographs.

Freeman-Grenville, G. S. P., and Stuart Christopher Munro-Hay. *Historical Atlas of Islam*. Revised and expanded edition. New York; London: Continuum, 2002. 414p. 911.17671 F629h2002 Map & Geography
This impressive work might better be described as an historical overview in book format with maps, graphics, and photographs. There are eight sections arranged by historical period and geographic area.

Smart, Ninian, ed. *Atlas of the World's Religions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. 240p. Q. 200.223 At65 Oak Street
This work puts Africa and the diaspora in geographical perspective, especially in the first chapter on historical geography. Note the glossary and bibliography arranged by topics and regions.

Afrocentric Sources

Ben-Jochannan, Yosef, et al. *African Origins of the Major World Religions*. 2nd ed. Edited by Amon Saba Saakana. London: Karnak House, 1991. 144p. 291 B43a1991a Main Stacks
Six essays illuminate aspects of the Afrocentric view of religion, such as the African influence on Judaism.

Malcioln, José V. *The African Origin of Modern Judaism: From Hebrews to Jews*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1996. 504p. 909.04924 M292A Education
An Afrocentric history covering most of the world.

Internet Portals

(<http://uiuc.libguides.com/content.php?pid=8144&sid=51953>)

Africa South of the Sahara: Religion. In-depth Bibliography of Sources from Stanford University.

Internet Sacred Text Archive: African Religions. Good Collection of Primary Sources.

Wabash Center: Religion in Africa. Very In-Depth Collection of Sources on Religion in Africa.