

*Five Colleges of Ohio*  
**Shared Collection Development and Resource Plan**  
**Religion & Religious Studies**

**December 21, 2004**  
**Version #1**

**Purpose**

This Shared Collection Development and Resource Plan for the discipline of Religion & Religious Studies serves as an assessment and planning document for cooperation in resource development among the libraries of the Five Colleges of Ohio consortium (the College of Wooster, Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, and Ohio Wesleyan University).

Specifically, this document will:

- *Enhance and cultivate* cross-campus knowledge and understandings of consortial collections and collecting priorities among our library staff and faculty;
- *Inform, but not dictate*, our local purchasing decisions and collection development strategies;
- *Set shared priorities* and goals with regard to resources or initiatives in this discipline that may be beyond the resources of any single member institution; and
- *Supplement* local collection development policies and efforts and provide forward-looking assessments of the future of library and information services in this academic discipline.

**Contents**

The following sections are found in this document:

- Characteristics of the Consortium
- Library Collections and Resources
- Patterns of Information Service
- Future Directions and Priorities

**Statement of Responsibility**

The Collection Development and Management subcommittee of the Five Colleges of Ohio Library Committee prepared this document with representation from all five members schools.

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## **Characteristics of the Consortium**

Each campus in the Five Colleges of Ohio consortium maintains an active program in Religion or Religious Studies with full-time faculty and major programs of study. Each of our schools also has historic roots as church institutions.

### **Statistical Overview (2003-04)**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Faculty FTE</b>	<b>Majors</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
<b>College of Wooster</b>	5	26	
<b>Denison University</b>	5	47	
<b>Kenyon College</b>	5.4	22	1575
<b>Oberlin College</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>803</b>
<b>Ohio Wesleyan University</b>	3.5	17	1911

### **Institutional Strengths**

*College of Wooster* – The Department of Religious Studies is currently in the process of working with a new college-wide curriculum, wherein each student at the College is now required to complete a “Religious Perspectives” course. While Religious Studies faculty offers most of these courses, such courses are also offered by faculty in other departments. In the Department of Religious Studies, courses are offered in most major world religious traditions, Biblical studies, ethics, ritual studies, Native American religions, religion and literature, and religion and the visual arts. The College has historical roots with the Presbyterian Church. The special collections reflect this history, as well as significant holdings in British-American witchcraft.

*Denison University* – Areas of specialty within the Department of Religion include: contemporary theology, liberation theology, religion and society, religion and economics, early church history, Hebrew scripture, New Testament, ethical theory and issues in ethics, women’s studies/women’s spirituality, Asian religious traditions, religion and art, black studies/African-American religion, new religious movements, religious pluralism in the United States. Denison has historical roots with the Baptist Church.

*Kenyon College* – Areas of specialty within the Department of Religious Studies include: East and South Asian Religions, Jewish Studies, Christianity, Religious Communities, Islam, American and African-American Religions including the Caribbean, Biblical Studies, and Mysticism. Kenyon's collections in African-American religion are not however expansive as this is a new area of specialty for the College. Kenyon has historical roots with the Episcopal Church and housed a seminary on its campus from its founding in 1824 until 1968. It retains primary resources in the College Archives relating to the history of the Episcopal Church in Ohio, which was originally headquartered in Gambier.

*Oberlin College* – Areas of specialty within the Department of Religion include: American Religions, Biblical Studies, Christianity, East and South Asian Religions, Ethics, Islam, Judaism,

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Modern Religious Thought, and Gender and Religion. Oberlin maintains a large, but old collection of materials relating to Christianity based on the collection of their former seminary. Oberlin has historical roots with the Congregational Church and originally housed a seminary on their campus until the late 1960s.

*Ohio Wesleyan University* – Areas of specialty within the Department of Religion include: early Christian Religion and Christology, Asian cultures, Biblical studies, Church History, Theology, and Christian Ethics. Ohio Wesleyan has a strong collection of Methodist materials, as they have historical roots with the United Methodist Church. They are currently the archives for both the East and West Conferences in Ohio, and house one of the top ten collections of Methodist primary source material in the United States.

### **Curricular and Disciplinary Strengths**

#### *South Asia*

Kenyon, Oberlin, and Wooster all teach a course either on South Asian or Indian religions. All 5 campuses at least touch upon this religious tradition in Asian or world religion survey courses. All 5 campuses offer a course on Hinduism. Kenyon has offered a second course that includes Hindu sainthood as a major topic. Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wooster all offer a course on Gandhi. Kenyon and Wooster offer courses on Buddhism. Kenyon also includes a course on Zen.

#### *East Asia*

Denison, Kenyon, Oberlin, Wooster and Ohio Wesleyan all offer either a combined course, or two separate courses, on religions of China and Japan. Kenyon has a course on Confucianism. Kenyon and Oberlin each teach a course on Taoism. Oberlin offers a course on Buddhism. None appear to offer a course solely on Shinto. Wooster offers a course on Zen and the Arts in Japanese Culture.

#### *Islam*

Denison is in the process of adding new position that will begin in a greater focus on Islam. There is not much offered outside of survey courses. Ohio Wesleyan, Wooster, and Kenyon offer courses specifically on Islam. Kenyon offers both an introductory course and advanced course on Islam each year as well as more specific courses on various aspects of Islamic religion and civilization. Oberlin offers 5 to 7 courses with substantial Islam content.

#### *African Continent*

Oberlin and Wooster both offer a course on African religion and/or philosophy. Denison includes the topic in its Black Religion course.

#### *African American Religion*

Denison, Kenyon and Wooster all offer a course while Ohio Wesleyan includes the topic in a course called Radical and Liberation Theologies. Oberlin lists multiple courses and seminars on African American religious topics.

#### *Judaism, including Hebrew Bible*

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All teach at least one course on the Hebrew Bible or, in Wooster's case, Hebrew prophecy. Each campus teaches at least two courses total beyond the survey level on topics related to Judaism. Denison and Wooster just offer a couple while Ohio Wesleyan offers at least 4. Kenyon and Oberlin go well beyond this with 7 to 9 courses apiece; Oberlin also offers a course on Isaiah and one thematically linked to Job. Wooster offers an Introduction to Biblical Studies and regularly offers two upper level courses: Judaism and Hebrew Prophets.

*New Testament, Jesus, and Biblical Figures*

Most campuses offer one or more courses along the lines of Introduction to New Testament or Advanced Seminar in New Testament. Wooster lists an Introduction to Biblical Studies course. Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wooster all offer a course on Jesus. Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster both teach a course on Paul. Oberlin offers a course on Isaiah and one thematically linked to Job.

*Eras of Christianity*

Denison and Ohio Wesleyan both have a broad course on the History of Christian Thought. Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wooster all have a course on the Reformation. Kenyon offers courses on the Medieval and Victorian eras. Oberlin also teaches Medieval and appears to do more work with early Christianity than the rest of the campuses.

*New Religious Movements (sects, cults)*

Denison, Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster all offer a course. Though such topics may be covered in American Religion or other courses in Religion or other departments, no particular courses on new religious movements were noted on the Religion pages of Kenyon or Oberlin.

*Modern Religious Thought in the West*

Denison teaches Contemporary Theology, Liberation Theology, and Contemporary Jewish Thought.

*Mysticism*

Though mysticism may appear in many courses in religion as a theme, Kenyon appears to display an overwhelming interest and teaching strength in this area. Kenyon teaches as many as 5 courses with the word "mystical" or "mysticism" in the name of the course. In addition, Kenyon teaches Sufism, as does Oberlin.

*Death*

Kenyon teaches Meanings of Death and Oberlin teaches Ethical Issues in Death and Dying and a first year seminar, Religious Views of the Underworld.

*Women and Gender*

Denison, Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wooster all offer 1 or 2 courses apiece on some topic having to do with women and religion; e.g., women in the Bible, women's spirituality, women and Christianity, etc. Oberlin has more courses on various aspects of gender and religion or feminist topics in religion than all of the rest of us combined. Oberlin has as many as 8 courses. Kenyon's course is Women and Islam.

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*Environmental Concerns*

Though all of our Religion Departments may well touch on this in various ethics courses and the like, only Denison, Kenyon, and Oberlin offer courses specifically on religion as it pertains to nature or the environment.

*Native Americans*

Only Wooster lists a course specifically on Native American religions.

*Art Interest*

Denison teaches a course called Religion and Art. Wooster offers up to two courses in Religion, Art and Visual Culture. Kenyon offers Religion and Film,

*Literary Interest*

Wooster teaches Religion and the Literary Imagination and Religious Autobiography and Biography. Oberlin teaches Perspectives on Religious Narratives, which deals with contemporary literary works. Kenyon offers Jews in Literature, and Literature and the Reformation.

*Anthropological Interest*

This is hard to define or corral, but there are certainly some courses out there; for example Afro-Caribbean Spirituality (Kenyon) and Ritual Studies (Wooster) and material religion (Oberlin).

*American Religion (except aspects treated elsewhere)*

Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster all teach straightforward sounding survey courses on religion in America. Wooster also teaches up to two upper level courses including Witchcraft in Puritan New England. Denison has a less heads-on approach and treats some major aspects, such as individualism and political aspects from the beginning of the Republic, in several courses. Oberlin teaches Evangelicalism in the U.S. and Selected Topics in American Religious History. Kenyon offers Trials and Debates in American Religious History.

*Christianity Throughout the World*

Some noteworthy offerings: Christianity and the Non-Western Challenge (Ohio Wesleyan); Global Christianity (Wooster); Bible in the Christian Communities of Asia, Africa, and Latin America (Oberlin)

*Languages*

Ohio Wesleyan is the only campus that lists several languages on its Religion page. Those listed are Biblical Hebrew, Koine Greek, Sanskrit, and Scriptural Languages. Most likely some campuses (like Kenyon) offers some of these kinds of courses but list them elsewhere. Other campuses offer them as independent studies.

*Ancient Mediterranean and Rome*

Ohio Wesleyan teaches the courses Ancient Mediterranean Religions and Religions of the Roman Empire. Kenyon offers multiple courses in this area including Ancient Rome, Athens, and Jerusalem, as well as Early Christianity.

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*Ethics, Society, Contemporary Political and Economic Concerns*

Though somewhat difficult to tag, each of the campuses offer 2 or more courses dealing with matters like social justice, medical or professional ethics, economic justice, sociology of religion, etc. Denison with 7 or 8 courses appears to have the most courses dealing with contemporary ethical/social issues and debates within a religious context.

*Christian Denominations*

Ohio Wesleyan sometimes offers a Topics in Religion course on John Wesley and the Methodist Tradition. Kenyon has a course on Modern Catholicism

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## **Library Collections and Resources**

### **General Philosophy**

In general, the collection development policies of the members of the Five Colleges of Ohio are designed to support the curriculum and the research needs of their faculty. Additionally, they support the various honors or thesis-type research of their students.

### **Subject Boundaries**

The areas included in collections are Judaism, Christianity, Religions of the Americas, Islam, South Asian religions, Buddhism, East Asian religions, ethics, Hebrew scriptures, modern religious thought in the West, Religion & Society, Religion & Economics, Religion & Politics, African-American religions, church/state relations, ritual studies, witchcraft and puritan religion, and church history. Each institution has an historical collection associated with its denominational roots including the Baptist Church, Congregational Church, the Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church.

### **Library of Congress Classifications**

BL Religions. Mythology. Rationalism  
BM Judaism  
BP Islam. Bahaim. Theosophy, etc.  
BQ Buddhism  
BR Christianity  
BS The Bible.  
BT Doctrinal Theology  
BV Practical Theology  
BX Christian Denominations

### **Formats**

The primary format for collections consists of print monographs. Collections also include CD-ROMs, videos, DVDs, print and electronic journals, slides, and electronic databases.

### **Languages**

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English is the primary language of materials in the collections including English translations. However, materials of a significant nature are collected in other languages as appropriate.

**Geographical**

The geographical scope of collections includes North and South America, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

**Chronological**

There are no chronological limitations among the collections.

**Types of Materials**

Materials consist primarily of monographs but also include periodicals, print and electronic indexes, microform collections, and significant multi-volume works.

**Collection Levels**

The Religious Studies collections of the libraries are collected at the advanced study level as defined by the American Library Association.

**OhioLINK**

Several critical resources are currently available to the Five Colleges of Ohio campuses through our relationship with our statewide higher education consortium, OhioLINK. These include:

- ATLA Religion Index
- Ebsco Religion and Philosophy Collection
- Oxford Reference Online
- The Bible in English

It is critical that we work with OhioLINK to maintain access to these and additional resources to support religion and religious studies programs.

**Statistics Summary**

- Items in BL-BX represent 5-7% of individual collections; 5.8% of total items in CONSORT catalog as of 6/30/2001
- Approximately 30% of all titles in the combined CONSORT collections in BL-BX were published before 1950; 50% between 1950 and 1989; 20% from 1990 to the present. OWU and WOO have larger older collections (pre-1950).
- Collectively we have matches or close matches with 93% of titles in Books for College Libraries, 3d ed.; 91% with titles in Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 1988-2002.
- 46% of items in BL-BX have total checkout of 1 or more in CONSORT system as of 12/31/2003 (DEN from 1991 on, KEN, OWU, WOO from 1996 on)
- Areas where the highest percent of items in this category are BP and BQ with close to 75% of items with at least one circulation.

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- Our patrons' requests on PCirc to other CONSORT & to OhioLINK libraries for materials in BL-BX represent 3.6% of all Pcirc requests (based only on 4 months of data).



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**Collection and Circulation Statistics Chart**

The following chart shows both CONSORT and individual library title counts, circulating title counts, total circulations, and percentages of titles circulated through December 2003.

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**Age of Collection**

RELIGION / RELIGIOUS STUDIES								
		%		%		%		%
		% of total published holdings collection	% 1960- <1960	% 1960- 1999	% of BLC3	% of oat circ	% >=1 circ	% of PCirc requests
BL Religions. Mythology. Rationalism	12160		27.0%	67.0%	91.6%	91.8%	61.2%	
BM Judaism	3338		20.8%	73.7%	94.9%	96.0%	47.7%	
BP Islam. Bahaism. Theosophy, etc.	2596		17.0%	76.6%	88.5%	95.0%	74.0%	
BQ Buddhism	1889		4.0%	87.7%	93.4%	100.0%	75.2%	
BR Christianity	10159		43.0%	54.0%	91.7%	82.7%	43.6%	
BS The Bible.	11625		44.2%	51.7%	94.0%	90.0%	39.2%	
BT Doctrinal Theology	7136		33.2%	62.8%	94.6%	86.9%	46.5%	
BV Practical Theology	6384		56.3%	39.6%	96.6%	100.0%	36.2%	
BX Christian Denominations								
Eastern Churches, Ecumenism	542		35.0%	62.3%	90.5%	0.0%	33.9%	
Roman Catholic Church	5303		28.4%	67.9%	88.4%	82.4%	46.1%	
Protestant Churches	9157		53.9%	41.8%	95.7%	92.6%	30.0%	
BL-								
BX Total	70289	5.82%	38.3%	57.1%	93%	91%	46%	3.90%
	data as of June 2001	data as of June 2001	data as of February 2002	data as of February 2002	includes match & close match OAT 1988-2001; includes match & close match		data as of Jan 02 data problems - est. based on a few months	

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**Database Availability**

<b>Religious Studies Databases Comparison Chart</b>						
<b>X=WEB; CD-ROM; not held is left blank</b>						
<b>Disciplinary Databases</b>	<b>DEN</b>	<b>KEN</b>	<b>OBE</b>	<b>OWU</b>	<b>WOO</b>	<b>OHIOLINK</b>
ATLA Religion Database	X	X	X	X	X	X
ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials			X	X	X	
Bible In English	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oxford Reference: Religion and Philosophy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Religion and Philosophy Collection	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Interdisciplinary Databases</b>	<b>DEN</b>	<b>KEN</b>	<b>OBE</b>	<b>OWU</b>	<b>WOO</b>	<b>OHIOLINK</b>
Academic Search Premier	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alexandria: Cosmology, Philosophy, Myth, and Culture			X			
Alternative Press Index			X		X	
Alternative Press Index Archive			X		X	
Anthropological Literature	X	X	X	X	X	X
ArticleFirst	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arts and Humanities Citation Index (ISI)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bibliography of Asian Studies	X	X	X		X	
Black Studies on Disc						
Essay & General Literature Index	X	X	X	X	X	X
Guide to Early Church Documents			X			
Humanities Abstracts	X	X	X	X	X	X
Index Islamicus		CD-ROM	X		X	
Medline						
Oxford Reference: Mythology and Folklore	X	X	X	X	X	X
PCI (Periodical Contents Index)			X		X	
Philosopher's Index	X	X	X	X	X	
RLG Union Catalog	X	X	X	X	X	X
Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy		CD-ROM	CD-ROM			
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy	X	X	X	X	X	
Women's Studies International						
WorldCat	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Current Journal Subscriptions

CONSORT - CURRENT SUBSCRIPTIONS - RELIGIOUS STUDIES JOURNALS								#
title	issn	den	ken	obe	owu	woo	ejrnl	current subs
Acta Apostolicae Sedis; commentarium officiale	0001-5199			curr				1
America	0002-7049	dead	curr	curr	curr	curr		4
American Catholic philosophical quarterly	1051-3558	curr		dead				1
American journal of theology & philosophy	0194-3448	curr		curr				2
Anglican Theological Review	0003-3286	dead		curr				1
BIBLE REVIEW 1984-	8755-6316					curr		1
Bible Translator	0006-0844	dead		curr				1
Biblical archaeology review	0098-9444				curr			1
Biblical interpretation	0927-2569					curr	ejc	1
Biblical Research	0067-6535			curr				1
Biblische Zeitschrift	0006-2014			curr				1
BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES	0882-0945		curr	curr			ejc	2
CATHOLIC BIBLICAL QUARTERLY	0008-7912	curr	dead	curr		dead		2
CATHOLIC HISTORICAL REVIEW	0008-8080	curr	curr	dead	curr	curr		4
Christian Bioethics	1380-3603			curr				1
CHRISTIAN CENTURY	0009-5281		curr	curr	curr	curr		4
CHRISTIANITY TODAY	0009-5753	curr	curr	curr		curr		4
CHURCH HISTORY	0009-6407	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr		5
Cistercian Studies Quarterly	1062-6549			curr				1
Cîteaux; commentarii cistercienses	0009-7497			curr				1
Cross Currents	0011-1953		curr	curr	dead			2
Eastern Buddhist	0012-8708	curr		curr				2
Ecotheology	1363-7320			curr				1
ECUMENICAL REVIEW	0013-0796	dead		curr	curr	dead		2
Faith and Philosophy	0739-7046			curr				1
Feminist theology	0966-7350			curr				1
Fides et Historia	0884-5379			curr				1
First Things	1047-5141			curr				1
Friends journal	0016-1322			dead		curr		1
HARVARD THEOLOGICAL REVIEW	0017-8160	dead	curr	curr	dead	curr	ejc	3
Hastings Center Report	0093-0334	curr	dead	curr	curr	curr		4
HISTORY OF RELIGIONS	0018-2710	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr		5

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Horizons	0360-9669			curr					1
HUMANIST	0018-7399	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr			5
International Bulletin of Missionary Research	0272-6122			curr					1
International journal for philosophy of religion	0020-7047		curr	dead		curr	ejc		2
International journal of cultural studies	1367-8779	curr							1
INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF MISSIONS	0020-8582	dead		dead	dead	curr			1
INTERPRETATION	0020-9643		curr	curr	curr	curr			4
Islamic Law and Society	0928-9380			curr			ejc		1
Islamic Studies	0578-8072			curr			ejc		1
Israel Exploration Journal	0021-2059			curr		dead			1
JAPANESE JOURNAL OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0304-1042	dead	curr	curr					2
JOURNAL FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION	0021-8294	curr	curr	dead	curr	curr	ejc		4
JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE	0021-9231	curr	curr	curr		curr			4
JOURNAL OF CHINESE RELIGIONS	0737-769X		curr	curr					2
Journal of contemporary religion	1353-7903				curr				1
JOURNAL OF DHARMA	0253-7222					curr			1
JOURNAL OF EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES	1067-6341			dead	curr				1
JOURNAL OF ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY	0022-0469	dead	curr	curr		curr	ejc		3
JOURNAL OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES	0022-0558	curr		dead	curr	curr			3
Journal of feminist studies in religion	8755-4178	curr	curr	curr		curr			4
Journal of Hispanic/Latino Theology	1077-7989			curr					1
Journal of Law and Religion	0748-0814			dead					1
Journal of Medical Ethics	0306-6800	curr		curr					2
Journal of Near Eastern Studies	0022-2968		curr	curr	curr	curr	jstor		4
JOURNAL OF PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY	0886-5159			dead		curr			1
JOURNAL OF RELIGION	0022-4189	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr			5
JOURNAL OF RELIGION AND HEALTH	0022-4197			dead		curr	ejc		1
Journal of Religion in Africa	0022-4200			curr			ejc		1
Journal of religious ethics	0384-9694	curr		curr					2
Journal of religious thought	0022-4235			curr					1
Journal of ritual studies	0890-1112			curr		curr			2

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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION	0002-7189	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr		5
Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center	0092-6558			curr				1
journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies	0193-600X	curr		curr				2
Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society	0266-2183			curr				1
Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics	1540-7942			curr				1
Journal of theological studies	0022-5185		dead	curr	curr	curr	ejc	3
Journal of Vaisnava studies	1062-1237					curr		1
JUDAISM	0022-5762	curr	curr	curr		curr		4
Medical Humanities Review	0892-2772			curr				1
MENNONITE QUARTERLY REVIEW	0025-9373					curr		1
METHODIST HISTORY	0026-1238			dead	curr			1
Modern Theology	0266-7177			curr			ejc	1
MUSLIM WORLD	0027-4909	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr		5
Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's & Gender Studies	0793-8934				curr			1
National Catholic Reporter	0027-8939		curr					1
Near Eastern Archaeology	1094-2076			curr				1
NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES	0028-6885	dead	curr	curr		curr	ejc	3
Novum Testamentum	0048-1009	curr	dead	curr		curr		3
Numen	0029-5973	curr		curr		curr		3
Origins	0093-609X			curr				1
Palestine Exploration Quarterly	0031-0328			curr				1
Parabola	0362-1596	curr	curr	curr	curr			4
PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY	0031-2789			dead		curr		1
Philosophy East & West	0031-8221	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr		5
Princeton Seminary bulletin	0032-8413				dead	curr		1
Quarterly review (United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry (U.S.))	0270-9287			curr				1
Religion	0048-721X	curr	curr	dead			ejc	2
Religion and American culture : R & AC	1052-1151	curr		curr				2
Religion and Society	0034-3951			curr				1
Religious Education	0034-4087	dead		curr	dead	curr		2
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	0034-4125	dead	curr	curr		curr	ejc	3
RELIGIOUS STUDIES REVIEW	0319-485X	curr		curr		curr		3
Response	0034-5725				curr			1

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REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS RESEARCH	0034-673X			curr	curr	curr			3
Revue de l'histoire des religions	0035-1423			curr					1
Revue des sciences religieuses	0035-2217			curr					1
Revue d'histoire ecclesiastique	0035-2381		curr	curr		dead			2
SCOTTISH JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY	0036-9306	curr	dead	curr	dead	curr		ejc	3
Second opinion	y0890-1570			curr					1
Semeia	0095-571X			curr		dead			1
SHOFAR	0882-8539		curr					ejc	1
SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION	1069-4404	curr							1
Sojourners magazine						curr	curr		2
SOUNDINGS	0038-1861	curr		curr	dead	curr			3
Studia Islamica	0585-5292			curr					1
Taoist resources	1061-8805			dead					1
Theologische Zeitschrift	0040-5701			curr					1
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES	0040-5639	curr		curr		curr			3
Theology	0040-571X		curr	dead					1
Theology & Sexuality	1355-8358			curr					1
THEOLOGY TODAY	0040-5736	curr	curr	curr	curr	curr			5
Thomist	0040-6325	curr		curr		dead			2
Tikkun	0887-9982	curr	curr	curr		curr			4
TRICYCLE : THE BUDDHIST REVIEW	1055-484X	curr	curr	curr					3
UCLA journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law	1536-5107			curr					1
UNION SEMINARY QUARTERLY REVIEW	0362-1545		curr	curr		curr			3
VETUS TESTAMENTUM	0042-4935	curr	curr	curr		curr			4
Worldviews: Environment, Culture & Religion	1363-5247		curr						1
ZEITSCHRIFT FUR DIE ALTTESTAMENTLICHE WISSENSCHAFT	0044-2526		dead	dead	dead	curr			1
Zeitschrift fur Theologie und Kirche	0044-3549			curr	dead				1
ZYGON	0591-2385	curr	curr	dead		curr		ejc	3

latest rev. 05042004

## **Patterns of Information Service**

### **Characteristics of the Literature**

The literature employed in the field of religion and religious studies is wide-ranging. Access to original religious texts, commentaries, biographies of religious leaders, histories of religious movements, and discipline-specific journals is very important. Because religion is a fundamental part of the human experience, materials in the areas of anthropology, sociology, women's studies, black studies, ethics and history intersect heavily with those of primary interest in religion and religious studies.

### **Resource Availability and Sharing**

Faculty from CONSORT schools enjoy the ability to place materials from other CONSORT schools on local reserve. This is a new service that is functioning well and allows us to think of our collection more as a whole rather than independent parts. While recent studies have shown that faculty and students are satisfied with the current delivery times of CONSORT and OhioLINK materials, we as a consortium must continue to monitor this service to ensure it meets the needs of our patrons and collections.

### **Acquisition Strategies and Priorities for the Five Colleges of Ohio**

Our immediate acquisition strategies should focus in two areas. First, we should continue to seek consortial funding for electronic resources in the area of religion and religious studies. Particular examples include Index Islamicus (currently available at some of our colleges, but not all), and ATLA Full-Text. Second, we advocate adding to our consortial approval plan the acquisition of materials covered under "Religious Aspects" of other disciplines along with a modest commitment of funding from the member institutions to fund purchases in this area. These monographs will consist of materials not currently being acquired by any of our schools. It's noted that at Kenyon, many Spanish Language majors choose Religious Studies topics for their research, and increasing Spanish language resources would be of benefit.

### **Access Development**

As each of the schools in our consortium was originally founded as church-affiliated colleges, our library collections contain significant amounts of original, uncataloged materials relating to the historical development of the religious groups who founded our institutions, and our institutions themselves. It should be a high priority of the consortium to develop access tools (likely digital in composition) to make these materials accessible for research both within our own institutions, and in the greater scholarly community. To do so will require much of our institutions, but the materials in question form the bulk of the original scholarly material in our possession that can make original contributions to the larger academic community. It should be a priority to make these materials available, and doing so as a consortium would both perhaps provide greater opportunity for grant funding, and better visibility for the project.

### **Storage Patterns or Considerations**

We feel there are portions of our religion and religious studies collections that may be good candidates for off-site storage. Many of these storage candidates are not often used and are more



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representative of our historical ties as church institutions. These titles are however important to our institutions, our consortia, and our faculty. Making these materials available from remote storage facilities allows us to preserve access while maintaining the most useful collections on our local shelves.

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**Future Directions and Priorities**

Research in Religion and Religious Studies will continue to rely on both print monographs and journals. Electronic access to full-text resources, ebooks as well as journals, will also be an increasing component of necessary research materials.

Large databases of classic texts are also available and are attractive to researchers for a number of reasons, including: collocation of a large number of texts perhaps not widely available in print; easy and broad accessibility for users; and greatly enhanced searching capabilities.

The expanding availability of electronic resources, the costs of these resources, and the continued desire to maintain and enhance print collections present economic challenges in all subject areas. Examination of usage patterns in the circulation of print materials, database and ejournal usage, as well as interlibrary loan requests will likely play an increasing role in decisions about resource allocation. Education of users about the limitations of local resources for the acquisition of new materials, the limitations and tradeoffs sometimes inherent with electronic resources, and solicitation of their feedback concerning priorities will only grow in importance.