

INDEX RELIGIOSUS

Coverage

Index Religiosus is a promising but unfinished amalgum. It is based on the merging of two now defunct print sources: the annual "Bibliographie;" portion of the journal *Revue d'Historie Ecclesiastique* and the annual "Elenchus Bibliographicus" portion of the journal *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses*. IR does not yet contain all the citations from all the old print volumes. As of Jan 2014, IR consists of 565,000 bibliographic and 123,000 book review references.

Coverage is broad. Focus is on bible, systematic/dogmatic theology, and church history, but it also covers pastoral theology, church education, christian aesthetics and many other topics. It cites books, journal articles, and book reviews. Emphasis is on scholarly works in European languages. Roman Catholic literature is particularly well covered.

Searching

The search engine supports logical operators (and, or, not) and the asterisk(*) as a wildcard. Help is available online, and introductory video tutorials are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL70371EFDB3812D9B.

The simple search screen (Figure 100) allows keyword, author, and title searches. The advanced search screen offers multiple options, including keyword, author, title, date range, geographical area, academic discipline, and broad time period. Use Boolean operators—and, or, not—between and within fields. Use an asterisk (*) for truncation and a question mark (?) to represent a single character.

The screenshot shows the advanced search interface of Index Religiosus. At the top, a green navigation bar contains the following tabs: Introduction, Search, Coverage, Search History, and My Email Alerts. Below this, there are two sub-tabs: Simple search and Advanced search. The main search area is organized into several sections:

- Free search:** Includes a dropdown menu set to "and" and a search box.
- Bibliographical search:** Includes dropdown menus set to "and" and search boxes for Author, Title, and Year (with "YYYY to YYYY" format). There are "Browse" links next to the Author and Title fields.
- Special limiters for RHE (Church history):** Includes dropdown menus set to "and" and search boxes for All index terms, Area (set to "All Geographical Areas"), Discipline (set to "All Academic Disciplines"), and Period (set to "All Periods"). There are "Browse" links next to the Area, Discipline, and Period fields.
- Special limiters for EB (Theology):** Includes dropdown menus set to "and" and search boxes for All index terms and Table of contents (set to "All items TOC"). There is a "Browse" link next to the Table of contents field.

At the bottom left, there is a "Clear fields" link. At the bottom right, there is a "Search" button.

Figure 100: Advanced search screen

From the Advanced Search Screen (Fig 100), click **Coverage** above the search area to see what years the database covers for each journal title. Choose RHE, EB, or both databases together in simple or advanced searches. Each record in the hit list is labeled RHE or EB, and results are not de-duped.

Browse author, title, and index fields from the advanced search screen. Click the arrow to the left of a term to add it to a list of search terms. Each time you add a term, the software inserts OR between it and the previous term. Click Insert/Close at the top right of the screen to insert the terms in the field you browsed.

To search, type words into a field or enter them from an index. Click Search to view the **result list**. Check the boxes to the left of any records you wish to view and click View selection. Choose Export to download or email results. Little access to full text. Click Search History above the search area to return to a previous search from the current session.

Special Limiters is an interesting feature. Both the old print bibliographies in ETL and RdHE listed citations according to their locally devised classified structures (outlines). The Index Religiosus database has converted these class categories into very broad subject headings. Note the two different classification systems used by ETL and RdHE mean there is enormous inconsistency in the combination. When you do an initial exploratory keyword search for a topic, be sure to examine results in detail to see what headings might be useful from the classification systems.

Wallace Daniel's book, *The Orthodox Church and Civil Society in Russia*, for example, is listed in both databases. RHE assigns "History of the Eastern churches" as the discipline, and EB assigns "Orthodox Church and Oriental churches" and "General studies." Finding good search terms and subject headings is difficult because a good term in one database may not appear in the other.

Record 1 of 2 RHE reference: vol. 103/3 n° 1357

Type: Book
Author: [DANIEL, Wallace L.](#)
Title of Publication: The Orthodox Church and Civil Society in Russia.
Place: Publisher, year: College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2006
Description: xvi-251 p.
Collection: [Eugenia and Hugh M. Stewart'26 Series on eastern Europe](#)

CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

Item Table of Contents: [6.1.3. 19th and 20th Centuries \(c. 1800 -\)](#) > [History of Christian churches](#) > [History of the Eastern churches](#)
Area: [Russia > Russia](#)
Discipline: [History of Christian churches](#) > [History of the Eastern churches](#)
Period: [19th and 20th Centuries \(c. 1800 -\)](#)
Keywords: [Russia](#)
[Russian Orthodox Church](#)

Record 2 of 2 [Google](#) EB reference: 0083:08150

Type: Book
Author: [DANIEL, Wallace L.](#)
Title of Publication: The Orthodox Church and Civil Society in Russia.
Place: Publisher, year: 2006
Description: XVI-251 p.
ISSN/ISBN: 1-58544-523-1

CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

Item Table of Contents: [Fundamental theology](#) > [Non-catholic communions and denominations](#) > [Orthodox Church and Oriental churches](#)
[Moral theology](#) > [Political, social and economic ethics](#) > [Social and economic ethics](#) > [General studies](#)
Keywords: [Orthodox Church, Oriental churches](#)
[Social and economic ethics, Society, Economy, General studies](#)

Figure 200: Two individual records