

The search engine wars rage on as Google (<http://www.google.com>) claims to be the largest, now offering searches in ten languages. It also offers its own web directory that lists some quite useful sites under Society/Religion & Spirituality. Google has replaced Inktomi as Yahoo's search partner, thus providing a secondary search tool when the Yahoo directory yields no results.

Like Northern Light, AltaVista has now added a related pages feature for some search results. AltaVista has also introduced Search Centers for specialised searching such as multimedia where images, video and MP3/audio files can be retrieved.

Database information, pictures, multimedia, Adobe pdf files, etc constitute what is known as the Invisible Web - information that is not available using mainstream search engines. There are specific tools that can be used by informed searchers. Adobe (<http://searchpdf.adobe.com/>) offers online searching for the often valuable content stored as pdf files. Ditto.com (<http://www.ditto.com>) provides a picture-only search tool. Special multimedia search tools include Scour and Streambox.

A site summarising regional search engines is Search Engines Worldwide at <http://www.twics.com/~takakuwa/search/searc2.html>.

Alternative future search technologies to watch for are linguistic or "meaning-based searching" (Oingo or Simpli.com). Infrasearch and Pointera are distributed search models, as opposed to the centralised approach of current search engines. WholeWeb.net, due for release in the latter half of this year, is claiming to make available a billion indexed web pages, including database information.

From Logos comes a useful tool What the Bible says about... at <http://wbsa.logos.com/default.asp?searchFor=>. Typing in a keyword or topic elicits a whole list of Biblical references. Based on the New Naves Topical Bible, it is much like a quick concordance. The Discipleship Glossary (<http://www.discipleship.net/glossary.htm>), developed by Brother Dan Jenkins, offers a useful evangelical glossary of Biblical, theological, archaic and cultic terminology. Another useful reference tool, much like an online thesaurus, is the WordNet 1.6 Vocabulary Helper at <http://www.notredame.ac.jp/cgi-bin/wv>

Designed by a journalist, the Christian Symbols Home Page (<http://www.fastlane.net/homepages/wegast/symbols/page1.htm>) provides a clear and comprehensive summary of Christian symbols, emblems, figures and types. A recent addition is Shields and Emblems of the Apostles.

Beliefnet's topical presentation of Stephen Cook's Images of Jesus through Two Millennia (<http://www.beliefnet.com/features/searchforjesus/overview.asp>) focuses on the historical Christ. As well as an in-depth treatment of the video *The Search for Jesus*, a compilation of other resources is on offer. These include articles and commentaries from many scholars and writers, a quiz, a message board, a bibliography and Internet links. A multimedia presentation on the original TV broadcast can be seen at <http://abcnews.go.com/onair/jesus/>.

Religion-online.org (<http://www.religion-online.org/>) was established in 1997 to provide scholarly online texts for Indian students who had difficulty obtaining textbooks. It is well

worth a regular look to see what classical texts have been added. Latest inclusions are C H Dodd's *The Apostolic Preaching and its Developments* and Richard Heard's *An Introduction to the New Testament*.

A plethora of resources for learning Greek can be found at NT Gateway's Greek New Testament Resources (<http://www.ntgateway.com/greek.htm>).

A site dedicated to the scholarly study of the works of Flavius Josephus is <http://josephus.yorku.ca/>. Electronic resources for Gerard Manley Hopkins and Dietrich Bonhoeffer are available at <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/english/hopkins.htm/htm> and <http://www.augsburgfortress.org/bonhoeffer/> respectively.

The Oxford University Press Religion Reading Room (<http://www.oup.co.uk/readingroom/religion/>) offers at least a sample chapter of about a dozen of their recent releases. Try before you buy!

Rodney Schwarz
North Adelaide



More online resources

- If you are interested in the current state of **theological publishing** (who's merged/taken over whom, etc) you might have a look at this article:
'Making theology pay'/ Michael Walsh in *Tablet*, no.11 Nov.2000, pp.1522-1523. The *Tablet* can be accessed on-line at <http://www.thetablet.co.uk/11112000.htm> the URL for the archives. (Contributed by W. Davis)

Denise Cadman, from the Brisbane Catholic Education Centre Library, regularly sends us news of her discoveries on the web! Try some and assess them for yourselves!

<http://www.academicinfo.net/religindex.html>
<http://www.thearda.com/>
<http://www.refdesk.com/philos.html>
<http://www.bu.edu/sth/sthlib/resources.html>
<http://www.iota.org/Fall99/religion.html>
<http://www.science-spirit.org/index.cfm>
<http://www.tren.com/>
<http://www.prchfe.org/>
<http://www.theologyonline.com/>

Also from Denise:

- ♦ Women scholars have launched a website : <http://www.wrst.com.au/> where they will publish on-line *The Journal of Women Scholars of Religion and Theology*. It is called Sea Changes and it is free. It 'provides a medium for promoting the growing volume of scholarship undertaken by women in the area of religion and theology'.

- ♦ The Unbound Bible - <<http://unbound.biola.edu/>> Nearly every version of the Bible is available in many languages at this comprehensive site, including English, Biblical languages, and ancient translations. It is searchable and includes tools such as a Greek lexical parser and a Greek and Hebrew lexicon. Texts and fonts can be downloaded. The site is also available in French and Spanish. Subjects: Bible - Versions

Yet more from Denise:

<http://www.newadvent.org> New Advent let you find online answers in the Catholic encyclopedia, read the daily news from Catholic periodicals + provide many links

<http://www.nccbuscc.org> Site for info on the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, US Catholic Conference + daily readings from the Scriptures which can be downloaded.

<http://www.alapadre.net> Great site for research

<http://www.vatican.va>

<http://www.christusrex.org> You can take a tour of the Sistine Chapel, section by section and it gives you many other links, including speeches of the Holy Father for the current/previous years, etc.

<http://www.beliefnet.com> Ecumenical website. Gives comparisons of world religions, excellent multimedia components, and prayer tools.

<http://www.catholic-forum.com> Includes index of patron saints, polls, quizzes, games, etc.

<http://silk.net/RelEd> Excellent for catechist - it offers lesson plans, free religious clip art, etc.

St. Paul-Minneapolis Social Justice site : <http://www.osjspm.org>

- The following may be of interest WebNexus - <http://www.webnexus.fsnet.co.uk/>
This selective, annotated guide to Web sites of interest to students and scholars of Early Judaism and Christianity breaks subjects down into general Christian and Jewish links, religious studies, classical studies, library resources, publishers and booksellers, software for theology, Greek and Hebrew fonts, desk references, search engines, directories, and world news. Subjects: Christianity |Judaism. All of these entries plus another 7,600 are in the searchable and browsable Librarians' Index to the Internet: By Librarians, for Everyone! at <http://lii.org>
Copyright 2001 by Librarians' Index to the Internet, lii.org.

[Editor: What websites have you discovered? Care to share them with your colleagues? Send them to the Editor for the next issue of the Newsletter.]