

WEB REVIEW: *SPIRITUALITY, MEDICINE, AND HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHY*

<http://people.bu.edu/wwildman/smhbib/>

By James R. Skypeck

The Spirituality, Medicine, and Health Bibliography (SMHB) is a work edited by Professor Wesley Wildman of Boston University's School of Theology. The Bibliography was compiled during a research seminar conducted by Dr. Wildman in two separate semesters, entitled, "Spirituality, Medicine, and Health." Connor Wood, Eric Dorman, and Joel Daniels compiled the first version, created in the Fall 2009 seminar. Jenn Lindsay, Derrick Muwina, Stephanie Riley, and Lawrence A. Whitney created the second version in the Fall 2011. The information in the bibliography is current as of January 1, 2012.

Reading the "About" section of the SMHB provides background on the process that Dr. Wildman and his student teams used to create the bibliography. This background information proves particularly helpful when determining how entries are organized, as entries could fall within more than one category. The SMHB includes tips for using the tool and some basic search information. Dr. Wildman states that the group could not create a specific search tool for the bibliography but presents two ways to search the bibliography for a specific entry: using one's browser's search function after displaying entries OR downloading the bibliography to a bibliographic reference tool (like EndNote or RefWorks) and searching for the entry within the software.

The SMHB is extensive with over 3,000 entries and comprises hundreds of pages if printed. The editor and his teams have created a very useful navigational menu on the left side of the bibliography's site. Users have the option to view the bibliography in its entirety (a rather daunting prospect!) or choose a particular area within the bibliography on which to focus their attention. In its current version, the bibliography is divided into five major parts: "History, Influence, Metaphysics, and General Background of Spirituality and Medicine Traditions," "Contemporary Research on Spirituality and Health," "Integration of Alternative/Spiritual-Based Practices," "Ramifications on Health Care Policy," and "Books for General Interest." Excluding Part Five ("Books for General Interest"), all of the other parts are divided into sub-categories, enabling the user to drill down to smaller topics within the larger categories. For example, within Part 2, Dr. Wildman and his teams have divided "Contemporary Research" into nine sub-categories including "Mental Health," "Specific Conditions," and "Specific Groups" based on the primary content of the item within the bibliography. Entries are listed alphabetically by family name.

Items within each section of the bibliography contain standard citation information including digital object identifiers, dates of accession, addition and modification, source information including which database or catalog was searched, and ISSN/ISBNs when warranted. For many entries, the editorial team has tagged them using the controlled vocabulary provided by the database or source searched. In some cases, notes are provided for an entry based on available abstracts. This information is only available by using the left navigation section or choosing "browse" under each section on the right side.

The editor and his student teams have formatted the bibliography in RTF, BIB, RDF, and RIS for easy download to bibliographic management software. Users should be able to download the entries to the system they prefer including Zotero and EasyBib. Dr. Wildman has requested that any citation of the SMHB be done by citing the website and the original authors.

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The SHMB is a grand project and it is apparent that the SMH students and Dr. Wildman spent a lot of time compiling the lists that make up this extensive bibliography. While it is not likely to be updated regularly (the process seems to take place every two years in the fall semester at BU), the 3,000+ entries will provide a fairly comprehensive look at the scholarship in the areas of spirituality, medicine, and health. According to Dr. Wildman, some editing is ongoing, particularly in cases where an entry has an abstract and notes.

