

Guide to Research in Native American Religions

This guide was developed to help UIUC undergraduate students locate materials on Native American religions both in the UIUC library system and on the Web

An annotated guide to resources available to UIUC students, featuring:

**Article databases | UIUC Library Tips |
Government Documents | Encyclopedias, Bibliographies and Resource Guides |
Journals | Web resources**

Introduction:

The study of **Native American Religions** is highly interdisciplinary, and draws together materials from many fields, including History, Anthropology, Literature, Law, and Religious Studies.

Article Databases:

Almost any article database will contain some material on Native American religions. The specific purpose and topic of your research will determine the best database to use. If you are writing a freshman-level term paper or if you need background information to help select a topic, use a database with general coverage such as EBSCO's Academic Search Elite. Here you can find ideas and background information on your topic and articles that address your topic from various perspectives (historical, ethnographic, or legal, for example). Also, the articles tend to be easier to read and understand than more technical, scholarly papers. If you need more in-depth information, try one of the more specialized databases listed below. Keep in mind that you may need to phrase your search somewhat differently for each database, so don't hesitate to play around with different search terms.

BEFORE you start your search, try to compile a list of potential keywords. This is always a good idea, but it is especially useful for conducting searches in a new and interdisciplinary field, such as Native American Studies. A good first place to start is to identify possible culture group names for your search, using an ethnonym index. Two good ethnonym indexes are listed below.

eHRAF Collection of Ethnography

This is a very rich database, but it can be challenging for new users since it is organized differently from most other databases. For further assistance with eHRAF, ask the Anthropology Librarian, JoAnn Jacoby, for assistance.

To access the Ethnonym Index:

Select eHRAF Collection in Ethnography, and click on the **Browse** option along the top of the frame. The index that appears is an **Ethnonym index**, which should allow you to identify various names for tribal and cultural groups. These different names should provide you with keywords for your search.

Sample searches:

From the **menu bar** across the top of the page, select **Browse**. Select the letter **C** and scroll down to **Chippewa**. The entry that comes up is entitled **Culture: Ojibwa**, which is another name for the Chippewa people. The entry includes information about various culture groups including under the broad name Ojibwa, and these names provide the searcher with more search terms to help them find information in this and other databases.

A paper-based Ethnonym Index can be found in volume 10 of the **Encyclopedia of World Cultures**.

ATLA Religion Database

The primary index for religious studies. Good coverage of issues relating to theology and church issues, as well as most of the religious studies journals. ATLA also indexes edited collections as individual articles. ATLA Religion Index tends to be 1-3 years behind current journal issues.

Sample searches:

- **Indians of North America** in **subject** finds articles on Indians of North America. Adding a second subject, such as **Religion**, finds articles on Native American Religion.
- Searching **lakota religion** in keyword, **NOT Black Elk** in named person (from drop-down menu on search page) finds articles about Lakota religion, excluding articles discussing Black Elk.

America History and Life

Covers material relating to American History and related fields "from prehistory to the present". It is an extremely powerful and useful research tool, with many flexible searching features:

Search hints:

- **Native American** is the preferred generic phrasing for this database.
- You can search using simple **subject** words in combination. For example, an article on the Ghost Dance shows the following four (4) subjects: **Sioux Indians, Religion, Indians, Ghost Dance**.
- The **small blue magnifying boxes** allow you to browse the controlled vocabulary for each field. If you are not receiving good results for your search terms, use this browse feature to find better synonyms for this database.
- Searching a string of simple keywords will also result in good results, even if the keywords chosen do not appear in the controlled vocabulary for subjects.
- If you are researching an historical event, such as the **Pueblo Revolt**, you can search by **Time Period**, as well as by Subject or Keyword.

(RLG's Eureka) Anthropological Literature

Anthropological Literature indexes a wide variety of resources in anthropology and religious studies (as well as many other related fields). Their search page is very simple to use, with helpful search tips.

Sample searches:

- Searching on **religion** and **mythology** in **Subject Words** results in a great many subject entries, listing tribes and culture groups by specific tribal name, region, and state, across North and South America. Add a tribal name or ethonym to focus the search.
- **Keyword** searching is also very useful in this database. For example, search on **Ojibwa religion**.

(EBSCO Host) Academic Search Elite

This is a good general database, and useful for finding general popular and academic resources in Native American religions.

Sample searches:

- For general information, try a subject search on **Indians of North America - Religion**. This is a good way to begin searching if you are in the process of narrowing your search.
- To identify more specific search terms, you can browse **subject** words. Click on the green **SUBJECT** button, directly underneath the **Advanced Search** tab, and type **Indians of North America** in the text field. Either select **Related Terms** and browse through them, or select **Subdivisions**. If you select **Subdivisions**, page through to the sub-heading **Religion**. You can either browse the articles for more subject terms, look for related terms, or see more subdivisions.
- If you have a clear idea of what you are looking for, typing in specific terms - **Sun Dance, Ghost Dance** -- or personages—**Black Elk, Handsome Lake** - will result in a more focused set of references.

FirstGov.gov

The official portal to the U.S. Government. Since issues surrounding Native American spiritual and religious practice are often central to conflicts over religious freedom, land use, and the rights of Native groups, the U.S. government has innumerable publications that address issues surrounding native spirituality, ranging from the **U.S. Army Chaplaincy** to the **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act**.

FirstGov.gov is particularly useful when you don't have a specific governing body in mind -- it searches across the traditional governmental boundaries, including federal, local and tribal governments and foreign nations across the globe. You can limit your search to federal, all state, or a particular state government, as well as search across all agencies and divisions.

In addition, FirstGov provides a link **For Tribal Governments and Native Peoples**, which lists a variety of resources related to Native peoples, as well providing links to the **Department of the Interior** (home of the Bureau of Indian Affairs), and to a list of **Tribal Government homepages**.

Sample searches:

- You can search on specific terms, such as **NAGPRA** or **Native American Church** in the search box.
- You can add the word **sacred** to your search terms to focus in on issues related to religion and spirituality. For example, searching **Black Hills Sacred** results in over 1000 hits, but you can further limit the search by adding in a tribal name, in this case **Lakota**, which results in a manageable number of results.

Ethnic News Watch

Covers news, culture, and history from ethnic, minority, and native presses around the world, with full text coverage. The search interface is provided in both English and Spanish.

Important search tips:

- The "Ethnic Groups" search option limits the **origin of the publication**, **not** the groups as **subject**.
- You can use the small grey box to the right of the Search Criteria to browse search terms. These terms are fairly limited, though, so don't be worried if the term you want isn't listed there. You can still enter search terms of your choosing in the **Words in Article** field.

Sample searches:

- If you enter the search term **Kickapoo** in the **Words in Article** field, and select **Religion** from the drop-down menu for Subject, and then select **Tally Results**, Ethnic News Watch will provide you with the number of articles found for each search term. If you select **Submit Search** you will find that only 5 articles match both terms.
- You can also run a simple search with specific terms or phrases, such as **Native American Church**, and find a wide array of articles on issues surrounding the Native American Church from a variety of Native perspectives.

UIUC Library Tips:

WHICH LIBRARY SHOULD I USE?

The UIUC library system is decentralized, and the materials you need may be housed in more than one library. These libraries have good collections of materials in the areas of Native American Studies and Religious Studies.

LIBRARY AND LOCATION	Type of Coverage
EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCE LIBRARY 100 Library 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana	Strong collections in anthropological and sociological aspects of Native Americans and religion.
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS LIBRARY 200 Library 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana	Government Documents Library -- Native American Resources < http://www.library.uiuc.edu/doc/Exhibits/nativeamericans.html > is a great starting place for finding resources provided by various levels of government, including treaties, legislation, census information and more general resources. Links are provided to tribal government home pages and organizations. NOTE: Most government documents holdings are kept in the Main Library Stacks, Government Documents section.
History and Philosophy Library 424 Library 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana	Primary holdings for religious studies and for Native American history.
LAW LIBRARY 104 Law Building 504 E. Pennsylvania, Champaign	Law Reviews, books, and journals relating to United States law and legal issues surrounding indigenous religion and spirituality.
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES 19 Library 1408 W. Gregory, Urbana	Useful collections in the Archives include: the Doris Duke Indian Oral History Program Archives, the Julian H. Steward Papers, 1842-1976 and the Joseph B. Casagrande Papers 1938-82.

How can I find materials on my topic?

Use the UIUC online catalog to search for books and journals. You can search for keywords in the title, or you can search by subject heading. Some suggested headings for finding materials about Native American religion are given in the following table. You can also browse the shelves using the hints below.

Subject Headings

The following Library of Congress (LC) subject headings may be useful for locating books and journals on Native American Religions in the UIUC online catalog. Use the "Browse Subject" option, and enter one of these subject headings.

- Indians of North America Religion**
 To search a specific tribe, replace the phrase "Indians of North America" with the tribe or group name, plus **Indians**. For example, **Cherokee Indians Religion** and **Hopi Indians Religion** are subject headings in the UIUC library catalog. Use this method under the **Guided Search** option, and select **Words in Subject** from the drop down menu
- Indians of North America [State or Region] Religion**
 To find resources on Native religions in specific areas, replace **State or Region** with the geographic name (for example, **California**, or **Great Plains**). Use this method under the **Guided Search** option, and select **Words in Subject** from the drop down menu.

- If you are looking for a specific event or ceremony, use the name of that event. For example, you can search for **Native American Church** under subject.
- For best results, try an advanced keyword search using the terms **Religion** or **Mythology** or **Ceremony** (as appropriate) combined with any or all of the following keywords, : Native American, Amerindian, Indian, First Peoples, Indigenous.

SHELF BROWSING HINTS

- After finding a book in the catalog, you can often find other similar books on the shelf near it. It is also useful to browse the shelves in a call number area that pertains to your topic.
- Since materials related to Native American Religion are dispersed throughout the library, your best option is to select the "Browse Call Number" in the UIUC online catalog and search on the call number **299.7**.
- You can also browse the shelves using that call number (299.7) in the **History, Education and Social Science** Libraries, or **Main Stacks**.
- Another good starting place is to find a resource that looks like what you want and follow one of the hyperlinks in the catalog (**subject, author, or call number**) to find other useful sources on that topic.

Encyclopedias, Bibliographies and Selected Core Texts:

General Background Sources | General Native American Religion Sources | Of Local Interest | Spiritual Practices of Specific Peoples:

GENERAL BACKGROUND SOURCES

Green, Rayna. Nancy Marie Mitchell, compilers. *American Indian sacred objects, skeletal remains, repatriation and reburial: a resource guide*. Washington, D.C.: American Indian Program, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, 1992.
GovDocs: DOC. SI3.2:IN2/UPDATE

Encyclopedia of World Cultures. David Levinson, editor in chief. 1991-1996.

Education Reference: Q. 306 EN19

A basic reference source to the cultures of the world. Provides descriptions of all the cultures of each region of the world or of a representative sample of cultures for regions where full coverage is impossible, as well as accurate descriptions of cultures of the past. Particularly useful is the **Ethonym Index** in Volume 10

Malinowski, Sharon et al., eds. *The Gale Encyclopedia of Native American tribes*. 1998.

Reference, Uni High Reference [all non-circulating] Q. 973.0497 G131

Pritzker, Barry. *A Native American encyclopedia: history, culture, and peoples*. 2000.

Undergrad Reference [non-circulating]: 970.00497 P939n2000

GENERAL NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGION SOURCES

Albanese, Catherine. *Nature Religion in America: From the Algonkian Indians to the New Age*. 1990.

Undergrad, Stacks: 291.2120973 AL13N

Allen, Paula Gunn. *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions: With a New Preface*. 1992.

Education: 970.00497 AL54S1992

Brown, Brian Edward. *Religion, Law, and the Land: Native Americans and the Judicial Interpretation of Sacred Land*. 1999.

Main Stacks: 346.730432 B812r

Carmody, Denis L. *Native American Religion: An Introduction*. 1993.

Undergrad: 299.79 C213N

Clements, William M., and Frances M. Malpezzi, comps. **Native American Folklore, 1879-1979: An Annotated Bibliography**. 1984.
Main Stacks: Q. 016.398 C591N

Deloria, Vine Jr. **For This Land: Writings on Religion in America**, edited and with an introduction by James Treat. 1999.
Education: 199.7 D384f

Deloria, Vine Jr. **God is Red**. 1973.
Undergrad, Stacks: 291.211 D38G

Erdoes Richard, Alfonso Ortiz, eds. **American Indian Myths and Legends**. 1984.
Undergrad: 389.208997 AM35

Gill, Sam **Native American Religions: An Introduction**. 1982.
Education, Undergrad: 299.78 G41N

Dictionary of Native American Mythology. Sam D. Gill, Irene F. Sullivan, eds. 1992.
Available online.
Main Reference, Undergrad Reference, Uni High Reference, Education Reference [all non-circulating]:
299.703 G41D

Hultkrantz, Ake **The Religions of The American Indians**. 1979.
Stacks, Undergrad 299.7 H87A:E

Irwin, Lee, ed. **Native American Spirituality: A Critical Reader**. 2000.
Education, Undergrad: 299.7 N2133

Kidwell, Clara Sue, Homer Noley, George E. Tinker **A Native American Theology**. 2001.
Main Stacks: 230.08997 K541n

Steltenkamp, Michael. **The Sacred Vision: Native American Religion and Its Practice Today**. 1982.
Undergrad: 299.793 ST39S

Vecsey, Christopher. **Religion in Native North America**. 1990.
Undergrad: 299.7 R2792

Williamson, Ray, and Claire Farrer. **Earth and Sky: Visions of the Cosmos in Native American Folklore**. 1992.
Education 398.26 EA76

Zimmerman, Larry J. **Native North America**. 1996.
Education: 299.7 Z65N

OF LOCAL INTEREST

Chappell, Sally A. Kitt. **Cahokia: mirror of the cosmos**. 2002.
Education, Illinois Hist Survey [non-circulating]: 977.389 C368c

Harrod, Howard L., **Becoming and remaining a people: Native American religions on the Northern Plains**. 1995.
Education: 306.699798 H249B

Melvin L. Fowler, et al.. **The Mound 72 area: dedicated and sacred space in early Cahokia**. 1999.
Main Stacks: 507 M862x

Herring, Joseph B. **Kenekuk, The Kickapoo Prophet**. 1988.
Education [circulating and non-circulating], Illinois Hist Survey [non-circulating]: 978.00497 K356H

Marriott, Alice L. **Plains Indian Mythology**. 1975.
Undergrad: 299.7 M34PL

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OF SPECIFIC PEOPLES:

Bean, L. J. (ed.). **California Indian Shamanism**. 1992.
Education: 299.7994 C128

Holler, Clyde. **Black Elk's religion: the sun dance and Lakota Catholicism**. 1995.
Education : 299.785 H722B

Loftin, John **Religion and Hopi Life in the 20th Century**. 1991.
Education, Undergrad: 299.784 L827R

Mooney, James **The Ghost Dance Religion**. 1965.
Education, Undergrad: 299.7 M77G1965

Neihardt, Joseph. **Black Elk Speaks**. 1961 (1932).
Undergrad, Stacks: 970.2 B56B11972

White, Phillip M (comp.). The Native American Sun Dance religion and ceremony: an annotated bibliography. 1998.
Education 016.2997 W585n

Journals:

American Indian Culture and Research Journal

Last five years in Education Library, previous issues in Main Stacks 970.00497 Am355

American Indian Law Review

Law Library, non-circulating K1 .M437

American Indian Quarterly

Unbound issues in Education Library, bound issues in Main Stacks 970.105 AMQ

Church & State

Current issues in Stacks Display Area, other issues in Main Stacks. 261.705 CH

Ethnohistory: a quarterly journal relating to the past of culture and societies in all areas of the world

Last ten years in Education Library, previous issues in Main Stacks. 9 70.105 ET

Journal of the American Academy of Religion

Unbound issues in History Library, bound issues in Main Stacks 205 JOB

Native Americas: Akwe:kon Journal : a Journal of Indigenous Issues

Main Stacks 972.750835 C433

Religion

Unbound issues in History Library, bound issues in Main Stacks 200.5 RE

Wicazo Sa Review

Unbound issues in English Library, bound issues in Main Stacks 973.0497005 WI

Web Resources:

Resource and Source	Description
Electronic Texts on Native Americans http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/Native-American.html (University of Virginia Libraries)	Search full text historical documents on Native American issues.
Lakota/Dakota Bibliography http://puffin.creighton.edu/lakota/biblio.html Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Creighton University	This website is a project of Rev. Raymond A. Bucko, S.J., a Jesuit professor at Creighton University. The bibliography focuses on Native Christianity among the Lakota and Dakota (Sioux), but there are a wide variety of other references about Lakota/Dakota culture and religion.
National Indian Law Library http://www.narf.org/nill/Nillindex.html Native American Rights Fund	NILL is the only comprehensive collection of past and present Tribal governmental documents, and literature about Native legal issues. When searching their catalog, use the global keyword or Indian tribe search options for best results.
Native American History and Culture http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmai National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institute	Good resources for Native American culture, by region, culture group, subject and NMAI exhibit. The last link on the page is Spirituality, Religion, and Medicine, a bibliography of resources for native religious traditions.
Native American Spirituality http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/naspirit.html The Religious Movements site at the University of Virginia	Brief overview of the trends in modern Native American institutional religion, with links to contextual web sites on issues of appropriation of Native American Spirituality.
NativeWeb http://www.nativeweb.org/resources/religion_spirituality	Resources for Indigenous Cultures around the World
Sacred Texts -- Native American Religions http://www.sacred-texts.com/nam/index.htm The Internet Sacred Text Archive	A volunteer-run site collecting sacred texts from traditions around the globe. The Native American Religions site takes a respectful approach and lists historical texts and ethnographic accounts by culture group.

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