

2009 Methodist History Resources

This list is a work in progress and I invite you to email me with any useful items or sites you encounter as you work. I will add and modify this list over time and appreciate any help you can provide. Many thanks! Jane Elder (jelder@smu.edu).

Print Resources

Library Catalog. Use a basic search when you know exactly what you want. Use an Advanced search when you want to explore our holdings in a particular subject.

Local church histories. These run alphabetically by town name in the call number range that falls between BY 1730.A2 E33 1995 (Abilene) through BY 1730 .Z32 H57 (Zapata) in the basement stack.

Methodist (blue) Room. Created in 2008 as a one-stop reference collection to get our patrons started with their work on Wesley and Methodism, this area contains recently published (not rare) primary source material by John and Charles Wesley and Francis Asbury (published letters, journals, sermons, hymns & poems, etc.), encyclopedias, hymnals, indexes to some Methodist newspapers, Disciplines for the ME Church (north and south), Books of Resolution, General Minutes, and Daily Christian Advocates back to 1968, and conference minutes for members of the South Central Jurisdiction back to 1968. Some current conference journals from outside the SCJ are also available.

Microforms (film and fiche). Many of the 19th century periodicals that Bridwell holds are in this format. If you have difficulty using the film readers, ask at the Circulation or Reference desks. We will be happy to help. While the Library Catalog will indicate that some of these titles are also available in print, they are incredibly fragile, so we ask that you use the microform versions instead.

Print Resources in Bridwell Library's Special Collections and Archives.

These materials are listed in the Library Catalog, and can be used in the Special Collections reading room between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Please contact curator Eric White (214.768.3440, ewhite@smu.edu) or archivist Timothy Binkley (214.768.1989, tbinkley@smu.edu) for assistance.

Archives at Bridwell. Contain manuscript records from various individual and denominational sources, the personal papers of many bishops and other leaders with ties to SMU, including Albert C. Outler, William Warren Sweet, Bishops Atkins, Selecman, Boaz, Moore, Mouzon, A. Frank Smith, Paul and W. C. Martin, Galloway, Vincent, Copeland, Webb, and Slater; and papers from historic institutions such as McKenzie College.

Bishops' Collection. Books by and about Methodist bishops, collected by Frederick D. Leete and William C. Martin.

Denominational Records. General Minutes; Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conference Journals, Disciplines; Daily Christian Advocates; published reports of regional and national boards, commissions, and agencies.

Hymnal Collection. A representative collection of hymnbooks published by various Methodist denominations.

Manuscript Letters and Documents. Bridwell holds more than 4,000 holograph letters and documents by significant historical leaders such as John and Charles Wesley; Selina Hastings, the Countess of Huntingdon; Thomas Haweis; Francis Asbury; Thomas Coke; Littleton Fowler; Martin Ruter; and a collections of manuscripts and portraits of presidents of the (British) Wesleyan Methodist Conference. Guides to some collections are available on the Bridwell web site, under Methodist Studies, Collections.

Methodistica. Works reflecting the various nineteenth-century disputes and developments within British and American Methodism.

Periodicals. Extensive holdings in historical and current periodical literature from various Methodist groups, including the most complete collection available of the Texas Christian Advocate, donated by the Blalock family.

Wesleyana. A large collection of Wesley publications and artifacts, comprised largely of the personal collections of Frederick D. Leete, E. L. Shettles, Umphrey Lee, Albert C. Outler, and Frederick E. Maser, includes many editions of nearly four hundred Wesley publications, a significant number of which are first editions. Library Catalog.

Online Resources

The list below does not include the standard multi-disciplinary databases that SMU offers that are wonderful resources regardless of your area of study, such as Academic Search Complete, ATLA Religion Database, JStor, Project Muse, etc.

American Periodical Series online. A ProQuest database containing full-text articles in over 1000 periodicals published between 1740 and 1900. Many of these publications are church-related. Available via Online Resources.

ATLA Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative. Includes digitized (pdf) collections of Wesley material including Wesley manuscripts and memorabilia at Bridwell Library and Wesley Family Letters and Manuscripts held at Drew University. Available via Google search.

British Periodicals online. A fully searchable database providing access to hundreds of periodicals published in Great Britain between the late seventeenth century to the early twentieth, comprising millions of high-resolution facsimile page images. Available via Online Resources.

C19, the Nineteenth Century Index. A citation database (not full-text) that integrates some of the best-known print indexes, such as the *Nineteenth Century Short Title Catalogue*, *The Wellesley Index*, *Poole's Index* and *Periodicals Index Online*. *C19 Index* provides integrated access to 12 bibliographic indexes, including almost a million records from the ongoing digitization of *British Periodicals Collections I and II*, as well as the *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism*. Available via Online Resources.

Church in the Southern Black Community. A free public database that forms part of University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) University's digital project: *Documenting the American South*. This database collects autobiographies, biographies, church documents, sermons, histories, encyclopedias, and other published materials. These texts present a collected history of the way Southern African Americans experienced and transformed Protestant Christianity into the central institution of community life. Coverage begins with white churches' conversion efforts, especially in the post-Revolutionary period, and depicts the tensions and contradictions between the egalitarian potential of evangelical Christianity and the realities of slavery. It focuses, through slave narratives and observations by other African American authors, on how the black community adapted evangelical Christianity, making it a metaphor for freedom, community, and personal survival. Available through the Online Resources page or via a Google search.

Dallas Morning News Historic Archive. A fully searchable database containing all issues of the Dallas Morning News published between 1885 and 1977. A great source for local church information, obituaries, etc. Available via a Basic journal title search in the Library Catalog.

Dictionary of Methodism in Britain and Ireland online. This on-line version of the *Dictionary of Methodism in Britain and Ireland* is an expanded version of the printed volume published by the Epworth Press in 2000 and has been produced by permission of the copyright holders. Continuously updated. Available through the Online Resources page.

Dictionary of North American Hymnology. A free public web site that indexes the contents of nearly 5000 hymnals published in North America between 1640 and 1978. Available through the Online Resources page or via a Google search.

Dissertations and Theses online. A ProQuest database that allows patrons to search a massive collection of dissertations and theses worldwide, or specifically by those published at SMU.

Many recent dissertations are available in pdf format. Available through the Online Resources page of the Library Catalog.

General Commission on Archives and History of the UMC. A free public web site produced by the GCAH to help preserve the history of the church. In addition to finding aids and descriptions to archival material held at the archives in New Jersey, the site provides bibliographies, featured biographies, genealogical information, preservation FAQs, timelines, valuable links to other sites, and other information well worth your time. Available via a Google search.

Handbook of Texas online. A free high-quality web site produced by the Texas State Historical Association, updated continually, containing articles with bibliographies on all aspects of Texas history. It include information about significant Methodists, Methodist institutions, and background of Texas cities and towns. Available through the Online Resources page or via a Google search.

Judicial Council Decisions (of the UMC). Part of the online archives of the UMC, this database provides a searchable interface of decisions of the Judicial Council back to 1968. Available free through the UMC web site.

Methodist Review online. A recently founded scholarly "Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies." Available via the Online Resources page in the Library Catalog.

Missionary Periodicals Database online. Hosted by Yale Divinity, this database aims to record all periodicals on foreign missions published in Britain, between the eighteenth century and the 1960s, by missionary societies and commercial publishers, giving full bibliographical details, information on contents and locations. Available through the Online Resources page or via a Google search.

New York Times online. A fully searchable ProQuest database covering the historic issues of the New York Times between 1857 and 2006. Available via a Basic journal title search in the Library Catalog.

OCLC WorldCat. A catalog of all items catalogued in North American and many in western Europe. Best method of determining if an item exists, learn where to find it, or order it via the WorldCat interface with SMU's Interlibrary Loan system. Available via Online Resources in the Library Catalog.

Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church. The best overall resource for general information and good bibliographies is now available online. Yay!

New Georgia Encyclopedia. Produced by the Georgia Humanities Council this is a free public website containing over 2,000 articles on Georgia history and culture, of which Methodism formed a significant part. Available via a Google search.

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