



## Essential Research Strategies for Buddhism

Library site: [library.lmu.edu](http://library.lmu.edu) | Research guide: <http://libguides.lmu.edu/theology>

### Agenda

- Essential Tools and How to Find Them
- Using Tools Efficiently and Effectively
- Using the right source – A tour of the *Atla Religion Database*
- Evaluating Resources
- Search & evaluate exercise

### Tools for the job

Guidance	Buddhism Course Guide: <a href="https://libguides.lmu.edu/theology/thst3282">https://libguides.lmu.edu/theology/thst3282</a> Evaluating Sources LibGuide: <a href="http://libguides.lmu.edu/aboutRADAR">http://libguides.lmu.edu/aboutRADAR</a>
Books	LINUS, the LMU library catalog: <a href="http://linus.lmu.edu/">http://linus.lmu.edu/</a>
Scholarly Articles	Research databases (ATLA Religion Database, Bibliography of Asian Studies, ProQuest Religion, JSTOR) or Google Scholar*

\*To include LMU-accessible articles, go to Google Scholar Settings → Library Links

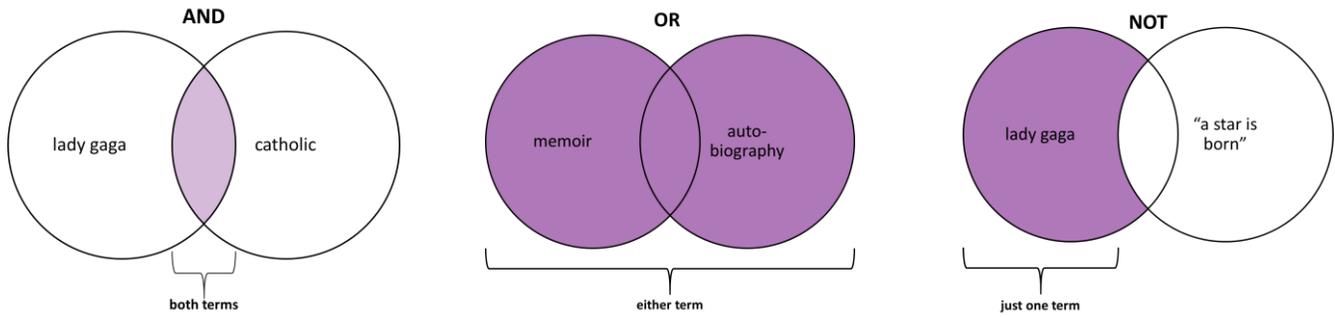
### Using Tools Efficiently and Effectively

Use keywords creatively and strategically.

- Aim for 2-4 keywords per search
- Swap out keywords for their synonyms in different combinations  
Example: autobiography OR memoir OR diary
- Use quotation marks to search for exact phrases  
Example: “intelligent design” vs. intelligent design
- Use truncation (\*) to account for variations  
Example: Buddh\* = Buddha, Buddhism, Buddhist, etc.
- Look for new potential keywords in your search results

Be savvy about how you string your search together.

Use Boolean logic (AND, OR, NOT):



## Use the Best/Most Efficient Source

For most topics in this field, the *Atla Religion Database* will be your best bet. Let's take a tour live together.

## Advanced Searching

To use the Subject Heading for a Buddhist text, search the common name, open an article on it, then use the hyperlink for the proper title. Here is an example for the "Lotus Sutra":

### How to Read the **Lotus Sutra**: The **Lotus Sutra** is one of the foremost Buddhist uninitiated reader, it can make little or no sense

**Authors:** [Shaheen, James](#); [Stone, Jacqueline I. \(Jacqueline Ilyse\)](#) 1949-; [Lopez, Donald S](#) 1952-  
**Source:** [Tricycle](#), 29 no 3 Spr 2020  
**Physical Description:** illustration  
**ISSN:** 1055-484X  
**Publication Year:** 2020  
**Language:** English  
**Subjects:** [Tripitaka](#) [Sūtrapitaka](#) [Saddharmapundarikasūtra](#)  
[Mahayana Buddhism](#)  
[Sutras, Buddhist](#)  
[Buddhism -- Western authors](#)  
[Western Buddhism](#)  
**Publication Type:** Article

You can also use the thesaurus to find and connect specific subject headings:

## Searching by Subject

In a new search, click Thesaurus in the upper navigation bar



Then browse for a particular term

Browsing: ATLA -- Subject Thesaurus

Term Begins With  Term Contains  Relevancy Ranked

If you don't know the order of terms (such as names, then titles) you will sometimes have to get creative to find your term, but it is worth it!

Once your topic is found, click the box to the left, then the "Add" button to add it to your search.



### Evaluate credibility and relevance

<u>R</u> ationale	Why was it created?
<u>A</u> uthority	Who is the creator and what are their credentials?
<u>D</u> ate	When was it created?
<u>A</u> ccuracy	Are its claims verifiable?
<u>R</u> elevance	Does it support your research or provide you new information?

### Practice

For the rest of our time together, we will work within the *Religion Database* and discuss our strategies