



Resources and Tools for Religious Literacy and Competency

Building religious literacy and competency is an ongoing process, with a wealth of self-directed study resources as well as classroom training available. A good starting point is taking a religious literacy self-assessment quiz and then proceeding to self-study with a focus on the religious traditions you work with. Smartphone apps are available for use in the field when scheduling meetings and for locating culturally-appropriate food vendors.

Starting Points:

Apps

Religious Holiday Calendar



Religious Holiday Calendar



Holidays 2014-2015

General Religion Info



Religions

Religion-Specific



Find Gurdwara



Kosher Restaurants



Kosher Near Me



Zabihah: Halal Restaurants & Mosques



Veg Travel Guide for Vegans & Vegetarians by HappyCow

Assess Your Own Level of Religious Literacy

U.S. Religious Knowledge Quiz
http://www.pewforum.org/quiz/u-s-religious-knowledge/

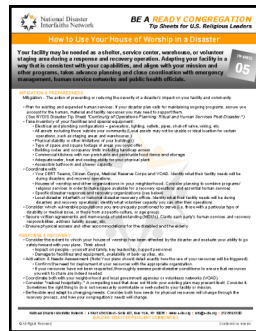
15 Question Quiz (Appendix) in Stephen Prothero's Book: Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't

NATIONAL DISASTER INTERFAITHS NETWORK AND USC CRCC RESOURCES

Available for download from:

http://www.n-din.org and http://crcc.usc.edu/resources/publications

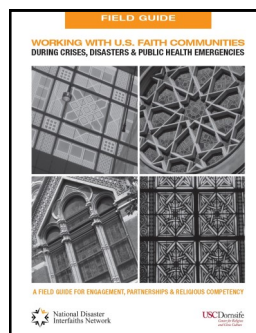
Tip Sheets



The Disaster Tip Sheets for U.S. Religious Leaders have been developed to assist religious leaders in any community. Appropriate for any faith tradition, they address all-hazards planning and cover topics from across the entire disaster lifecycle, such as how they and/or their house of worship can respond to crises, including how to coordinate volunteers, manage donations, provide mass care, attend to spiritual and mental health needs, and continue their many services post-disaster.

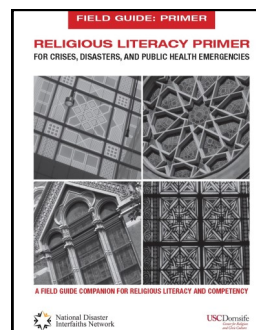
The Disaster Tip Sheets for Faith Community Partners are provided to inform religious literacy, cultural competency and reasonable religious accommodation mandates for U.S. Mass Care providers, and to assist staff and volunteers in competently meeting the needs of several major religious groups during sheltering.

Field Guide



Working with U.S. Faith Communities During Crises, Disasters and Public Health Emergencies. A Field Guide for Engagement, Partnership and Religious Competency is a detailed guide for engaging and building sustainable and competent partnerships with faith communities throughout the entire disaster lifecycle. The Field Guide provides suggestions, best practices, and guidance on how to approach the faith communities, religious leaders, and faith-based non-profits that make up this landscape to build durable, institutional relationships, and develop sustainable, faith-based emergency preparedness and response programs.

Primer



Religious Literacy Primer: For Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies is a quick-reference document which provides information on basic religious literacy for 24 of the largest religious communities in the United States. It is geared toward enabling emergency managers, public health officials, first responders, volunteers, voluntary agencies, and anyone involved in disaster response and recovery to understand how faith communities and emergency management intersect. The Primer provides guidance for physical interaction/etiquette, drawings of religious symbols, information on holidays, dietary restrictions, and provision of post-disaster mass care including shelter, medical treatment, and mental health care.

## WEB RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS LITERACY AND COMPETENCY

**Pew Research, Religion and Public Life Project**

Research and extensive U.S. religious landscape survey data.  
<http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>

**Religious Congregations & Membership Study**

Data files on hundreds of religion surveys and provides the ability to map U.S. congregation data for individual cities, states, and zipcodes.  
<http://www.thearda.com/rcms2010/>

**Gallup Poll Topics and Trends**

Provides survey data and reports on a number of religion trends in the United States.  
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/1690/Religion.aspx>

**Hartford Institute for Religion Research**

Comprehensive list of online religion data resources .  
[http://hirr.hartsem.edu/sociology/research\\_datasets.html](http://hirr.hartsem.edu/sociology/research_datasets.html)

**The Tanenbaum Center**

Resources including etiquette guides for addressing religious leaders and entering houses of worship.  
<http://www.tanenbaum.org>

**University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture**

Research / publications on religious trends in the U.S.  
<http://crcc.usc.edu>

## REPORTS

***A Local Official's Guide to Working with Clergy and Congregations.*** Sacramento, CA: Institute for Local Government, 2010.

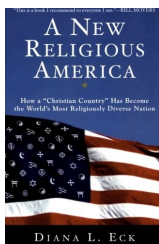
Farrag, Hebah, Brie Loskota, and Richard Flory. ***Faithful Action: Working with Religious Groups in Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery.*** Rep. Los Angeles: Center for Religion and Civic Culture, USC, 2012.

***Guide to Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship***  
[http://m.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/developing\\_eops\\_for\\_houses\\_of\\_worship\\_final.pdf](http://m.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/developing_eops_for_houses_of_worship_final.pdf)

Hull, Pete. ***Heralding Unheard Voices: The Role of Faith-Based Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations during Disaster*** (final report), Homeland Security Institute, Prepared for the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, 2006.

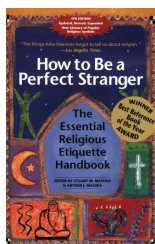
Bridges, Dr. Diane. ***Culturally Sensitive Religious & Spiritual Care: Creating Resources*** (2004)

## BOOKS



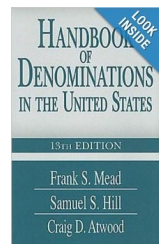
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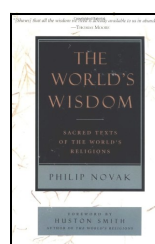
Matlins, Stuart M. and Arthur J. Magida, editors. *How to Be a Perfect Stranger, 4th Edition: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook.*

SkyLight Paths; 5th edition, 2010



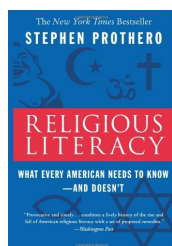
Mead, Frank S., Samuel S. Hill, and Craig D. Atwood. *Handbook of Denominations in the United States.*

Abingdon Press; 13th edition, 2010



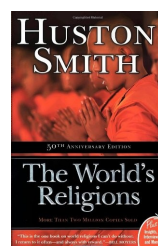
Novak, Philip. *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions.*

HarperOne; 1995



Prothero, Stephen R. *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't.*

HarperOne; 2008



Smith, Huston. *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions.*

HarperOne; 50th anniversary edition, 2009