BRIEF REFERENCE

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D114.D5]

Although out-of-date, this 13-volume set is the major scholarly encyclopedia for mediaeval studies. Including more than 5,000 signed articles ranging in length from 100 to 10,000 words, the set is intended for all levels, from the high school student to the scholar.

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D114.O94 2010]

Up to date, and intended for both novices and specialists, this 4-volume set covers European history, society, religion, and culture between A.D. 500 and 1500. Articles number about 5,000. They range from brief to lengthy, include bibliographies, and often unearth material you can only find elsewhere with difficulty. Women and children, for example, get substantial attention. The set contains a thematic listing of entries, a general index, a list of medieval popes and antipopes, and an index of alternative place names.

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CB351.D5413 2000]

More up-to-date than the *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, this 2-volume source offers brief articles on all aspects of medieval studies.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CB351.E53 2008]

Visit this set for lengthy articles on such topics as seafaring, architecture, employment, health and disease, trade and exchange, astronomy, and religion. Although the articles are thorough, their bibliographies are often skimpy.


[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D114 .E55 2005]

This 2-volume set covers a range of topics on mediæval life (e.g. people, literature, science, law, institutions). Cross-references and further reading bibliographies, plus a substantial index in the 2nd volume, make the roughly 2000 entries easy to use. The 2nd volume includes 2 appendices (Monarchs and Rulers of the Medieval World and Genealogies), as well as a 50-page bibliography broken down into categories (e.g. encyclopedias and dictionaries, general overviews, and more specific topics such as the British Isles). This source has the advantage of being more up-to-date than the two listed above.

**A Dictionary of Medieval Terms & Phrases.** By Christopher Corèdon and Ann Williams.

Woodbridge, Suffolk: D.S. Brewer, 2004

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – DA129 .C67 2004]

Brief definitions for over 3,400 terms including Latin, Old English, and Middle English words.


[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PA2802 .M43 1999]

**ORB: The Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies.**

[Available online: http://the-orb.arlima.net/textbooks/textlist.html]

**The Labyrinth: Resources for Medieval Studies.**

[Available online: https://blogs.commons.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/]

**NetSERF: The Internet Connection for Medieval Resources.**

[Available online: http://www.netserf.org]

The largest internet directory on the Middle Ages with links to more than 1800 other websites.

**Centre for Medieval Studies Online Resources**

[Available online: http://medieval.utoronto.ca/research/resources/]

A list of advanced online resources compiled for the Centre for Medieval Studies. Includes language dictionaries, paleography resources, digitized manuscripts, and curated article indexes.


[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CB351 .M565 1989]

In this brief encyclopedia you’ll find paragraph-length articles on individuals, battles, events, and places, usually with at least one bibliographic citation. You will also, however, find longer signed articles on such topics as Jews, Climate, and Handwriting.
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CB361 .E52 1999]

This source introduces European history between 1300 and 1700. It includes profiles of nations and important cities at the time, as well as maps, genealogies and a chronology of events.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CB353 .G7]

Contains more than 4,000 entries, most with short bibliographies. Numerous black-and-white and colour illustrations.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D117 .N48]

The major English-language comprehensive history of the Middle Ages, this work is a completely new edition of the former standard work, *The Cambridge Medieval History* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1911; St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – D117 .C3).

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D118 .S855 1994]

A year-by-year arrangement of important events in politics, economics, science, religion, art, literature, and philosophy. Very useful if you need to find the exact date of a medieval event.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CB351 .C76 1983]

With briefly annotated citations to more than 9,000 works in more than 100 categories, this guide outlines the key primary and secondary sources for the history and culture of the western European Middle Ages, Byzantium, and medieval Islamic society.

**PLACE STUDIES**

Each of these works contains lengthy articles (along with excellent bibliographies) on medieval topics related to a geographical area or focused on a specific group of people. The geographical areas on this page include: England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Jewish Civilization, Scandinavia, Spain, and Portugal.

**General**

[Available online: http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/Graesse/contents.html]  
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – G107 .G75 v.1-3]

A gazetteer of medieval Latin place names. Although this source is in German, it is still relatively accessible to an English speaker and is the most comprehensive listing of medieval place names to date.
England

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – DA129 .M43 1998]

Spanning from the Saxons’ arrival in the 5th century to the Tudor dynasty in the 16th century, the roughly 700 entries in this encyclopedia introduce students to the society and culture of mediaeval England. Various useful lists complement these entries: *the Kings and Queens of England, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Popes, 590-1503 A.D., Musical and Liturgical Terms,* and *Architectural Terms.*

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – DA152 .B58 1999]

Seven-hundred articles relate the key people, places, activities and creations in Anglo-Saxon England between 450 to 1066 A.D.. In addition to a lengthy list of abbreviations, this source includes an appendix (Rulers of the English, c. 450-1066) and indexes of both contributors and major topics (e.g. learning and literature, abbesses or artifacts).

[Robarts Library 4th Floor Reference Area – DA 175 .H56 2002X]  
[Victoria University E.J. Pratt Library Reference Area – DA175 .H56 2002]

France

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]  
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – DC33.2 .M44 1995]

In entries varying from 500-word descriptions to 3,000-word overviews, this encyclopedia aims at helping undergraduates and the general public in coming to grips with the political, social, religious, economic, intellectual, literary and artistic history of France between roughly 500 and 1500 A.D.. Various useful lists complement these entries: *The Kings, Counts, Dukes; Popes; Architectural Terms; and Musical Terms.*

Germany

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]  
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – DD157 .M43 2001]

This introduction to German and Dutch-speaking Europe focuses on the region’s major people, events, places, daily life, and accomplishments between roughly 500 and 1500 A.D. Alphabetical entries on such topics as patronage, diet and nutrition, and Segher Diengotgaf are made accessible through a list of entries by category (e.g. Music; Persons; Religion and Theology; Women, Gender and Families), as well as by the usual index at the back.
Ireland


Viking invasions, language, mythology, saints, clothing, craftsmanship, architecture—these are some of the many topics covered in this encyclopedia. The entries, centred on such themes as lineage, manuscripts, persons and scholarship, focus on the period 500 to 1600 A.D., and come with cross-references and bibliographies. There are alphabetical and thematic tables of contents.


Italy


Pick up this 2-volume set for an introduction to mediaeval Italian life and culture. With nearly 1,000 entries ranging from 500 to 10,000 words, and covering specific topics in the brief articles (e.g. Camerino, Duchy of) and general topics in the lengthy ones (e.g. Florence), this set includes 3 pages of maps, along with a reference list of Popes and Rulers in the appendix.

Jewish Civilization


Written by international scholars, this encyclopedia explores such themes as daily life (Clothing), people (Abravanel family), Christian-Jewish relations (Heretic, Jew as) and culture (Hebrew Language), among others. There are alphabetical and thematic tables of contents.


Scandinavia


Spain and Portugal

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – DP99 .M33 2003]

More than 800 articles cover Spain’s and Portugal’s peoples, events, works, institutions and other topics. Although not comprehensive—the encyclopedia focuses specifically on history, literature, language, religion, science, folklore and the arts—the book’s generally broad scope should help faculty as well as students. The encyclopedia includes a page on Arabic transliteration.

**PRIMARY SOURCES**

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – D113 .U53 2012]

Wills, sermons, letters, archaeological finds, and narratives are just some of the medieval primary source types explored in this book. With copious bibliographic references buttressing 16 in-depth chapters, this essay collection is a great place to find out how scholars interpret the past.

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – D117 .C2213]

A narrative guide citing and describing a wide range of primary sources.

**Reading the Middle Ages: Sources from Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic World.** Edited by Barbara H. Rosenwein. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014.  
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – D113 .R38 2014 SMC]

An annotated sourcebook which is thematically laid out with primary sources on topics in both the West and the Byzantine and Islamic worlds. Covers twelve centuries and various geographical areas. This collection is useful for those interested in geographically diverse research and for those trying to make sense of primary sources.


[St Michael’s 2nd Floor – DA170 .C65 2011]

Provides primary sources with commentary on topics relating to the later Middle Ages. Topics include: Languages, Chivalry, Knowledge and Learning, Book Production, Politics, and Urban Life.

**Internet Medieval Sourcebook.**  
[Available online: http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.asp]

Visit this website for hundreds of online translations of medieval primary sources.
ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND ARCHAEOLOGY

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – N5970 .C56 2006]

This book offers an in-depth introduction to the architecture, manuscript illumination and sculpture common in Northern Europe during the Middle Ages. Covering both conceptual topics (e.g. narrative) and thematic topics (e.g. image theory), as well as more traditional areas (e.g. painting and pilgrimage art), the thirty articles include substantial bibliographies, as well as an index.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – N5970 .A713 1981]

This work contains 36 articles and historical summaries each discussing a particular subject, including art in areas outside of Europe, such as Ethiopia, Persia and the Far East.

[Robarts Library 4th Floor Reference Area – N6763 .T37 1993]

[Victoria E.J. Pratt Library Ground Floor Reference Area – Z5933 .F75 1998]

**University of Toronto Library Research Guide: Medieval and Byzantine Art**
[Available online: http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250973&p=1672517]

This guide provides a selective list of major reference resources in the field of Medieval and Byzantine Art History. This includes encyclopedias, dictionaries, indexes & bibliographies, covering art and architecture from the third to the fifteenth century in the Byzantine Empire, and to the twelfth century in the Latin West.

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D125 .M42 2001]

A guide to contemporary research in mediaeval archaeology, this encyclopedia homes in mainly on Western Europe, but it also includes articles on the Balkans, Byzantium, and Eastern Europe. Aside from simply browsing the entries alphabetically, or using the index, you can find entries organized by country (e.g. Brno under Czech Republic or Wat’s Dyke under England) and subject (e.g. barrows under Cemeteries and Burials).
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – NA5453 .C35 1998 SMC]

[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – N6300 .F66 2008]

Richly illustrated with colour photographs and maps, this book tells of art and architecture crusaders created, sponsored, or commissioned between 1098 and 1291 in the Holy Land.

BIography

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D115 .K492 2006]

Those seeking an introduction to mediaeval movers and shakers will find this encyclopedia helpful. Nearly 600 biographical articles on such people as Dante, Thomas Aquinas, Henry I of Saxony, Margrethe I, and Jean de Mandeville come minted with cross-references and bibliographies arranged into primary and secondary source lists. Alphabetical and thematic tables of contents, along with an index, make the book easy to use.


Biographies of fifty famous people in the Middle Ages, such as Marco Polo, William the Conqueror, St. Patrick, El Cid, and Saladin.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – D115 .F5 1970]

Lengthy articles with brief bibliographies on 100 medieval persons (largely English).

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CT3220 .A56 1992]

Brief biographies of some 1,500 women who lived between 800 and 1500. Includes women engaged in a variety of activities from some thirty countries and from different social classes.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN682 .C5 V3513 1998]

Articles on ninety characters from mediaeval tales. Each entry gives an outline of the story, how it spread through Europe, its modern retellings and appearances in art, and a selective bibliography.


This book offers 138 biographies of medieval philosophers, devoting 2 to 3 pages per person, as well as a few short essays on selected topics in this field.


The most complete listing of persons living in the Middle Ages with very brief identifications. Includes bibliographical references. Although in French, the book is reasonably accessible to the English-only student.

**BYZANTINE STUDIES**


An inter-disciplinary dictionary for Byzantine studies from the fourth to the fifteenth century. Includes articles on individual people, places, administrative concepts, and topics of everyday life. Brief but substantive bibliographies emphasizing the best editions of texts and major studies.

**University of Toronto Library Research Guide: Medieval and Byzantine Art**
[Available online: http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250973&p=1672517]

This guide provides a selective list of major reference resources in the field of Medieval and Byzantine Art History. This includes encyclopedias, dictionaries, indexes & bibliographies, covering art and architecture from the third to the fifteenth century in the Byzantine Empire, and to the twelfth century in the Latin West.

**COMMERCE AND TRADE**


Comprising 400 entries on the people, places, inventions, and ideas that led to trade and travel in the Middle Ages, this encyclopedia is a useful starting place for such topics as navigation, Viking travel, the Crusades, Marco Polo, and Mappa mundi (a form of mediaeval cartography). Besides the usual cross-references and bibliographies that complete most encyclopedia entries, this book includes a general bibliography, an index, a sequence of events, maps, and a list of Kings, Popes and Rulers. A list of thematic topics follows the introduction.
CRUSADES AND WARFARE


Focused on the crusading movement from roughly 1095 and 1291, this 4-volume set covers such topics as persons (Saladin), families and dynasties (Embriaci Family), anonymous literary works (Melisende Psalter), places and countries (Tripoli, City of), events (Ankara, Battle of (1402)), and general subjects (Crusades against Christians). With individual bibliographies for each entry as well as a lengthy general bibliography, and with a substantial index in the final volume as well as some primary texts, this encyclopedia should prove useful for students studying the Crusades.


Use this book for an engaging introduction to war in the Middle Ages. With colour photos, colour maps, and key events highlight boxes, as well as a general index and a further reading section, this title is an ideal starting place for undergraduate research on the topic.


Citing 3,000 or so articles, books, and other sources on mediaeval warfare, Crosby covers from the late Roman Empire to the 16th century and sounds such topics as recruitment, the spoils of war, financing an army, and laws of combat.


This A-Z encyclopedia explores the phenomenon of the Crusades in all of its complexity, ranging from the classic numbered crusades in the Middle East to the Reconquista in Spain, and from the Baltic Crusades to the crusades against Albigensian heretics in France.


### De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History

[Available online: http://www.dere militari.org]

Provides articles, primary sources and book reviews related to medieval warfare and the crusades.

### EARLY MIDDLE AGES


[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – DE5 .L29 1999]

Introducing the European and Middle Eastern worlds from 250 to 800, Late Antiquity begins with eleven essays discussing such topics as War and Violence and Islam before continuing with regular alphabetical entries.

### LITERATURE AND MYTH


[Robarts Library – PN669 .E53 2000]

**Medieval Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs.** Edited by Carl Lindahl et al.. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, 2000. 2 Volumes.

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – GR35 .M43 2000]

Focusing chiefly, though not exclusively, on the folklore of mediaeval England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, this 2-volume set contains more than 300 entries on tales (King Arthur), historical figures (Thomas Becket), festivals (carnival), creatures in folklore (fairies), mythologies (Scandinavian mythology) and themes (silence). The usual general index, along with indexes of folktale plots (Index of Tale Types) and motifs, makes this encyclopedia easy to use. The entries include cross-references and often lengthy bibliographies.


[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN682 .C5 V3513 1998]

Articles on ninety characters from mediaeval tales. Each entry gives an outline of the story, how it spread through Europe, its modern retellings and appearances in art, and a selective bibliography.


[Robarts Library 4th Floor Reference Area – Z6605 .L3 S53 1997]
MEDIAEVAL SOCIETY

See also the separate Research Guide to Medieval Law.


Concentrating on England and France between 1050 and 1400, this dictionary offers definitions, explanations, and identification of such subjects as key ideas, major figures, social customs, events, and information a knight was expected to know (e.g. conduct, weaponry, feast days, currency).


Arguing the French language strongly influenced English medieval life, these essays investigate the impact of francophone speakers, writers, documents and readers on 11-15th century England.

PHILOSOPHY


Biographies, each several pages long, of roughly 40 prominent medieval philosophers.


[Victoria University E. J. Pratt – JA82 .M34 2011]

Annotated primary sources useful for studies in medieval political philosophy.

RELIGIOUS LIFE


SCIENCE

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – Q1124.97 .M43 2005]

Ranging in length from 500 to 3,000 words, the entries in this encyclopedia relate to one of six categories: (1) Apparatus, equipment, implements, techniques; (2) Biography; (3) Disciplines; (4) Geographical places; (5) Institutions; or (6) Scientific genres, theories, texts, traditions. Alphabetical and thematic tables of contents, along with an index, make the book easy to use.

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – R141 .M43 2010]

This reader provides excellent primary sources in an accessible translation for students interested in medieval medicine and science. Chapter headings include commentaries on themes and individual sources come with brief introductory statements.

WOMEN

See also the separate Research Guide to Medieval Women.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – HQ1143 .W 643 2004]

Multi-page scholarly articles on individual women and on broad topics relating to women. The lengthy bibliographies include primary and secondary sources.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – HQ1147 .E85 W65 2006]

This book introduces women’s roles and activities during the Middle Ages, including devotional practices, female mysticism, medicine, politics, and patronage of the arts. Covering from 450 to 1500 A.D., and punctuated with cross-references and bibliographies, these 560-odd entries plumb general topics (e.g. Burgundian Netherlands or Ballads), as well as key themes (e.g. Economy and Society or Family and Kinship). Along with an index, and both thematic and alphabetical tables of contents, the encyclopedia includes several handy appendices: A calendar of female saints; milestones in mediaeval women’s history; recommended references; and web resources.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – CT3220 .A56 1992]

Brief biographies of about 1,500 women who lived between 800 and 1500. Includes women engaged in a variety of activities from some thirty countries and from different social classes.
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – HQ1143 .W65 2010]

Primary sources relating to the experience of women in the Middle Ages between 500 and 1500 AD.

FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

To find articles in scholarly journals, the best place to go is an article database. To find articles related to your subject area, go to www.library.utoronto.ca/, click the By Subject A-Z link on the right, and scroll down to your subject area (i.e. Medieval Studies). You’ll find a list of databases containing scholarly articles, as well as other online resources such as encyclopedias and research guides.

**International Medieval Bibliography (IMB).**
[Available online (1967-present) for UofT use: www.library.utoronto.ca]

Although IMB is the major article database for medieval studies, the database can be difficult to use. When starting out, try Iter.

**Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance.**
[Available online (1842-present) for UofT use: www.library.utoronto.ca]

This database of books, articles and book reviews related to medieval and early modern Europe covers items written in the early 20th century. While not as in-depth or wide-ranging as the International Medieval Bibliography, this user-friendly source is good for book reviews.

**Historical Abstracts.**
[Available online (1842-present) for UofT use: www.library.utoronto.ca]

Although Historical Abstracts covers only the late Middle Ages (from 1495 onwards), it is one of the best history databases at UofT. Moreover, unlike the International Medieval Bibliography, it is relatively easy to use. Most entries include brief article summaries, along with GET IT! links that tell you if UofT has the article or not.

This research guide is maintained by Richard Carter (richard.carter@utoronto.ca). It was last updated October 2019. The most recent version can be found online: http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/kellymedievalstudies.