Introduction ~
- Librarians ~ HELP!
- What research & resources have you used?
- What do you know about the library/resources?

Library & Resources
- Philosophy Resources
- Course Guide: libguides.richmond.edu/fys-simon

FYS Librarian: Carol Wittig, cwittig@richmond.edu
THE INFORMATION CYCLE

What is the Information Cycle?
The Information Cycle is the progression of media coverage of a particular newsworthy event. Understanding the information cycle will help you to better know what information is available on your topic and better evaluate information sources covering that topic.

After an event, information about that event becomes available in a pattern similar to this:

**THE DAY OF**
- Television, Social Media, & the Web
  - CNN, Twitter, Facebook, Blogs, etc.

**THE WEEK OF**
- Newspapers
  - New York Times, Chicago Tribune, etc.

**THE WEEK AFTER**
- Popular Magazines
  - Time, National Geographic, etc.

**MONTHS AFTER**
- Academic/Scholarly Journals
  - The American Political Science Review, Journal of the American Medical Association, etc.

**A YEAR AFTER & LATER**
- Books, Government Publications, & Reference Collections
  - Popular titles, encyclopedias, government reports, etc.
Think Like a Researcher

• Main questions in the field?
• Questions about the topic?
• Argument(s) to explore?
• Different views/sides of the argument?
• Types of sources to help explore the questions?
Types of Research Sources

Books
- Background
- Introduction to a subject
- In-depth about a topic
- Individual or multiple authors, edited collections with many authors

Journals
- Targeted audience (scholars/experts)
- Highly specific information
Joining the Scholarly Conversation

1891

1957

2019
2008
1998
The philosophy of religion is a complex and multifaceted field of study. Early definitions of religion include the "belief in spiritual beings." For Tylor, religion centres on a belief in the supernatural, on the belief that alongside the world of mundane things (humans, animals, inanimate objects) there exists a realm of super-empirical beings (spirits or gods). Where we find belief in gods, therefore, we have religion; where that belief is lacking, religion is likewise absent. It is, of course, none too difficult to find fault with Tylor’s minimal definition. For many aspects of a person’s religious experience have here been ignored (the social, collective and ritual elements; the emotional and affective content); while, at the same time, beliefs which would not generally be classified as religious (a belief in ghosts, say) would – by virtue of their reference to spiritual beings – have to be included in this category. Evidently, something has gone wrong.

Another functionalist definition is to be found in the work of J. M. Yinger. Yinger’s claim is that what distinguishes a religion from a non-religious institution is its concern with what is ultimate. Politics, for example, is focused on non-ultimate ends, dealing with such matters as how a nation can defend itself, feed itself, maintain law and order, ensure justice for all, and so on. These political concerns spring from non-ultimate facts about human life; ultimate concerns, on the other hand, are perennial aspects of the human condition. Such a notion of the good government could solve. Such features include frustration, suffering, death and the threat of meaninglessness, and, according to Yinger, the essential nature of religion is to provide a way of dealing with such ultimate problems. Thus, Religion can be defined as a system of beliefs and practices by means of which a group of people struggles to meet these ultimate problems of human life. It is the refusal to capitulate to death, to give up in the face of frustration, to allow hostility to tear apart one’s human associations. With such...

[BOOK] Primitive culture: researches into the development of mythology, philosophy, religion, art, and custom
EB Tylor - 1871 - books.google.com
Doctrine of Soul’s Existence after Death; its main divisions, Transmigration and Future Life—Transmigration of Souls: re-birth in Human and Animal Bodies, transfusion to Plants and Objects.—Resurrection of Body scarcely held in savage religion—Future Life: a general …

Religion, society and the individual; an introduction to the sociology of religion
JM Yinger - 1957 - psycnet.apa.org
The influence of society, culture and personality on the origin, doctrines, practices and kinds of religious groups are examined as well as the ways that religion affects society, culture and personality. There are chapters on the relation of religion to morals, science and magic, a …

8. Ibid., pp. 7–8.
Let’s Try it Out!

- [libguides.richmond.edu/fys-simon](http://libguides.richmond.edu/fys-simon)

Searching the Catalog
Searching Philosopher’s Index