



Scrawled shortcuts through the research maze...

For DMin Students on the Run

Research in Ministry

Has someone already written your DMin thesis? Check this index to DMin theses, produced by the American Theological Library Association, at http://rim.atla.com/star/rimonline_login.htm

ARDA

What is the population of religiously uncommitted in your hometown? The Association of Religion Data Archive provides affiliation statistics, by county. On <http://www.thearda.com/mapsReports/>, select your state and county, and note the "Unclaimed" bar in the resulting graph

Adherents.com

Where are all the Methodists? Browse this rich website of religion statistics to discover "The Top 10 U.S. States with Most United Methodists" [Maybe Texas?] <http://www.adherents.com/>

Congregational Resource Guide

The Alban Institute is one of the clergy person's best online friends. Consult the site for free online reports, tutorials, and how-to guidance on congregational vitality, spirituality, leadership, and worship. <http://www.congregationalresources.org/>

TextWeek

What's the Epistle for this week? And which year of the Revised Common Lectionary cycle is it, anyway? Check Textweek at <http://www.textweek.com/> for exegetical inspiration, a labor of love by its webmaster, Jenee Woodard.

Chicago Manual of Style

At the thesis writing stage, I may well wonder: How do I footnote an unpaginated article in an online database? The Chicago Manual of Style tells all. Under **Chicago** on the Electronic Resources List: <http://www.drew.edu/depts/library/er-title.aspx> [answer is in rule 17.181]

And don't forget printed reference books...

If you can stop to smell the flowers, you can stop to open a book. These references, all at Drew, and some at public libraries, are good starting points for DMin theses: *Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling*; *New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*; *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*.

*** Warning: Browsing reference books can be inspirational!**