

Queensland religious records

John Oxley Library holds a large amount of material relating to churches and religion in Queensland. As well as printed information about individual churches, parishes, clergy and religious organisations, the library holds original records and manuscripts, photographs of churches, associated buildings and people, newspaper clippings and ephemera.

The following is only a selection of relevant material. For complete holdings please check the One Search catalogue or ask the staff at the desk in the John Oxley Library Reading Room (JOL Reading Room) on level 4 for assistance. Also see catalogue help for tips on searching One Search.

State Library resources

Books

- [The centenary history of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, 1849-1949](#) / by Richard Bardon. 1949. **Request to access from level 4**
- [A short account of the spread of southern Buddhism in Australia and Queensland in particular](#) by Klaas de Jong. 1982. **Request to access from level 4**
- [The Foundation of the Catholic Church in Queensland](#) by Denis W. Martin. 2018. **Request to access from level 4**
- [One hundred years of the Lutheran Church in Queensland](#) by F. Otto Theile. 1938. **Request to access from level 4**
- [A fellowship of service: a history of the Baptist Union of Queensland 1877-1977](#) by John E. White. 1977. **Request to access from level 4**

Serials

- [Australian Catholic Historical Society Journal](#). 1954–2024 **Available online**
- [The Crescent](#), Queensland Islamic Society. 1966–1994 **Request to access from level 4**
- [The Methodist Leader](#). Methodist Church of Queensland. 1897–1926. **Request to access from level 4**
- [The Queensland Baptist forum](#). Baptist Historical Society of Queensland. 1995–current **Request to access from level 4**
- [The Queensland Congregationalist](#). Queensland Congregational Union. 1938–1949. **Request to access from level 4**

Indexes and reference

- [Roman Catholic Parish register indexes](#) **CD ROMs see level 3 desk staff**
add the Parish and/or event to the search linked above to find the relevant index
eg [Fortitude Valley AND Baptisms](#)
- Australasian Catholic directory
 - [1841 to 1899](#) **CD ROM see level 3 desk staff QCFS 282.94 2005**
 - [1904; 1929; 1941 - 1942; 1944 - 1945; 1948-1958](#) **Request to access from level 4**
- [Index to annals of achievement: a review of Queensland Methodism 1847-1947](#) **Request to access from level 4**

- [Indexes of personal names and local church history in the Christian Witness, Methodist Leader and Methodist Times](#) Covers period: Christian witness 1889–1897; Methodist leader 1897–1899 and 1906–1923; Methodist times 1927–1977 **Request to access from level 4**
- [Queensland Post Office Directories \(1868-1949\)](#) include an Ecclesiastical directory giving details of clergy, churches and religious bodies.
 - **Open Access, Micrographics, level 3 FICHE/B 919.43 que**
 - **Open Access, level 4 REFJ 919.43 QUE**
 - **CD-ROM Please see staff at level 3 desk to view QCFS 919.430025 2010**
 - **Ancestry Library Edition**

Original materials

Please note that some church records are restricted.

- [Uniting Church Records](#) This collection contains records from the Uniting Church in Australia (Queensland Synod) and its forerunners. Includes baptism and marriage records as well as financials, meeting minutes, papers, correspondence, photographs and much more. This collection is split across multiple individual collections. **Collection guides available for some collections. Request to access from level 4**
- [Presbyterian Church of Queensland collection](#), 1880-2004. 16 folders of architectural plans, 3 albums of photographs and personal papers, 35 boxes of correspondence, reports, photographs, historical documents and mission records, 6 lantern slides. **Collection guide available. Request to access from level 4**
- [Methodist Church Records, 1848-1977](#) Records include both administrative and church records including minutes of various committees, Circuits, Churches, Trustees, architectural drawings and plans, schedule books, circuit plans, sundry papers, marriage registers, baptismal registers, cradle rolls, account books and other financial records, Sunday school records, correspondence, collection receipts. **Collection guide available. Request to access from level 4**
- [Brisbane Synagogue marriage register and minute book](#) Brisbane Hebrew Congregation marriage register and minute book. The marriage register covers the period from 1868 to 1946. The minute book relates to the fundraising for, and building of, the Brisbane Synagogue and covers the period from 1884 to 1886. Both items are digitised and available online. Access to the original items is exclusive to members of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, allied institutions and researchers who have permission from the Brisbane Synagogue.

Newspapers

Many church and religious groups also produce their own newspapers and magazines. Search the One Search catalogue under the name of the religion, church group, denomination or the name of the newspaper or magazine.

- [Catholic Leader, 1926-2006](#) (Earlier Title: [Our Australian Sunday visitor, Aug. 1969](#))
Open Access, Micrographics, level 3 MFS 0343
- [Queensland Methodist Times, 1927-1950](#), [Methodist Times, 1950-1977](#), [Life and times \(Uniting Church\), 1977-1985](#), [Journey \(Uniting Church\), 1986-1998](#).
Open Access, Micrographics, level 3 MFS 0406
- [The War Cry: The official gazette of the Salvation Army for the colony of Queensland. Salvation Army, 1890-1898](#) (imperfect)
Request then collect from level 3

Clippings from Queensland newspapers were collected from the 1970s to 1990s and include a category for Religion. An index of newspaper clippings is available to view at the JOL Reading Room desk on level 4. Speak to staff to view the index and request clipping files.

Ephemera

The John Oxley Library collection of religious ephemera includes orders of service, pew sheets, newsletters, parish bulletins, church celebrations and other items relating to churches and religion in Queensland.

Much of this will be captured by searching One Search for a religion, denomination, church, temple, community centre, etc. and limiting to the John Oxley Library collection. You can refine your search results using a variety of limits on the right-hand side of the catalogue, such as Collection and Resource Type. Click on the arrows to expand or collapse the options available.

The ephemera collection can also be searched in the following way: Advanced Search: Title contains [Religion AND Ephemera](#)

Architectural plans and drawings

- [Karl Langer Architectural Plans](#) Langer designed a number of religious buildings in Queensland including St. Luke's Church in Sarina, 1956, St John's Lutheran Church in Bundaberg, 1957, Lutheran Girls Hostel in Toowoomba, St Peters Lutheran College in Indooroopilly, and the Presbyterian Aged Peoples' Home in Mackay. **Collection guide available. Request to access from level 4**
- [Andrea Stombuco Architectural Plans](#) Box 10506 contains plans for the St Andrew's Anglican Church at South Brisbane. **Request to access from level 4**

Other useful resources

Websites

Please note, not all church archives are open to the public.

- The Anglican Church of Australia, Diocese of Brisbane, Records & Archives Centre. <http://www.anglicanarchives.org.au/>
- Archives of the Archdiocese of Brisbane (Catholic) <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/our-diocese/office/archives-of-the-archdiocese-of-brisbane/>
- The Baptist Church Archives, Queensland <https://www.bhsq.org/barq/>
- Queensland Atlas of Religion <https://qareligion.com.au/>

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | slq.qld.gov.au/ask

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