

Finding Information about People Groups *A Guide for Students at Southwestern Seminary*

Interest in reaching "World A" with the Gospel has created widespread interest in ethnolinguistic people groups: human populations sharing a common language and heritage irrespective of national borders. This guide lists the major resources available in the Southwestern Seminary Libraries that support research about these people groups.

Reference Books

Outline of World Cultures. 6th ed. New Haven: HRAF, 1983. Ref. GN 345.3 M87

Shows relationship of people sub-groups to larger groups and countries. Also useful to help identify variant spellings and other common names of a people group. The book itself is simply a list of peoples and topics.

Encyclopedia of World Cultures. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1991. Ref. GN 307 E53 1991

Ten volume set providing descriptive summaries of many different cultures (most representing a people group). Longer essays include a section on "Marriage and Family" and "Religion and Expressive Culture." as well as a bibliography. Detailed ethonym and subject index in volume 10.

The Encyclopedia of the Peoples of the World. New York: Henry Holt, 1993.

One volume guide to people groups. The "Select Bibliography at Ref. GN495.4.E53 1993 the end of the vole (pp. 666-682) will direct you to more specialized guides for the study of people groups.

Muslim Peoples: A World Ethnographic Survey. Ed. Richard V. Weekes. Westport:Greenwood Pr., 1978. Ref. DS 35.625 A1 M87

Collection of essays and bibliographies about Muslim people groups. Appendices give tabular information about the groups arranged by country and by group. Also includes population estimates and per cent Muslim.

Barrett, David B., ed. World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Study of Churches and Religions in the Modern World, AD 1900-2000. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1982. Ref. BR 95 W67

Information on each country of the world (in 1982). Secular data includes list of ethnolinguistic groups and table of religious adherents. Narratives discuss religious situation and other factors important to evangelistic activity. Consult the last parts of the book (beginning on page 773) for statistical and directory information. The publisher has announced a new edition.

Do not overlook the general encyclopedias, especially Encyclopedia Britannica, Encyclopedia Americana, and Academic Encyclopedia (Ref. AE . . .). Use the index to see what information about a group is available.

Online Catalogs

The library has not systematically collected information about many of the individual people groups. To find what books we might have, search by keyword in the Information Gateway, using the name of a specific group. Be sure to search for variant spellings or terms.

Consult the list of Library of Congress Subject Headings to see the established form a group's name and possible cross references to variations or other closely related groups.

The World Mission Center has at this time (December 1996) a significant collection of books on Africa. You may use these books if you wish.

Do not overlook the library catalogs of area universities. Although they have little interest in missions, they will have considerable interest in human geography, cultural anthropology, and related disciplines.

One useful set of books is the series of country studies produced by the U.S. Department of the Army. To find a list, use Information Gateway to do an Expert Keyword Search entering the following characters: fi area handbook or country study. This will give you a list of at least sixty-nine titles.

Periodical Indexes

To find articles, use the name of your people group as a subject heading. Use secular indexes, such as:

- Abstracts in Anthropology (1970-1992)
- Middle East: Abstracts and Index (1986-)
- Social Sciences Index (including anthropology and area studies) Humanities, Index (including history, art, music, religion)

FirstSearch

Three FirstSearch databases will help you identify resources pertinent to your subject: "WorldCat" and "ArticleFirst" on FirstSearch I -and "PAIS Online" on FirstSearch II (Topic area 10).

After you select one of the three databases, search for your people group, linking variations with the word or . Add a + .(plus sign) to the end of each word to search for simple plurals and possessives. Request materials we do not have through Interlibrary Loan or find at an area library.

Internet Resources

Use Alta Vista or another search engine to find occurrences of your word. This works best if you combine the name of your people group with a second term (but not a variant) such as a country or a topic.