

The Center for Strategic & International Studies. Access: <https://www.csis.org/>.

The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) is an independent nonpartisan think tank whose stated purpose is to “define the future of national security.” Reflecting this mission, the organization’s website serves as a clearinghouse of information on a range of related topics, as well as information on conferences and events, biographical information on board members and staff experts, and links to podcasts, web projects, and other materials.

The front page of the website contains current events examined through the lens of national security. In a snapshot of early September 2022, the page looked at the deadly flooding in Pakistan, Somalian security, and rebuilding Ukrainian agriculture. Each front-page link led to an article, critical questions, presentation, or other related materials, and most included an overview of the topic. In the case of the Pakistan floods, two CSIS representatives from the Humanitarian Agenda looked at the crisis. Users wanting to probe further can use the Sections dropdown menu to view topics such as climate change, defense and security, and human rights. Selecting any of these topics leads to a landing page with an overview of the topic and CSIS’s involvement. Each of these pages contains a sidebar of subtopics for users to peruse.

The subtopics pages are a mix of events and seminars, critical question reports and long form reports, podcasts, and more related to the topic. The “Human Rights” page subtopics include “Business and Human Rights” and “Transitional Justice.” Each subpage reveals the research and work CSIS is involved in with a view toward addressing human rights, climate change, and other crises as threats to national and global security and stability.

The broad range of topic experts have academic credentials, but also several have on-the-ground experience in the regions and countries discussed in their reports. Interested users may subscribe to updates as well as new podcast alerts. The homepage also links to information to support the organization financially. Students of global policy, business, economics, and national security as it relates to global threats from climate change to the rise of totalitarianism will find useful information on the CSIS’s website.—*Bart Everts, Rutgers University-Camden, bart.everts@rutgers.edu*

WRSP: World Religions and Spirituality Project. Access: <https://wrldrels.org/>.

The World Religions and Spirituality Project (WRSP) “is an international scholarly consortium that collaboratively assembles and disseminates information on alternative and emerging religious and spiritual groups around the world.” The website is open to the public without log-in and provides an extensive directory of encyclopedia-style articles relating to alternative spiritualities and new religious movements, as well as published materials contributed by scholars, interviews with scholars on relevant topics, links to media and other coverage, and links to archival materials.

The board of directors and all project directors are scholars in religious studies, philosophy, and other relevant fields, all employed at universities or institutes worldwide. Entries are written by scholars working in relevant fields.

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The site is easily navigable, with a prominent search field on the main page, but it has no advanced search option. The front page also provides links to major sections of the site, including the directory, major projects (thematic collections of entries), and links to outside resources. Users can browse the directory of entries alphabetically or by topic. A sidebar highlights recent entries, interviews, and videos. There is an option to submit an email address to receive periodic updates.

The essays and other items cover wide-ranging topics. Among the highlighted materials at the time of this writing are biographic entries on author Doreen Virtue and spiritual leader John Frum, an entry about the Lost Cause narrative of the American Civil War, several interviews with scholars of Neopaganism, and a video on the Branch Davidian tragedy in Waco, Texas. The directory also includes entries on regional and local groups or movements and non-mainstream movements within major world religions such as Christianity and Islam. WRSP is a trove of information that will be helpful to all levels of students and scholars of non-mainstream religion.—*Margaret Froelich, Claremont School of Theology, mfroelich@cst.edu*

Smarthistory. Access: <https://smarthistory.org/>.

Since experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, few people debate the importance of freely available, reliable, easy-to-use resources to support education. The nonprofit foundation The Center for Public Art History has known and responded to this need since their founding in 2005. Their website, [Smarthistory.org](https://smarthistory.org/), offers an incredibly rich resource to art history students and educators worldwide. A collaboration of more than 500 experts from colleges, universities, museums, and research centers provide the peer-reviewed, open-source content that makes this site “the most-visited art history resource in the world,” with more than 50 million views in 2021 alone. Each expert author is dedicated to Smarthistory’s mission to provide transparently reliable information about art history that resists colonialism and highlights under-represented cultures.

Smarthistory is intuitive to use. A banner across the top of the page offers drop-down menus: “About” for site information as well as links “For Learning,” “Book,” “For Teaching,” and “Support.” The first thing this reviewer noticed was a page under “About” that is titled “Is Smarthistory reliable?” With one click, any user can access the short answer—yes—followed by an explanation of author credentials, the site’s peer-review process, and other bona fides. The openness surrounding Smarthistory’s content creation makes the site more than just an excellent source of art history scholarship; it is also a good fit for instructors of information literacy and for students learning how to determine reliability online.

Smarthistory’s content is richly representative and appropriate for students and instructors from kindergarten to higher education. The teaching section offers webinars, syllabi, tutorials, and links to live online events. Open-source textbooks found under “Books” cover topics by era, world region, AP level, and more. These textbooks can be read online, downloaded, or even printed and bound. Learners can dive into art history on their own through the “Books” section, which is the richest section of the site. Pages grouped under “For Learning” cover art history across time and the globe, with topic pages, free courses, special online exhibits, and virtual museum tours.

Smarthistory is highly recommended for instructors and students at all levels. Librarians would do well to incorporate the site into their repertoire of recommended resources for any user group.—*Katherine Van Arsdale, Andrews University, vanarsdk@andrews.edu* ✍