

# LibGuide on atheism in the United States (screenshots of pages)

## Page 1: Atheism statistics and student poll

### Atheism in the U.S.: Home

- Home
- Definitions
- History & Sociology
- Demographics
- Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
- Activists
- Organizations
- Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies
- Research Tips

According to the Pew Research Center, 35% of Millennials have no religious affiliation. Among them are **atheists**, people who do not believe in gods of any kind. This guide provides resources for understanding the meaning, history, and impact of atheism in the United States.

#### What do you think?

- No one can say for sure whether God exists.
- Some kind of higher power is out there.
- There is no God or higher power.
- God definitely does exist.
- Actually, I don't think about God too much.

## Page 2: Atheism definition

### Atheism in the U.S.: Definitions

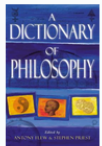
- Home
- Definitions
- History & Sociology
- Demographics
- Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
- Activists
- Organizations
- Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies
- Research Tips

#### What is atheism?

An **atheist**, simply put, is a person who lacks belief in God or gods. The term, however, holds different meanings for different people. The resources on this page can help you decide what atheism means to you.

#### Available through UNCG Libraries

Each of these resources provides a wide-ranging overview of world philosophies, and all contain entries on atheism. Their content is available in both audio and text format.



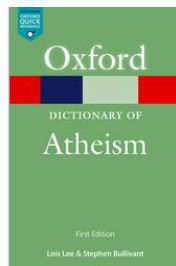
**A Dictionary of Philosophy** by Antony Flew (Editor); Stephen Priest (Editor)  
ISBN: 0330487302  
Publication Date: 2002-08-01

This book contains a critical analysis of the concept of atheism.



**International Encyclopedia of Social**

#### Oxford Dictionary of Atheism (available through UNCG Libraries)



Available through the Oxford Reference database (<http://www.oxfordreference.com.libproxy.uncg.edu>), the **Oxford Dictionary of Atheism** is an unbeatable source for understanding atheism terminology. It defines terms like positive atheism, negative atheism, scientific atheism, militant atheism, Atheism Plus, and New Atheism.

#### Available on the Worldwide Web

These sources are edited by scholars, contain articles on atheism, and are easily accessible on the Web (i.e. no login required).

#### Encyclopedia Britannica

The online edition of this highly respected encyclopedia contains an article that describes (and challenges) different interpretations of the term atheism.

"Atheism" by Kai Nielsen

#### Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

This peer-reviewed resource is edited by over two dozen professors, mainly from U.S. universities. It contains articles on both

## Page 3: Atheism history & sociology

UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / History & Sociology

### Atheism in the U.S.: History & Sociology

Search this Guide Search

- Home
- Definitions
- History & Sociology
- Demographics
- Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
- Activists
- Organizations
- Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies
- Research Tips

#### Atheism: A Rough History of Disbelief (open access)



#### Databases & Publications (available through UNCG Libraries)

These databases and journals contain numerous articles on atheism and atheists. All are accessible via the UNCG Libraries website.

- [Academic OneFile](#): A database of materials in multiple formats from reputable news sources and academic journals.
- [America: History and Life](#): Scholarly articles written from a historical perspective.
- [Films on Demand](#): A database of documentary and educational films on numerous topics.
- [LexisNexis Academic](#): An excellent source for newspaper and magazine articles on a range of topics.
- [SocIndex with Full Text \(SIFT\)](#): A repository of articles written from a sociological and/or political perspective.

The journals listed below can be accessed through the UNCG Libraries journal search page. They contain sociological perspectives on atheism and related topics.

## Page 4: Atheism demographics and student poll

UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / Demographics

### Atheism in the U.S.: Demographics

Search this Guide Search

- Home
- Definitions
- History & Sociology
- Demographics
- Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
- Activists
- Organizations
- Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies
- Research Tips

#### Demographics

According to the Pew Research Center, the number of nonreligious Americans is rising. This page's resources provide insight into America's changing religious demographics.

How do you feel about the rising number of nonreligious Americans?

- I'm concerned about it.
- I think it's a good thing.
- I really don't care.

Submit

#### Map of Most and Least Religious U.S. States

This map was compiled by Gallup in 2008. It is based on their analysis of telephone interviews they did with 355,334 Americans. The article "State of the States: Importance of Religion" explains the methodology they used:

[State of the States: Importance of Religion](#)



#### Data Sources (open access)

- [U.S. Census Statistical Abstracts Series](#)  
This series includes expansive demographic data on U.S. citizens, including data on religious affiliation.
- [American Religious Identification Survey \(ARIS\)](#)  
This survey was administered in 1990, 2001, and 2008. It asks the question "What is your religion, if any?" Data from the survey is used by the U.S. Census Bureau and is cited in the news report featured to below. ARIS's most research, done in 2013, focuses on the religious attitudes

## Page 5: Madalyn O'Hair, founder of American Atheists


UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)

### Atheism in the U.S.: Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)


Search this Guide Search

- Home
  - Definitions
  - History & Sociology
  - Demographics
  - Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
  - Activists
  - Organizations
  - Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies Research Tips

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, 1919-1995



Biographical Sources (available through UNCG Libraries)

 **The Atheist** by Bryan F. Le Beau  
ISBN: 9780814751718  
Publication Date: 2003-01-15  
In this biography, Le Beau examines the events and experiences that shaped Madalyn Murray O'Hair's atheist philosophy. Topics include O'Hair's early life in Pennsylvania and Maryland, her struggles as a single parent, and her fight to end prayer in public schools.

## Page 6: Atheist activists

UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / Activists

### Atheism in the U.S.: Activists

Search this Guide Search

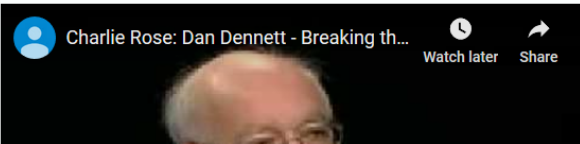
- Home
  - Definitions
  - History & Sociology
  - Demographics
  - Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
  - Activists
  - Organizations
  - Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies Research Tips

Atheist Activists

These individuals are outspoken atheists and critics of religion.

Daniel Dennett

This atheist philosopher and Tufts University professor is known for his writings on the workings of the human mind. In the video below, he talks about identifying as a "Bright" and his own experience with religion.



Biography Databases & Reference

You can search these sites to find names and biographies of other prominent atheists.

- [Gale's Biography in Context](#) - This database offers biographical information in diverse formats. It contains a robust advanced search function that allows you to search by subject, keyword, document title and other parameters (i.e. not just by name). It is available through UNCG Libraries.
- [Wikipedia](#) - This is a good starting point for biographical information. Be sure to check the references at the end of each entry for further information.
- [Charles E. Stevens American Atheist Library and Archives catalog](#) - This library is located at the American Atheists Center in Cranford, New Jersey. You must visit the library to access its holdings, but its catalog is available online. You can search the subject "Biography" and will

## Page 7: Atheist organizations

UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / Organizations

### Atheism in the U.S.: Organizations

Search this Guide Search

- Home
  - Definitions
  - History & Sociology
  - Demographics
  - Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
  - Activists
  - Organizations
  - Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies Research Tips

#### Atheist Organizations

Below is an alphabetical listing of various atheist groups based in the U.S. A much more comprehensive listing can be found on the Atheism United page ([http://www.atheismunited.com/wiki/Huge\\_list\\_of\\_atheist\\_agnostic\\_skeptic\\_humanist\\_websites](http://www.atheismunited.com/wiki/Huge_list_of_atheist_agnostic_skeptic_humanist_websites)), which lists atheism-themed websites from around the world.

#### African American Atheists



This Atlanta-based group provides a space where Black nonbelievers can connect with and support each other.

#### Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers



Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers

This Washington, D.C.-based group supports atheist soldiers and veterans. Refuting the popular statement "there are no atheists in foxholes," they maintain a list of [Atheists in Foxholes](#). in [Cocktails](#)

## Page 8: Atheist media

UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / Media

### Atheism in the U.S.: Media

Search this Guide Search

- Home
  - Definitions
  - History & Sociology
  - Demographics
  - Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
  - Activists
  - Organizations
  - Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies Research Tips

#### Blogs, Forums, & Podcasts (open access)

##### The Friendly Atheist

This site is edited by atheist Hemant Mehta. Its blog posts and podcasts offer an atheist perspective on current events.

##### The Atheist Republic

This is an international site for atheists seeking an online community. It features discussion forums and news stories on church-state separation, human rights, and other hot-button topics. Notably, it provides a link to a contact form for atheists in need of asylum or moral support. The site can be translated into Arabic, Spanish, or Macedonian.

##### Podcast: Ask an Atheist

This Seattle-based program offers an eclectic blend of political commentary, sundry news items, quirky reflections, and humor. Major topics are atheism, church-state separation, and human rights.

#### Magazines (open access)

##### The Humanist

This is an atheist- and humanist-themed magazine with a popular media feel. It covers national and international news events. It includes interviews with politically active atheists and humanists.

##### American Atheist magazine

Published by American Atheists, this quarterly contains reflective, personal essays on atheism and critiques of religion.

##### The Truthseeker

This Freethought publication has been around since 1873. It contains historical articles, cartoons, and book reviews. Past issues can be downloaded for free.

## Page 9: Atheism debate, cases, controversies, and student poll

UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / Debate, Cases, & Controversies

### Atheism in the U.S.: Debate, Cases, & Controversies

Search this Guide Search

- Home
  - Definitions
  - History & Sociology
  - Demographics
  - Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
  - Activists
  - Organizations
  - Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies Research Tips

Atheism has its supporters and detractors. The resources below provide insights into different views on atheism.

#### How often do you and your friends discuss religion?

- Quite a lot
- Just occasionally
- Almost never

Submit

Debate	Government & Legal Reference
 <p><b>God?</b> by William Lane Craig, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong ISBN: 9780195166002 Publication Date: 2004-02-12</p> <p>This book documents the debate between two philosophers (Christian William Lane Craig and atheist Walter Sinnott-Armstrong) over the existence of God.</p>	<p><a href="#">United States Constitution</a></p> <p>When making legal challenges, atheists frequently reference the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p><a href="#">Lexis Nexis Academic</a></p> <p>This database contains a wealth of legal information. Using the "Advanced Options" search function, you can narrow the content source to "State and Federal Cases" and find hundreds of records of cases involving atheists.</p> <p><a href="#">Legal Information Institute (Cornell University)</a></p> <p>This site links to multiple legal reference sources (e.g., the U.S. Constitution and a Supreme Court decision database) and provides brief summaries of legal topics.</p>

## Page 10: Atheism research tips

UNC Greensboro - LIS / LibGuides / LIS 620 - Carmichael (Fall 2017) / Atheism in the U.S. / Research Tips

### Atheism in the U.S.: Research Tips

Search this Guide Search

- Home
  - Definitions
  - History & Sociology
  - Demographics
  - Madalyn Murray O'Hair (Founder of American Atheists)
  - Activists
  - Organizations
  - Media
- Debate, Cases, & Controversies Research Tips

Research Tutorials	Dewey Decimal & Library of Congress Classification systems
<p>UNCG Libraries offers tutorials on how to search the library's catalog and databases.</p> <p><a href="#">Library Catalog video tutorial</a></p> <p><a href="#">Searching Databases video tutorial</a></p>	<p>Libraries use the Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress (LCC) classification schemes to sort materials by subject area.</p> <p><b>Dewey Decimal Classifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>000 Computer science, information &amp; general works</li><li>100 Philosophy &amp; psychology</li><li>200 Religion</li><li>300 Social sciences</li><li>400 Language</li><li>500 Science</li><li>600 Technology</li><li>700 Arts &amp; recreation</li><li>800 Literature</li><li>900 History &amp; geography</li></ul> <p>Atheism books are classified under 211.</p>

#### Tips & Strategies

- **Talk to people.** One of the best ways to understand atheism is to talk to atheists. You can search [Meetup.com](#) and the [American Atheists website](#) to find atheist groups in your area.
- **Seek multiple perspectives.** African American, Latino Americans, and Southerners are three of the most religious communities in the United States, yet many within these populations identify as atheists. Seek diverse perspectives to get a fuller picture of the atheist community's complexity.
- **Look everywhere.** Atheism has influenced many sectors of society. When doing your research, don't confine yourself to the databases in this libguide. For example, you could