The resources on this list could of course be applied to a wide range of research issues. But I have grouped them as responses to typical reference queries in Islamic studies, for the purpose of illustration.

What are the classic scholarly bibliographic sources in Islamic studies?

GAL : *Geschichte der arabischen Litteratur* / Carl Brockelmann. Zweite den supplementbänden angepasste Auflage (Leiden: Brill 1943-49) 5v
*Fihrist al-'ulum* or *Kitab al-fihrist al-nadim* / Muhammad ibn Ishaq al-Nadim (d.c. 990); published as *The Fihrist: a 10th century AD survey of Islamic culture* / Bayard Dodge (Great Books of the Islamic World 1998)

*Persian literature* / C.A. Storey (Luzac 1927) 5v
*Die Geschichtsschreiber der Osmanen* / Franz Babinger (Harrassowitz 1927)
*World survey of Islamic manuscripts* / Geoffrey Roper (Brill, 1991-94) 4v
*Encyclopedia of Arabic literature* / Meisami and Starkey (Routledge 1998) 2v
*Cambridge history of Arabic literature* / AFL Beeston (CUP 1983-92) 4v

*Islam : an historical introduction* / Gerhard Endress (2nd ed., Columbia UP 2004) Contains classified and annotated bibliography of the classic sources, in Ch. 9

I want a scholarly but readable introduction to Islam. What do you recommend?

Try subject-area analytical bibliographies
Or book reviews in journals, e.g :
    Muslim World (Hartford)
    Muslim World Book Review (Leicester)
Some reliable general introductions
    *Islam : faith and history* / Mahmoud Ayoub (Oneworld 2004)
    *A new introduction to Islam* / Daniel Brown (Blackwell 2004)

What is the difference between shari'a and fiqh?

EI2 index volumes: *Index of proper names, Index of subjects* (taxonomy), *Glossary and index of terms* (vocabulary); still incomplete

*Shorter encyclopedia of Islam* / Gibb & Kramers; articles from EI1

*Islamic desk reference* / van Donzel (Brill 1994)
*Oxford dictionary of Islam* / John Esposito (OUP 2003)

**Do Muslims exegete the Qur’an like we do the Bible?**


*Concordance of the Qur’an in English* / Hanna Kassis (UC Berkeley 1983)
*Encyclopaedia of the Qur’an* / Jane Dammen McAuliffe (Brill 2001-06) 6v
*Cambridge companion to the Qur’an* / JD McAuliffe (CUP 2006) Part IV, ch. 9
*Bibel und Koran : eine Synopse gemeinsamer Überlieferungen* / Johann-Dietrich Thyen (Böhlau 2000)

**Who are the Sunnis and Shi‘ites? Are they like Catholics and Protestants?**

*Oxford encyclopedia of the modern Islamic world* / John L. Esposito (OUP 1995) 4v

History resources:
- *Cambridge history of Islam* (CUP 1970) 2v
- *Cambridge illustrated history of the Islamic world* / Francis Robinson (CUP 1996) Rulers of the Islamic world chart, pp. 308-310
- *Muslim almanac* / Azim Nanji (Gale 1996)
- *Historical atlas of Islam* / Hugh Kennedy (Brill 2002)

Political Islam: countless current materials in English in any academic collection

**Who are the most important Islamic theologians and philosophers?**

*Dictionary of the Middle Ages* / Joseph R. Strayer (Scribner 1982-89) “Islam, Religion” by Gerhard Böwering

*Routledge encyclopedia of philosophy* / Edward Craig (Routledge, 1998)
*Encyclopedia of philosophy* / Donald M. Borchert (Macmillan 2006)
*Biographical encyclopedia of Islamic philosophy* / Oliver Leaman (Thoemmes 2006) 2v

**I’m leading a group on interfaith prayer and spirituality. What resources can I use for worship in Islam?**

Library catalogs (will include lots of DVDs and videos) according to LCSH:
- Religious life–Islam or Worship–Islam
- Prayer–Islam or God (Islam)–Worship and love
- Spirituality–Islam or Mysticism–Islam

Will lead you to works belonging to quality text or monograph series, such as:
- *Knowledge of God in classical Sufism* / John Renard (Classics of Western Spirituality series, Paulist Press 2004)
- *Historical dictionary of Sufism* / John Renard (Scarecrow 2005)
Other valuable monograph and text series:
- Handbuch der Orientalistik (Brill); e.g., Wolfgang Behn, *Concise biographical companion to Index Islamicus* (2004-06), 1. Abt, 76. Bd (3v)
- Great Books of Islamic Civilization – Centre for Muslim Contribution to Civilization in Qatar (Garnet)
- Islamic Translation Series – Brigham Young University (Univ of Chicago Press)
- Islamic Texts Society – Cambridge UK

Primary text collections and anthologies:
- *Windows on the house of Islam* / John Renard (UC Berkeley 1988)
- *A reader on Islam* / Arthur Jeffery (Mouton 1962)

I’m writing a paper on scholasticism, Thomas Aquinas and Muhammad al-Ghazzali; I need journal articles and books …

Index Islamicus
Abstracta islamica (in Revue des études islamiques) 1927-1994
ATLA-RDB
Iter (medieval & Renaissance studies, 400-1700 CE)
General scholarly indexes: Humanities Index, Philosopher’s Index, Historical Abstracts, Social Sciences Index, International Medieval Bibliography, etc.

Aren’t there any websites about Islam that are really legit?

ATLA Selected Religion Web Sites project (ATSRW) cataloged sites list
USC-MSA compendium of Islamic texts (http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA)
Kingdom of Jordan site for Qur’anic studies (http://www.altafseer.com)
University sites about ME studies
- Georgetown (http://www.library.georgetown.edu/guides/mideaststudies)
- Penn (SAS) Resources for K-12 teachers
  (http://mec.sas.upenn.edu/resources/teachers.html)
- Ali Houissa, Cornell
  Web guide (http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/mideast/islam.htm)
- Sachsen-Anhalt MENALIB web portal for ME studies
  (http://ssgdoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/vlib/html/index.html)
Sites evaluated by professionals, such as Librarian’s Internet Index, InfoMine, Intute (RDN), etc.

What’s the “best” translation of the Qur’an?
[or]
I want to use some readings from Islamic primary sources in teaching my class. They have to be in English translation. How do I find them?

*The literature of Islam: a guide to the primary sources in English translation* / Paula Youngman Skreslet and Rebecca Skreslet (Scarecrow 2006)

Special-purpose sources

The Islamic and Christian calendars: AD 622-2222 (AH 1-1650): a complete guide for
converting Christian and Islamic dates and dates of festivals / G.S.P. Freeman-Grenville (Garnet 1995)
Vergleichungs-Tabellen zur muslimischen und iranischen Zeitrechnung / Ferdinand Wüstenfeld (3rd ed., Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft 1961)
Encyclopaedia iranica / Ehsan Yarshater (Routledge & Kegan Paul 1982-)