Basic Collection of Bahá’í Faith Materials for Theological Libraries
The textual and online resources listed below are ones that I consider essential and/or highly representative of what is needed in a basic English-language collection on the Bahá’í Faith in a theological library. I have intentionally focused on the primary texts and on the most authoritative secondary literature by Bahá’ís. I have not included every single primary text, especially for Shoghi Effendi. Rather, I have confined the list to those most frequently referenced.

I list a few works by non-Bahá’ís who contribute specific insights. This list is not exhaustive and does not list books that attack or are highly critical of the faith.

Although many of the secondary works are academic, I have not focused solely on academic works. Under literature relating the Bahá’í Faith to Christianity, I have included a few of the most popular such books, because such literature will help those who are not Bahá’ís to understand the approaches Bahá’ís take when teaching their faith to Christians.

General sociological studies have been limited to the single best work on the subject, since theological libraries may have less interest in sociology.

Editions that are generally available have been selected, rather than first editions that may be difficult to obtain.

REFERENCE


SACRED TEXTS


By Bahá’u’lláh (1817–1892)


English friends. LCCN 2002027989.


All of the above works are currently available in the following one-volume collection:


By the Báb (1819–1850)


By ‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1844–1921)


These and some other works were published in a one-volume collection as:


---

**OTHER AUTHORITATIVE WRITINGS**

**By Shoghi Effendi**


**By the Universal House of Justice**


**Turning Point : Selected Messages of the Universal House of Justice and Supplementary Material,**
ANALYSES OF SACRED TEXTS


GENERAL, DOCTRINAL, THEOLOGICAL

Bahá’í International Community: http://www.bahai.org/
Bahá’í News: http://news.bahai.org/
Bahá’ís of the United States: http://www.bahai.us/
Bahá’ís of Canada: http://www.ca.bahai.org/index.en.cfm


SOCIOLICAL


Iran


**BIOGRAPHY**

*Bahá'u'lláh*


*The Báb*


*'Abdu'l-Bahá*


**Shoghi Effendi**


**Other biographies of prominent individuals**


**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RELIGIONS**


**Buddhism**


**Christianity**


**Hinduism**


**Islam**


---

**OTHER TOPICS**

**Apologetics**


**Covenant**


**Ethics**


**Marxism**


**Women**


**SERIALS AND JOURNALS**


*World Order*. v.1 no.1 (Fall 1966)-. Wilmette, IL: National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States, 1966-. LC card 64-18


Succeeded by a new series beginning with the volume for 1992-93.


Reprinted in 8 bound volumes.

---

**PROBLEMATIC WORKS**

If your library contains negative works by former Bahá’ís, those expelled from the community, or clerical opponents, you should balance them with some of the introductory works on the religion listed above; works by Moojan Momen, Peter Smith, and Nader Saiedi; one or both of the books listed under “Covenant”; and some of the works in the “Apologetics” and “Christianity” sections above.

---

**WORKS NOT IN ENGLISH**

There is a significant literature of original works in languages other than English. If your library collects in Arabic and Persian, please contact me an I will provide additional information and recommendations.
SOURCES FOR WORKS

Association for Bahá’í Studies: http://www.bahai-studies.ca

U.S. Bahá’í Distribution Service: http://www.bahaibookstore.com/

Canadian Bahá’í Distribution Service: http://www.bahaibooksonline.com/

Bahá’í Publishing: http://books.bahai.us

George Ronald: http://www.grbooks.com

Palabra Publications: http://palabrapublications.info/


For more information on any aspect of Bahá’í bibliography or collection building, contact:

William Collins
6819 Stoneybrooke Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

wpc09@hotmail.com