ARDA Tutorial

Finding Information about a Religious Group/Denomination

When we think of the religious landscape of the United States, we often think of something static that remains the same from one year to the next. An in-depth look, however, reveals that because of its large number of denominations and their propensities to change names, split, or even merge together, the religious landscape of the U.S. can be quite complicated.

In this tutorial we will review the denominational profiles section of the ARDA website and explore how to find information on individual denominations and how they vary across the United States and over time.

This tutorial will teach you how to accomplish the following:

1) **Getting a Denominational Profile**
   The denominational profile gives a brief history of the denomination and information on its divisions, mergers, and its yearly membership data.

2) **Viewing the State-by-State Distribution of Religious Denominations in the United States**
   The state-by-state distribution will give you a map of a denomination’s adherence rates by state and a table of the rates in the top five states.

3) **Viewing Membership Trends in Specific Denominations**
   The membership trends page will give you a look at the membership trends for a denomination, as well as trends for clergy and congregations.

4) **Comparing Members of Denominations**
   This comparison page will allow you to compare members’ demographics, religiosity, and attitudes for different denominations.

5) **Exploring Denominational Family Trees**
   The family trees will give you a snapshot look at when different denominations merged or split apart.
Getting a Denominational Profile

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: [www.theARDA.com](http://www.theARDA.com).
2) Move your mouse over “Religious Groups.”
3) A pop-up menu will appear under “Religious Groups.”
4) Click on “Group Profiles.”
5) Click the link for the religious group of the denomination in which you are interested (e.g., Methodist/Pietist).
6) On the next page, click the link for the denomination in which you are interested (e.g., United Methodist Church).

a. At the top of the screen will be a history of the denomination, detailing mergers and divisions.
b. Below this will be a text summary of the history of the denomination.
c. At the bottom of the page will be a table of membership data by year.
d. On the right is a link to the denomination’s home page.
Viewing the State-by-State Distribution of Religious Denominations in the United States

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: [www.theARDA.com](http://www.theARDA.com).
2) Move your mouse over “Religious Groups.”
3) A pop-up menu will appear under “Religious Groups.”
4) Click on “Group Profiles.”
5) Click the link for the religious group of the denomination in which you are interested.
6) On the next page, click the link for the denomination in which you are interested.
7) Locate and click on the grey tab marked “Distribution.”

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**a.** At the top of the page is a map of the United States, which is color-coded by rate of adherents for the selected denomination.

**b.** At the bottom of the map is a key describing the values assigned to the color codes.

**c.** At the bottom of the page is a table of the adherence rate for the top five states.
Viewing Membership Trends in Specific Denominations

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: [www.theARDA.com](http://www.theARDA.com).
2) Move your mouse over “Religious Groups.”
3) A pop-up menu will appear under “Religious Groups.”
4) Click on “Group Profiles.”
5) Click the link for the religious group of the denomination in which you are interested.
6) On the next page, click the link for the denomination in which you are interested.
7) Locate and click on the grey tab marked “Trends.”

- At the top of the page is a snapshot summary of the denomination’s membership trends.
- Below that are line graphs of the clergy, churches and membership by year.
- At the bottom of the page is a table of year by year data detailing the denomination’s number of clergy, churches, and members.
Comparing Members of Denominations

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: www.theARDA.com.
2) Move your mouse over “Religious Groups.”
3) A pop-up menu will appear under “Religious Groups.”
4) Click on “Group Profiles.”
5) Click the link for the religious group of the denomination in which you are interested.
6) On the next page, click the link for the denomination in which you are interested.
7) Locate and click on the grey tab marked “Member Profile.”
8) Select another denomination from the drop-down list to compare members’ demographics, religiosity, and attitudes.

- View tables of members’ demographics and attitudes.
- Scroll down to see tables about members’ religiosity.
- Select another denomination to compare members.
Exploring Denominational Family Trees

1) Go to the ARDA homepage: www.theARDA.com.
2) Move your mouse over “Religious Groups.”
3) A pop-up menu will appear under “Religious Groups.”
4) Click on “Religion Family Trees.”
5) Click the link for the religious family in which you are interested.

a. Use the timeline to see when different denominations split or merged.
b. Follow lines to find denominations splitting off from others.
c. Follow lines to find denominations merging with others.
d. Mouse-over denomination for basic information on the denomination.