

Special Projects Committee -- 2007 Annual Report

Chairman: Larry Geis

Members: Larry Watkins, Chick Montgomery, Barbara Newsom, Meredith Tenney, (vacancy)

The General Council of the Fellowship passed a resolution empowering the Executive Committee to propose amending the Constitution to eliminate this committee and establish a new standing committee that

"shall have general supervision of the content, structure, and appearance of the website sponsored and maintained by THE FELLOWSHIP. The committee shall also provide oversight to data base management and other information technology issues assigned to it by the Executive Committee."

The Executive Committee discussed this issue at length at our April meeting and, being unclear as to how such a volunteer committee might actually function, voted to table the issue. Instead, a previously constituted ad hoc IT committee was reactivated, expanded and charged to explore the myriad details of our website and database possibilities. That committee has issued a separate report and an extensive purpose statement.

In the meantime, over the last three months, this chairman spent considerable time exploring the electronic labyrinth with an eye toward accomplishing two major things:

Visit award-winning and notable websites of a similar genre. Look for examples of what we might use to improve our own site. In this vein, I recommend starting here: <http://www.topofeverything.com/index.php>
Experience the "face of the UB revelation" as it currently appears in this medium.

This work has only begun, but in the interim, this interesting data and these basic insights can be shared. The decentralized nature of the awareness of this revelation is mightily apparent. Many isolated and independent readers contribute significantly to this slowly growing phenomena. Here are some unscientific facts and impressions:

An independent individual has maintained for years a listing of Urantia-oriented websites. His subjective categorizes now include many hundreds of listings. See <http://ubwebsites.com/>
Lots of the listed sites feature links to a vast archive of papers, study aids, etc. resident on our website.

There are many readers who have met other readers only through the internet chat rooms. Few of them are in our database.

The most active sites are:

UBRON recorded its 100,000 posting recently. About 1300 members have valid addresses. About 200 of them read or post. Still the most active site, but the one-of-a-kind format is dated and can be unwieldy. At present, most of the cantankerous and unmannered posters have been exiled.

Jesusonian has over 600 members; Not that many post regularly. The message archive is available to anyone browsing. Some excellent discussions of Islam and Christian denominations, directly from individual experience. Larry Watkins of this committee is the overall administrator of this site.

The **UAI** chat list is now public. There are 240 listed members. It's message archive is also accessible to anyone.

Younger readers are emerging individually and in several study groups on **MySpace**. A search of that site returns over 1000 hits for "Urantia Book."

Amazon.com now has a search capacity that finds references in the text of many of the books it offers for sale..

"Urantia" returns over 200 citations. More than half cite passages not in our editions or secondary works.

Some recent search engine statistics	Urantia	U. Book
Google (see attached first page of listings)	443,000	229,000
Yahoo	436,000	244,000
Lycos	105,000	84,000

There is a slow, steady growth in our presence on the world-wide web. However, from analyzing our mailing list and that of the Foundation and UAI, I would guesstimate generously that there are fewer than 25,000 individuals worldwide who could be considered devoted students of this revelation. We are miniscule in a population of five to six billion. Yet because of this means of communication and data retrieval, we are as visible as any large institutional religion or philosophical movement.

Attachments: First page of listings from Google

Wikipedia - two sample pages from 17 page article

Google

urantia book

Search

Advanced Search Preferences

Web

Results 1 - 10 of about 436,000 for urantia. (0.10 seconds)

Welcome to the Official Urantia Foundation Website

An Introduction to The Urantia Book and Urantia Foundation.
www.urantia.org/ - 18k - Jul 5, 2007 - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

The Urantia Book - FRONTPIECE

This group of papers was sponsored by a commission of twelve Urantia Midwayers acting under the supervision of a Melchizedek revelatory director. ...
www.urantia.org/papers/ - 3k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

The Urantia Book - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Urantia Book is a spiritual and philosophical book that discusses God, science, religion, history, philosophy, and destiny. [1] Sometimes it is referred ...
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Urantia_Book - 97k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

} See sample pages attached

The Urantia Book Fellowship

Site offering the complete book available to read online. Includes references and resources, study groups, and topical index.
www.urantia.org/ - 8k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Religious Movements Homepage: Urantia

This Urantia Page is your gateway to accessing comprehensive web-based, as well as print, resources about the Urantians. As part of the New Religious ...
religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/uran.html - 14k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Urantia Book

History of the Brotherhood and discussion of the fallacies of the belief system.
skepdic.com/urantia.html - 17k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

A new picture of Jesus Christ: The Urantia Book

Jesus Christ in The Urantia Book. Questions + answers about God, Angels, life after death, eternal life, truth, love + beauty. Inspirational quotes.
www.truthbook.com/ - 8k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Identifying and Dealing with Cults: Urantia

Urantia book Urantia Society Urantia Foundation Urantia Fellowship Urantia Brotherhood meetings groups new age cult UFO extraterrestrials universes ancient ...
www.creationists.org/cults_urantia.html - 16k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

The Friends of The Urantia Revelation Website

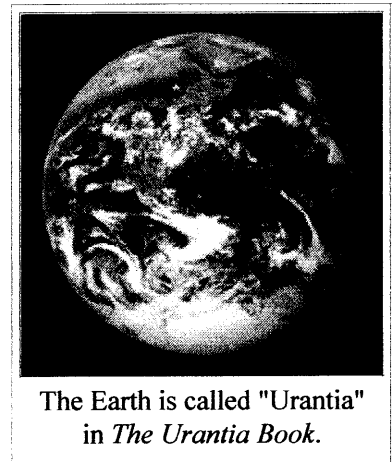
Dedicated to the exposure of the Urantia Foundation's errancy, and resisting the religious persecution of true believers of the Urantia Papers and authentic ...
www.freeurantia.org/ - 3k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

THE URANTIA BOOK

The Urantia Book is not a complete religion, like others described in this web site. 1,2 It does not have a clergy, a creed that one is required to believe ...
www.religioustolerance.org/urantia.htm - 62k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

The Urantia Book is a spiritual and philosophical book that discusses God, science, religion, history, philosophy, and destiny.^[1] Sometimes it is referred to as **The Urantia Papers**, the **Fifth Epochal Revelation**, or by the abbreviation of its title. The book originated in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. sometime between 1924 and 1955, but its authorship is considered to be a mystery. (See Mysterious origin.)

The authors of *The Urantia Book* state their intent is to "present enlarged concepts and advanced truth" in an "endeavor to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception". Among many other topics, it expands on the origin and meaning of life, describes humankind's place in the universe, discusses the relationship between God and people, and presents a detailed biography of Jesus. The book is 2,097 pages long, and consists of a Foreword and 196 papers, divided into four parts.



The Urantia Book introduces the word *Urantia* as the name of the planet Earth. "Urantian" is a derivation used to denote anyone or anything that originates on Earth. Colloquially, the word "Urantian" is sometimes used to denote an individual who admires and believes in the book, but this meaning is not found in the book itself.

The Urantia Foundation first published *The Urantia Book* in 1955 in English. Translations into numerous languages are available with several new translations in process. In 2001, Urantia Foundation lost the U.S. copyright to the English version in a court decision and it went into the public domain,^[2] and in 2006, the international copyright on the English text expired.^[3] Complete, searchable editions of *The Urantia Book* are available on the Internet, as well as free audio versions.

Contents

- 1 Overview of The Urantia Book
- 2 Teachings
 - 2.1 Nature of God
 - 2.2 God and the individual
 - 2.3 Cosmology
 - 2.4 History and future of the world
- 3 Comparisons to religious teachings
 - 3.1 Comparison to Christianity
 - 3.2 Comparison to Buddhism
 - 3.3 Comparison to other world religions
- 4 Consideration as literature
- 5 Mysterious origin
- 6 Critical views
 - 6.1 Claims as a revelation
 - 6.2 Science and The Urantia Book
 - 6.3 Plagiarism allegations
- 7 Adherents

14 pages
of detail

address and respond to the world situation of the early 20th century. Thus, every generation will have to determine the relevance and applicability of certain of the book's teachings to its own situation.

Emerging from all these discoveries is the gratifying realization that the *Urantia Book* is exactly what its authors claim it to be....

It should be noted that the wording and phraseology is not a verbatim replication, and no plagiarism has been proven officially. In some instances, the authors of *The Urantia Book* have made subtle changes to, or expansions of, the possible source materials.

Adherents

There is no way to gauge who "adherents" are as there are no groups to census. However, it appears that a growing number of people are reading the book and forming study groups, creating and joining Internet discussion groups, and hosting or visiting websites about it.^[5]

Many people find *The Urantia Book* to be attractive because it offers a reconciliation for the apparent discrepancies between modern science and religion. Others find it attractive because it offers new perspectives on philosophical and theological questions such as, for example, "the problem of evil".

The Urantia Book teaches friendliness, non-violence — while saying that organized society has a right to employ force to enforce just laws — and a life of unselfish ministry toward others. *The Urantia Book* neither advocates nor opposes organized religion.

Symbols

A symbol described in *The Urantia Book* consists of three concentric blue circles on a white background. The circles are said to have symbolized several trinity associations in the history of humankind. The authors of *The Urantia Book* indicate its revealed meaning as being "the infinity, eternity, and universality of the Paradise Trinity of divine maintenance and direction."



The original publisher, Urantia Foundation, placed the concentric circles on the cover of *The Urantia Book* and has a United States trademark. The circles are used to indicate other organizations affiliated with the Urantia Foundation.

The Urantia Association International, one of the main readership organizations in the movement, has been licensed by Urantia Foundation to use the three blue concentric circles on a white background.

Some other groups use the symbol in various altered forms.

The Urantia Book in popular culture

- German composer Karlheinz Stockhausen's massive opera cycle *Licht* is not "based on" the book (as sometimes is said), but does make reference to it in the first and third acts of *Donnerstag* (Thursday), and in the symbols associated with two of the three main characters, Michael and Lucifer.
- The American band Deadsy is influenced by *The Urantia Book*, and makes references to it in several songs.
- The album *Monolith*, by the American progressive rock group Kansas, was largely influenced by