

equipping oneself with another language (something that notoriously monolingual U.S. residents need to do anyway). It involves travel, intercultural experience, and the reward of friends and colleagues beyond one's shores. It is a great antidote to **xenophobia** and can add a completely new dimension to one's work, regardless of how early or late in one's life it takes place.

Of course, international study is expensive, often a factor for women. It need not last for long periods but must be long enough for solid exposure. Organizations and foundations offer grants for summer research, which can be used for international work. Universities and colleges sometimes have funds for just this purpose. Study can be combined with meetings and conferences abroad, and is best done in concert with international colleagues who handle logistics and form a natural community on-site. The point is to do as much international work as time, money, and interest allow. The world is only getting smaller.

Internet/World Wide Web

Perhaps the single biggest change in scholarship in the past decade is the widespread availability of access to the World Wide Web, or the Internet as we commonly call it. It is virtually impossible to do our work now without the Web: library resources are widely available, e-mail is the preferred mode of communication among us, up-to-the-minute information is on tap, and we are expected to have it readily available. There is a great downside to all this in that it widens the gap between those who have access and those who don't, an issue many people in religious studies have taken seriously in order to remedy it (see **Computers**).

Plan to increase your Web use over time. Consider a personal **Web page** so that people can access your work easily. Place your CV, publicity photo, course descriptions, and the like on it. Just know that it takes time to update it. Students are often more adept at this than faculty, so hire accordingly.