

News from Info-Cult

No. 36, October 2016

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Since its beginnings in 1980, Info-Cult has received more than **80,000** requests for assistance and information, of which **33,498** have been catalogued. A breakdown of the sources of the majority of these requests (**1980-2015**) is presented in the graph below.

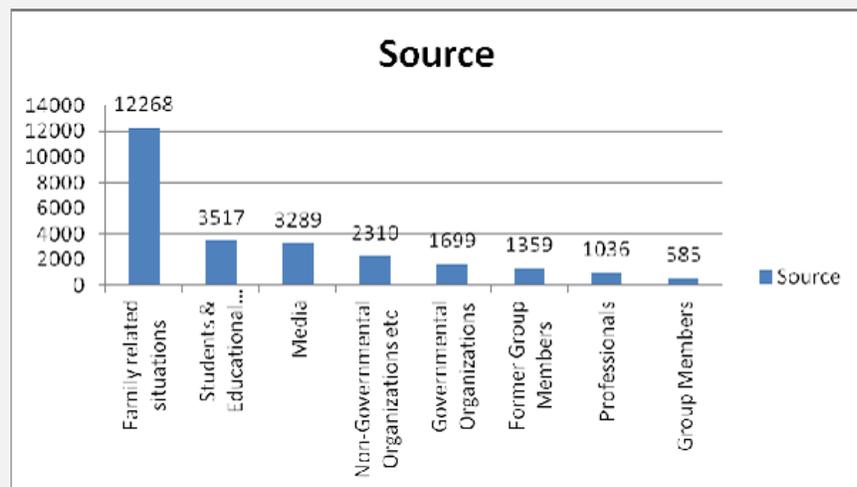


Figure 1. Sources of requests, 1980 - 2015

The requests come from a variety of sources including:

- Individuals and family concerned about a loved one involved in a group, and are struggling to understand the dramatic changes in behavior of the person, and the diminished or complete loss of contact.
- Individuals requesting information about a specific group or on the cult phenomenon.
- Students seeking information for a High School, CEGEP, or University projects or pursuing graduate research (i.e., Masters, Doctoral or Post-Doctoral).
- Teachers and school administrators needing information for a course or a specific issue in their school.
- Journalists and documentary filmmakers requesting an interview and/or information.
- Former group members who contact us because of their feelings of being alone and distressed by their inability to deal with life outside of the group. This is especially true for former members born or raised in "cults" and other high demand groups. These individuals are often referred to as Second Generation Adults – SGAs. In the past 10 years, there has been an increase in the number of SGAs contacting us.
- Professionals, business people, representatives from non-governmental organizations, or private and governmental institutions who are seeking assistance related to a specific client, case, or situation.
- Members of groups (religious and others) wanting to discuss concerns about their group involvement or to provide us with information about their organization.

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Info-Cult Statistics: 1980-2016

(continued from Page 1)

Info-Cult received calls regarding **4,061** different groups and subjects. The groups include those that are well known internationally with hundreds or even thousands of members, to very small local organizations with a handful of participants. Subjects vary from Satanism, Wicca and Angels to cultic relationships, extremism and radicalization, among others. The 10 most requested groups and subjects are shown in this graph.

Groups / Subjects 1980-2015

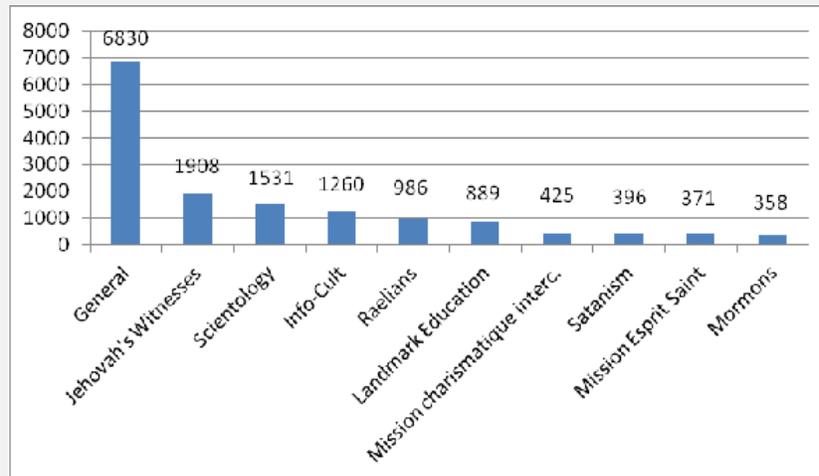


Figure 2. Groups/Subjects

NOTE: The requests under the heading 'general' refer to calls regarding general information about the cult phenomenon, or in many cases, specific family situations, where the name of the group or leader is unknown to the caller. The inclusion of a group in the graph and below does not imply that it is a 'cult' or that it is dangerous.

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Education

2017 Annual International ICSA Conference, Bordeaux, France June 29-July 1 (Pre-Conference workshops June 28th).

The [International Cultic Studies Association](http://www.icsahome.com) (ICSA) is conducting its 2017 Annual International Conference with [Info-Secte/Info-Cult](http://www.info-secte.com) of Montreal and Société Française de Recherche et d'Analyse de l'Emprise Mentale (SFRAEM).

The 2017 theme will be: **Cultic Dynamics and Radicalization**

Call for Papers: <http://www.icsahome.com/events/callforpapers>

Deadline: October 31, 2016

Info-Cult Statistics: 1980-2016

The lists below provide a snapshot, of three decades and the last six years of the 10 most requested groups or subjects, including the number of requests. Certain groups or subjects appear throughout, while others have changed. There are several reasons to explain this. Firstly, some of the new and marginal groups are more present in Quebec from which we get the most requests, thereby generating more interest or concern. Secondly, specific events or tragedies generate increased media scrutiny and subsequent public interest. For example, Satanism was a hot topic in the 80s and 90s as a result of numerous newspaper stories, books and TV programs on that subject. As well, since their beginnings, the Raelians have been the focus of countless media stories and exposes, including worldwide media coverage of their claims of having cloned a human being. Following these false claims, the media has been less willing to give the Raelians the publicity it seems to crave. Finally, some groups have ceased to exist over the years, or have changed the ways in which they operate, thus attracting less attention and public interest.

10 Most Requested Subjects/Groups by Decades

1980-1990

- General (1,997)
- Church of Scientology (360)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (225)
- est [The Forum – Landmark Education] (173)
- Unification Church (134)
- Hare Krishna [ISKCON] (85)
- Satanism (82)
- Transcendental Meditation [TM] (51)
- Worldwide Church of God [WWCOG] (48)
- Rajneesh (44)

1990- 2000

- General (3,453)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (1,185)
- Church of Scientology (860)
- Info-Secte (760)
- Raelians (676)
- Satanism (274)
- Eglise Vie et Reveil (274)
- est [The Forum - Landmark Education] (247)
- Mormons (240)
- Rosicrucians (235)

2000-2010

- General (1,116)
- Info-Secte (393)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (388)
- est [The Forum - Landmark Education] (276)
- Raelians (262)
- Church of Scientology (224)
- Mission de l'Esprit Saint (124)
- Eglise Vie et Reveil (93)
- Eckankar (75)
- Mormons (74)

2010-2016 (7 years)

- General (298)
- Jehovah's Witnesses (132)
- Info-Secte (113)
- Church of Scientology (51)
- est [The Forum - Landmark Education] (44)
- Lev Tahor (38)
- Mission de l'Esprit Saint (37)
- Marcel Pontbriand (32)
- 2012 - End of the world (18)
- Apostles of Infinite Love (16)

For more information see our annual reports: <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-finan.html>

Education

Talks, media and conferences of Info-Cult staff and members

Info-cult staff and members are often invited to speak or are involved in organizing conferences. Here are some recent past events:

- Kropveld, M. (2016). [Info-Cult at 35 : Observations, Insights, and Lessons Learned](#), ICSA Today, Volume 7, No 2. pp. 10 -14
- *Sur les traces de ces sectes qui se cachent au Canada* (<http://www.rcinet.ca/fr/2016/08/02/sur-les-traces-des-sectes-qui-se-cachent-au-canada/>) Radio Canada International, By Stéphane Parent, Tuesday August 2, 2016

Info-Cult is mentioned as the best reference in Canada on contemporary cults : « *Un auditeur nous demande de lui faire un portrait de la présence des sectes au Canada. À ce chapitre, la meilleure référence au pays demeure [Info-Secte](#), qui débat en français et en anglais du visage contemporain des sectes en sol canadien.* »

- Dianne Casoni – Congrès international de l'ICSA (International Cultic Studies Association) 2016 - *Identity and the Cultic Experience: About Changes, Transformations and Consolidation* (Dallas, Texas)

Info-Cult's Web Site

Different pages on our website are updated on an ongoing basis and a number of documents and programs are available in their entirety. For example:

Governmental Reports

This page <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-gov.html> provides a range of government studies and reports, legal decisions and other documents from 19 countries and the Council of Europe.

Publications and Documents by Info-Cult and Colleagues

Recent additions are available in their entirety at:

<http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ICPubs.html>

Bookmark our site: www.infocult.org and keep up to date

Library

The combined list which includes the library acquisitions since 1999 can be found here: <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-selacq.html>.

If you would like to know about the rest of our collection (journals, newsletters, file, videos, etc...) please contact us. Additional information on these acquisitions can be found on our web site at: www.infosecte.org See: Info-Cult's Library Collection.



Info-Cult on Facebook

Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/InfoCult.InfoSecte>



Info-Cult on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/InfoCult.InfoSecte)

Info-Cult E-mail Information Lists (English and French)

Info-Cult's **free email service** offers subscribers: articles on cults, new religious movements and related subjects, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult. For more information about this service:

http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/Options_EN.html



Info-Cult's videos can



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Online at:



<https://www.canadahelps.org/services/wa/dnm/en/#/page/16231>

Or by:



Go to www.infocult.org and click on **DONATE NOW**

Or by mail to
Info-Cult at: 5655 Park Ave, Suite 208, Montreal, QC, Canada H2V 4H2.

Donations to Info-Cult are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.