Religion and scientific literacy in the United States
Scientific literacy or Science literacy encompasses written, numerical, and digital literacy as they pertain to understanding science, its methodology, observations, and theories. Scientific literacy is chiefly concerned with an understanding of the scientific method, units and methods of measurement, empiricism and understanding of statistics in particular correlations and qualitative versus quantitative observations and aggregate statistics, as well as a basic understanding of core scientific fields. The National Bureau of Economic Research published a data series overviewing the history of education in the United States leading up to the 20th and 21st centuries, stating that “formal education, especially basic literacy, is essential for a well-functioning democracy, and enhances citizenship and community.” In the 19th century, literacy rates amongst the United States population were relatively high despite the decentralized educational system. Though there has been a notable increase in American science and religion have been butting heads since the days of Copernicus and Galileo, and it seems especially true in American politics. The conservative right tends to be more religious, while the liberal left tends to embrace science. However, said University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee sociologist Timothy O’Brien, there’s a third group out there – a portion of the American population that is both religious and scientifically literate. More information: A Nation Divided: Science, Religion, and Public Opinion in the United States: srd.sagepub.com/content/2/2378 ... 651876.full.pdf+html. Provided by: University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.