

Solution to Axiom of Choice

(Puzzle by Yannick Yao)

Answer: NORMAL

Solving several of the crossword-like clues reveal that the words all contains the substring OR in the middle, which confirms the flavortext hinted by the title and the big OR between the two sets of clues. Using this as an assistance to finish the rest of the clues gives the following list:

Where things are kept (7)	ST OR AGE	OR	Distance cross force (6)	T OR QUE
Muslim scriptures without Q (5)	K OR AN		A tale to tell (5)	ST OR Y
There are 29 at PEA (4)	D OR M		Not for vegetarians or Jews (4)	P OR K
Plants in a region (5)	FL OR A		Adjective related to thermal energy (7)	CAL OR IC
Unit for pressure (4)	T OR R		The center of PEA (5)	AG OR A
No longer than diameter (5)	CH OR D		A title of nobility (4)	L OR D

The title also hints at making choices, which, combined with the OR substrings within each word, tells us to make a choice between each word (STORAGE mean ST or AGE, for example). The goal here is to make the choices such that the chosen parts become a valid word. The chosen parts are bolded in the list above, and it spells STANDARD on the left, TYPICAL on the right.

Now, given the big (6) at the bottom, we should consider the whole puzzle as a single crossword clue: Standard or typical (6), which gives the final answer NORMAL, another word that contains the substring OR.