Biographical Resources

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

To find information about a person’s life (biography) you need to know the following:
- living or dead?
- approximate birth/death dates
- nationality
- gender
- profession

If the person is famous enough, much of this information can be found in basic encyclopedias.

Note: When you search for a person’s name, use “last name, first name” when you search by subject, but enter “first name last name” when you search by keyword. By adding “and biography” to your keyword search, you will find available biographical materials on that person.

Example: “Kate Chopin and biography”

GENERAL RESOURCES

Biography Index (1946 to present) Index Table 2B
Indexes books and magazine or journal articles covering biography.

Biography Resource Center
Electronic resource that provides full-text information in 250,000 biographies for 185,000 individuals, both current and historical. Includes full-text articles from 250 periodicals and Marquis Who’s Who. Available on Watson Library’s unified workstations.

Current Biography (1940 to present) CT 100 C8 REF
Contains biographical articles on famous people. Each article ends with a list of additional resources.
RESOURCES ON FAMOUS AMERICANS

American National Biography (24 vols.)
CT 213 A68 1999 REF

Dictionary of American Biography (DAB)
E 176.D 5632 REF

Who’s Who Among African Americans
E 185.96 W52 REF

Who Was Who in America 1607 to present
E 663 W54 REF

Who’s Who in America
E 663 W56 REF

NON-AMERICAN FAMOUS PEOPLE

Dictionary of National Biography (DNB—British biographies) DA 28 D42 REF

Penguin International Dictionary of Contemporary Biography: From 1900 to the Present CT 103 V39 2001 REF

RESOURCES BY GENDER

Northeastern Dictionary of Women’s Biography CT 3202 N67 1999 REF

Notable Black American Men E 185.86 N68 1999 REF

Notable Black American Women E 185.96 N68 1992 REF

Webster’s Dictionary of American Women HQ 1412 W433 1996 REF

Who’s Who of American Women E 176 W647 REF

RESOURCES BY PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION

American Men and Women of Science Q 141 A474 REF


American Nursing: A Biographical Dictionary RT 34 A44 1988 REF

Baker’s Biographical Dictionary of Musicians ML 105 B16 1992 REF

Biographical Dictionary of Modern American Educators LA 2311 O55 1997 REF

Cambridge Dictionary of Scientists Q141 C128 2002 REF

Columbia Dictionary of Political Biography D 108 C65 1991 REF

Contemporary Authors PN 771 C6 REF

Directory of American Scholars LA 2311 C32 REF

Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Athletes GV697 A1 M355 2001 REF