

FINDING BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

UNIVERSAL SOURCES

(places to begin when you don't know much about the person.
These sources cover all people without regard to nationality, gender,
occupation, or historical period.)

Biography Who's Who refdesk.com - alphabetically arranged and annotated list of forty-five well chosen biographical webpages. Just a part of the refdesk.com web effort, an award winning commercial enterprise by Bob Drudge. Be sure to check out the rest of refdesk

<http://www.refdesk.com/factbiog.html>

Biography.com – This commercial site covers more than 25,000 famous persons, living and dead, from antiquity to the present, and all nationalities. Searches by keyword in any order (e.g. Shatner, William or William Shatner); also has an alphabetical index. Generally, provides brief overview of the person's life; sometimes lengthier treatment for current entertainers. Published by A&E entertainment, a division of the Hearst media companies.

<http://www.biography.com/search/index.html>

Infoplease Biographies - a project of the Information Please Company which also publishes printed almanacs, dictionaries, and the Columbia Encyclopedia. Very comprehensive list of living and dead persons from all times and places. Fuller, more detailed information than most other sites. Includes a pronunciation guide to the person's name. Keywords will search but exact name searches (first name last name) match best. Claims 30,000 listings.

<http://www.infoplease.com/biosearch.html>

Biographical Dictionary

Brief data on (a claimed) 28,000 persons, living and dead. Advanced search features include Boolean, truncation, phrase search – you can also search by profession.

<http://www.s9.com/biography/>

Lives, the Biography Resource “the largest guide to biography sites on the Web” (they claim) links (mostly annotated) to webpages of individual and collective biography. Does contain links to primary biographical source material such as images, diaries, memoirs, correspondence, interviews, oral histories, etc.; does not contain links to short dictionary entries, fan biographies of sports stars or entertainers. Not searchable but does have alphabetical indexing. **Dead persons from all times and places. Living persons are excluded!**

<http://www.amillionlives.com/>

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SPECIALIZED SOURCES

(places to look for particular kinds of people such as women, musicians, artists, etc.)

Who's Alive and Who's Dead

Dedicated to answering the question posed in the title of the webpage. Brief data; also gives ages of those still living, and their birth dates. Claims 1,885 entries.

<http://www.whosaliveandwhosdead.com/>

Distinguished Women of Past and Present

Another page that is the commercial effort of a single individual and provides links to biographies of women of all times and places, living and dead. Access via either an alphabetical index of names or an alphabetical list of subjects (i.e. professions such as space exploration and aviation)

<http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/>

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774 to Present.

Biographical information for all individuals who have served in the United States Congress and the Continental Congress. Biographies are also included for persons who have served as delegates to Congress from the territories of the United States. This is a definite enhancement of the print version of the same name, with pictures (selectively), material from other sources, and updated through the current Congress. Using the drop-down lists, you can create useful lists, for example, a list of all U.S. Senators from Washington State.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/>

Classical Composers' Archive

Very comprehensive and easy to use. Provides an alphabetical index by composer name as well as access by genre (e.g. opera) or nationality. Length of entries varies from very short to several paragraphs and features a picture of the composer.

<http://voyager.physics.unlv.edu/webpages2/picgalr2.html>

AskArt

<http://askart.com/interest/topwomen.asp>

Covers 24,000 North American Artists in depth including, among other information, a biography and an image gallery of the artist's work. Searchable by first name or first-last combination; also provides an alphabetical index and access via categories such as "California Artists" or "Notable Women".

