



Library-Media Services

<http://www.everettcc.edu/library/>

Searching Contemporary Authors

Contemporary Authors is a literary database that provides full-text information about the lives and works of twentieth and twenty-first-century authors. It includes over 120,000 people worldwide, some of whom are primarily famous for achievements other than writing. These authors produce fiction (both literature and popular fiction), non-fiction, poetry, drama, movie and television screenplays, journalism, children’s works, and more.

Contemporary Authors is accessible through the library website’s databases page:
<http://www.everettcc.edu/depts/library/databases.htm>
Off-campus will need to enter their Student Identification Number before accessing Contemporary Authors.

Basic Search Tips

It is not necessary to fill in all the boxes below. You can search one field or multiple fields.

The screenshot shows the search interface for Contemporary Authors. It includes a title "Contemporary Authors" in red, followed by several input fields: "Author Name", "Title of Work", "Birth Year", "Death Year", "Nationality" (with a pull-down menu showing "None"), "Subject/Genre" (with a pull-down menu showing "None"), and "Full Text". At the bottom are "Search" and "Clear Form" buttons. Annotations with arrows point to the Author Name, Title of Work, Birth Year, Death Year, Nationality, Subject/Genre, and Full Text fields, providing instructions on how to use them.

Enter a few keywords in these fields. Order of the words and capitalization are not important. For authors, enter pseudonyms or actual names.

Enter a date or a range of dates (i.e. 1965 or 1980-1989) in these fields.

Use the pull-down menus to select an author’s nationality or genre. Some authors do not have these fields in their biographies and will not appear in your search results.

Searches for the keywords you enter anywhere in the author’s biography.

Not shown above are additional boxes that allow you to search by birth place, death place, personal info, career, honors and awards, and media adaptations. For more tips on searching these boxes, click on the Help button in Contemporary Authors.

Advanced Search Tips

For greater control of your searches, use the search features (including Boolean operators) below to search within any field (i.e. author name, title of work, etc.).

Feature	Sample Search	Searches For
AND	sleep AND dreams	profiles with both the words <i>sleep</i> and <i>dreams</i> anywhere in the field being searched
OR	alcohol OR drugs	profiles with either the word <i>alcohol</i> or the word <i>drugs</i> anywhere in the field being searched
NOT	dragons NOT dungeons	profiles with the word <i>dragons</i> but not the word <i>dungeons</i> anywhere in the field being searched
W#	friends W3 enemies	profiles with the word <i>enemies</i> coming within 3 words after the word <i>friends</i> anywhere in the field being searched
N#	friends N3 enemies	profiles with the words <i>friends</i> and <i>enemies</i> in any order within 3 words of each other anywhere in the field being searched
“ “	“time travel”	profiles with the phrase <i>time travel</i> anywhere in the field being searched
?	wom?n	profiles with the words <i>woman</i> or <i>women</i> anywhere in the field being searched; the ? represents one character and can be used within a word or at the end of a word
*	poet*	profiles with <i>poet</i> , <i>poets</i> , <i>poetry</i> , <i>poetic</i> , <i>poetical</i> , or other words beginning with the letters <i>poet</i> anywhere in the field being searched; the * represents any number of characters and can only be used at the end of a word
()	(apples OR bananas OR fruit*) AND (infant* OR baby OR babies OR toddler*)	profiles with the at least one of the words <i>apples</i> , <i>bananas</i> , <i>fruit</i> , <i>fruits</i> , or <i>fruity</i> and at least one of the words <i>infant</i> , <i>infants</i> , <i>baby</i> , <i>babies</i> , <i>toddler</i> , or <i>toddlers</i> anywhere in the field being searched; the () are used to clarify how you want a complicated search statement to run

For more tips on advanced searching, click on the Search Tips button on the Contemporary Authors search page or contact an EvCC Reference Librarian at (425) 388-9354 or library@everettcc.edu