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Finding Biographical Information

(All titles with call numbers are located in the reference collection.)

UNIVERSAL SOURCES

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

CT
103
.W4 **Webster's Biographical Dictionary** & **Webster's New Biographical Dictionary**
brief data on 30,000 persons from the dawn of history to the near present.

CT
103
.C4 **Chamber's Biographical Dictionary**
A British publication similar in purpose and scope to Webster's.

General Encyclopedias such as the **World Book**

General Almanacs such as **World Almanac and Book of Facts 2005**

II. CURRENT SOURCES

(that is, places to look for living people or those recently deceased.)

CT
100
.C8 **Current Biography** 1940 – present. Detailed bios of world VIPs including contact information and a photo. A separate volume provides a cumulative name index 1940-1995; annual volumes cumulate indexing for their decade of publication and feature an index by profession.

III. NATIONAL SOURCES

(that is, places to look for people of a particular nationality)

E
176
.W642 **Who's Who in America**
Living American VIPs – provides brief directory information such as place and date of birth, parents, spouse, children, schooling, profession, accomplishments, etc.

E
176
.D563 **Dictionary of American Biography** (a.k.a. DAB)
Monumental scholarly work compiled and published over a long period of time by the most eminent historians of U.S. history.

DA
28
.D57 **Dictionary of National Biography (British)**
Similar to the DAB but British.

E
176
.A68 **American National Biography**
Similar to the DAB but much more recent.

For assistance please consult a reference librarian

IV. SPECIALIZED SOURCES

(that is, places to look for particular kinds of people such as women, blacks, authors, scientists, etc.)

Z

1224
.C62

Contemporary Authors Vast! Over 115,000 persons profiled. Contemporary, here, means active in the twentieth century and would include, for example, Mark Twain (listed as Clemens, Samuel Langhorne) as well as Shel Silverstein. Author is very broadly defined to include people not often thought of primarily as authors such as Pope John-Paul II and Hillary Clinton. Includes U.S. and international authors. The cumulative index takes some practice to use. Ask for help. Also, available as a database via the LMC web page at: <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/menu>

CT
North
3202
.C66

Continuum Dictionary of Women's Biography emphasis on important women in America and Europe during the past 200 years. Index by profession.

ML
musicians.
105
.B16

Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians short treatment of all types of

Q
141
.D5

Dictionary of Scientific Biography – In depth, scholarly biographies of VIP scientists.

PS
129
.A55

American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies
Lengthy, in depth, biographies and literary criticism of important American writers.

QA
history.
28
.N66

Notable Mathematicians Lengthy biographies of 303 mathematicians throughout

V. INDEXES

(that is, tools to identify sources of biographical information. Indexes usually do not provide information directly.)

Library
Computers
& via Internet

Proquest - search like this: na(J.K. Rowling) where na designates a personal name field search (more precise hence more effective than searching all fields in the record) and J.K. Rowling is the person about whom we seek information. <http://www.evcc.ctc.edu/depts/library/databases.htm>

Library
Computers
& via Internet

New York Times Index - provides access to the biographical information in one of the world's most prestigious newspapers from 1851 to the present. <http://www.evcc.ctc.edu/depts/library/databases.htm>

CT
210. B5

Biography Index Locates biographies in books and periodicals.

CT
214
.A2

Abridged Biography and Genealogy Master Index - an index to over 2,150,000 biographical sketches in 260 different biographical reference sources.

For assistance please consult a reference librarian