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

ML
105  Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians  short treatment of all types of musicians.

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

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

QA
28  Notable Mathematicians  Lengthy biographies of 303 mathematicians throughout history.

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  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