

LOCATING BIOGRAPHIES

A. BOOK-LENGTH BIOGRAPHIES

To find book-length biographies, do a subject search in the online catalog (WILO) using the name of the individual.

example: jefferson thomas

Note that the sub-heading "Biography" is listed under many personal name subject headings.

Sometimes individual biographies are shelved in the 92 section of the library and sometimes in the appropriate subject section.

example: Biographies of Thomas Jefferson can be found in 92 J454 and in the 970's (U.S. History)

Books containing collections of biographies can be located in the online catalog (WILO) by doing a subject search with a collective subject heading such as MATHEMATICIANS or a keyword search with the individual's name.

Collective biographies are either shelved in the 920's or in the appropriate subject sections, such as 510's (Mathematics) or 780's (Music).

B. BIOGRAPHICAL INDEXES

Almanac of Famous People

Ref. Desk 920 AL6

Gives brief biographical information on more than 27,000 historical and contemporary people with references to further information.

C. MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

General encyclopedias such as **World Book**, **Encyclopaedia Britannica**, etc.
Ref. 030--

American Decades

Ref. 973.9 Am3d

(Available electronically in *History Resource Center: US*). Covers people in the news and headline makers for each decade. Helpful for placing a person in the context of his/her time.

American National Biography

Ref. 920.073 Am3n

Gives biographical information on more than 6,100 historical and contemporary people with references to further information.

Current Biography Yearbook

Ref. 920 C93c

(Also available electronically in *Biography Reference Bank*). Biographical sketches of persons of various nationalities and occupations who are currently prominent in their particular fields. Includes portraits and references to further information. Obituaries are included. Coverage is 1940-present.

Encyclopedia of World Biography

Ref. 920 En1w-2

7,000 articles discussing the lives of men and women of the world, living and dead, whose achievements are important to social and cultural history. Includes illustrations and references to further reading.

Dictionary of National Biography

Ref. 920 D56d

Dictionary of American Biography

Ref. 920.07 D55d

Scholarly articles on *dead*, noteworthy inhabitants of the British Isles and its colonies for the **DNB** and the United States for the **DAB**.

Newsmakers

Ref. 920 N47

Articles covering people and groups (i.e. music) in many fields that make the news. It includes an obituary section. The library receives an annual cumulative volume.

Who's Who in America

Ref. 920.07 W62

Gives brief biographical information on noteworthy Americans, often including the address of the biographee. Admission to Who's Who is based on position of responsibility held and/or significant achievement attained in a career.

D. SPECIALIZED BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

American Indian Biographies

Ref. 920.0092 Am35i 2005

Includes 391 essays on past and present leaders, authors, activists, etc. Appendices include maps of tribal areas, tribal affiliations and a timeline.

Asian American Novelists

Ref. 813.54 As42

Includes biographical sketches of 70 American and Canadian authors with a bibliography of their works and brief critical analysis.

Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians

Ref. 780.92 B17b 2001

Thousands of classical, popular, rock and jazz musicians including musical groups, i.e. The Beatles.

Biographical Encyclopedia of Scientists

Ref. 509.2 B52e

Encyclopedia of over 472 figures in the history of scientific investigation from medical researcher Maude Abbott to inventor Vladimir Zworykin.

Black Women in America—2nd Edition

Ref. Desk 305.48 B561w-2

Over 300 hundred biographical essays are included along with topical essays such as: Jim Crow Era.

Dictionary of Literary Biography

Ref. 928 D56

A biographical guide to writers of a particular period, topic and genre of literature.

Dictionary of Missouri Biography

Ref. 920.0778 D561

Biographies of those who were native or had special significance to the state. Subject index included.

Making it in America: a Sourcebook on Eminent Ethnic Americans

Ref. 920.073 M289

Features over 400 successful ethnic Americans and includes lists by ethnicity and occupation.

Latino and African American Athletes Today

Ref 796.092 L349

Biographies of 174 famed athletes since 1975. Lists individuals by sports, heritage and gender.

Notable African American Writers

Ref. 810.9896 N843

Biographies and analyses of 80 fiction and nonfiction writers from Colonial America to the present.

Penguin Lives Series

Quality biographies of individuals that run approximately 200 pages. Includes:

Buddha (294.363 Ar5b)

Charles Dickens (823 D55zs)

Dante (851 D23zL)

George Herbert Walker Bush (92 B9633w)

Herman Melville (813 M49zh)

James Joyce (823 J85zo)

Joan of Arc (92 J57go)

Leonardo da Vinci (92 L55n)

Mao Zedong (92 M32sp)

Marcel Proust (843 P94zw)

Marlon Brando (92 B7344bo)

Martin Luther (92 L97ma)

Martin Luther King, Jr. (92 K58f)

Mozart (92 M89g)

Pope John XXIII (92 J6131c)

Robert E. Lee (92 L51b)

Rosa Parks (92 P235b)

Saint Augustine (92 Au45w)

Saint Therese of Lisieux (92 T3435h)

Simone Weil (92 W492g)

Virginia Woolf (823 W88zn)

Winston Churchill (92 C49k)

Woodrow Wilson (92 W69au)

E. ELECTRONIC SOURCES

African-American History Online

American Indian History Online

American Women's History Online

Search by name, subject, occupation or time era.

Biography Reference Bank

Covers antiquity to the present. (Includes *Current Biography*).

Facts.com

Obituaries from 1980-present.

History Resource Center: US

Prominent Americans or others who influenced American history.

Literature Resource Center

Articles on authors of fiction and nonfiction. Includes *Contemporary Authors*.

F. OTHER SOURCES

Obituaries: Particularly from the New York Times; Use the New York Times online or in print.

The Reference Librarians! Summer 2007 rp