

Library Instruction 2 Lesson C

Biographical Sources

Biographical sources provide information about or summaries of people's lives. In Greek, *bios* means life and *graphien* means to write. There are a variety of biographical sources in the Hartnell College Library. In this lesson, you will use some basic biographical sources. In addition to using the specific sources listed for this lesson, you will learn how to find other biographical sources in this library. You can search the online catalogs of other libraries in this region individually, or as a group (see the [California Libraries Catalog](#) link on the Hartnell Library's home page). You will also learn how to use other online resources.

Students look for information about people for some of the following reasons:

- To identify a name for spelling and/or pronunciation
- To learn about the person's life
- To analyze a person's work or writing as a contribution to literature, to a particular field of study, profession, or the world in general.

Some resources contain short biographical entries while others contain lengthy in-depth articles.

Biographical materials can be a mixture of all of the above. Often, information is included in a particular biographical source by:

- Notoriety – reason for a person's fame or celebrity
- Time – people alive now, in the past, sometimes both
- Nationality, gender, ethnicity, profession, geography, or other special characteristic.

General Biographical Resources

Chambers Biographical Dictionary REF CT 103 .C4 1998

This is a single volume containing short biographical sketches of over 17,500 individuals living and dead from around the world. If you don't know much about the person, this is perhaps the first place to begin looking for information.

Encyclopedia of World Biography REF CT 103 .E56 1998

This is a multi-volume set of biographical sketches of almost 7,000 individuals from around the world whose fame has stood the test of time. Includes portraits, maps and illustrations. Articles also include bibliographies.

Special Biographical Resources

These sources contain information on people in a certain field, or of a certain ethnicity, race, gender, etc. Once you know the nationality, time period, or profession of the individual, you can look in a specialized biographical source.

American Women in Science

REF Q 141 .B25 1994

This reference book contains concise biographies of 400 American women scientists who began their careers prior to 1950.

California Biographical Dictionary

REF CT 225 .C35 1994

This book covers the lives of “people of all times and places who have been important to the history and life of the state.”

Concise Dictionary of Scientific Biography

REF Q 141 .C55 2000

This is a one-volume source.

Contemporary Authors

REF PN 771 .C6

Contemporary Authors [New Revision Series] REF PN 771.C63

This is a multi-volume set that has had two revisions. There is a cumulative index that is helpful in finding the edition and volume needed. It contains information on over 100,000 writers working in a wide range of media – fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television and other fields. (also online in GaleNet – see below)

Current Biography

REF CT 100 .C8

Located on the index tables in the Reference Area. This multi-volume index provides unbiased, well-documented biographical sketches of contemporary leaders in fields from politics to the entertainment industry. The library has 1940 to current.

Dictionary of American Biography (DAB)

REF E 176 .D56

This 20 plus volume set contains biographies of famous people in the USA. People in this set are included only after they have died.

Dictionary of Scientific Biography

REF Q 141 .D5 1981

This is a multi-volume set that is unusual in that it contains two volumes in each book. The focus of this set is the professional lives of scientists worldwide.

Great African-American Women

REF E 185.96 .L95 2000

This book contains 100 biographies of women who “inspire and provide role models for today’s young people.”

International Biographical Dictionary of Computer Pioneers

REF QA 76.2 .A2 L44 1995

A single volume work arranged in alphabetical order with an index. Most articles include a bibliography and significant publications.

New Century Cyclopedia of Names

REF PE 1625 .C43 1954

This three-volume set contains information about proper names in English.

New Dictionary of Scientific Biography

REF Q141 .N45 2008

An eight-volume set updating the original Dictionary of Scientific Biography (see above).

Notable Latino Americans

REF E 184 .S75 M435 1997

This work includes U.S. men and women of Latin descent who have made significant contributions to the American way of life.

Online Sources (access from the Library's web page www.hartnell.edu/library/):

Hartnell Online Catalog lists all the books and media in Hartnell College Library. If you know of a particular title, subject or name of an individual, you can search for materials in the library.

EBSCOhost MasterFile Premier and Academic Search Premier provide full text magazine articles for over 6,200 periodicals. You can search for biographical articles in magazines.

GaleNet Databases provide biographical sketches and criticism of authors and their works.

California Libraries Catalog allows you to search the holdings of all California libraries, or limit your search to libraries in the Monterey Bay area. You can search for books, videos, and other items by author, title, subject, or keyword. Use the link on the Hartnell Library's home page, or go to: <http://www.calcat.org/>.

The Internet has sites that might also be useful. One of the best sites is:

Librarians' Index to the Internet (<http://lii.org/>) - They have over 20,000 entries, maintained by librarians and organized into 14 main topics and nearly 300 related topics.

PLEASE DO NOT MARK IN BOOKS

Assignment for Library 2, Lesson C

Student Name _____

Chambers Biographical Dictionary REF CT103 .C4 1997

1. According to the Preface of the book, Chambers “has become more critical and _____, attempting to offer a _____ assessment of a person’s _____ and lasting _____”

2. What is Stevie Wonder’s real name? _____
What caused his blindness?

4. From which school did Robin Williams take acting classes? _____

5. Which musical comedy by Irving Berlin fictionalized Annie Oakley’s life?

Encyclopedia of World Biography REF CT 103 .E56 1998

Use the Index (volume 17) to find the entry for Muammar Gaddafi.

9. Which volume _____ and page numbers _____ have information on Gaddafi?

10. What is Gaddafi’s full name? _____

11. What is Muammar Al-Gaddafi’s theory of government called?

12. On what is his theory based? _____

13. Find the entry on Anne Frank. When did she die? _____

14. What was the cause of Anne Frank’s death? _____

15. How were Anne and the others in hiding found?

16. Who, of the people in hiding with Anne, survived the concentration

camps? _____

17. According to the section called "How to use the Index," what are the two purposes this index is designed to serve? _____

18. Choose someone that interests you. Look them up in the index. What is the person's name? _____
What are their birth & death dates? _____
To you, what is the most interesting thing about them? _____

American National Biography REF CT 213 .A68 1999

19. Go to the Indexes in volume 24. There are **5** different indexes. Three of them are "Index by Contributor," "Index by Birthplace inside the United States," and "Index by Birthplace Outside the United States." What are the remaining **two** indexes?
_____ and

20. Does the index refer you to page numbers? _____

21. Go to the Index by Occupations and Realms of Renown. Is there a list of Librarians? _____
Is Pancho Villa listed under Revolutionaries? _____

22. Go to the article on Pancho Villa. What is Pancho Villa's real name?

23. How did Villa get his name? _____

24. Before the revolution of 1910, what occupations did Villa have? _____

25. Are the biographical articles signed? _____

26. Do the articles have a bibliography? _____

27. Find the article about Young Man Afraid of His Horse. Where was he born? _____

28. Who did Young Man Afraid of His Horse rescue? _____

29. Why did he do this? _____

Great African-American Women REF E 185.96 L95 2000

30. Go to the index and look up aviation. Go to the section on the astronaut program. Who is the first black woman astronaut? _____

31. What career did she have before astronaut? _____

32. What was her assignment on the space shuttle Endeavor? _____

Notable Latino Americans REF E 184 .S75 M435 1997

33. Who is Luis Valdez?

34. What is the title of one play he produces in San Juan Bautista?

35. What time of the year are these plays performed in San Juan Bautista?

Use the Hartnell College Library Online Catalog for the next five questions. To find biographical information, choose *subject heading* search. Type the last name first of an individual in the search bar.

36. Search the online catalog for information about Pelé. What is the title of the book? _____

37. What is one of the "LC Subjects" of this book?

38. Look for a biography on Harriet Tubman. How many items do we have about her?

39. What is the title of the book? _____

40. Where in the library is this book located? _____

Search the EBSCOHost MasterFile Premier and/or Academic Search Premier periodical database.

41. Look for information on Luis Valdez. Write the bibliographic citation for one full text article about him.

Click on Galenet databases. Search the Literature Resource Center for Luis Valdez.
42. Look at the articles about Valdez. Which article do you like best and why?

43. What year did Valdez graduate from San Jose State? _____

Use the Librarians' Index to the Internet (<http://lii.org/>) for the next two questions.

44. Type "Albert Einstein" in the "Search bar." How many sites are in the search results list? _____

45. What is one site in the list which has information about his life and works? (Give the name of the Website and the Internet address).

Go to www.biography.com. Look up Harriet Tubman.

46. What was Harriet Tubman's original given name? _____

47. How did she finance the freedom of her family?

Comments

What do you like or find helpful about this lesson? _____

Is there anything unclear or confusing about the lesson? _____

Other comments _____
