



## Research Guide: Biography

This research guide is a bibliography listing some of the many reference sources for Biography available at FLITE. These materials are designed to give students and researchers a starting point for a particular topic and will usually point the way toward other, more in-depth sources relating to that topic.

### General Sources

**American National Biography [24 vols.]:** With approximately 17,450 entries ranging in length from 750 to 7,500 words, the ANB offers fairly comprehensive biographical coverage of Americans (and non-citizens) who impacted American life in such spheres as politics, entertainment, sports, science, education, and literature.

**Located in Reference: CT 213 .A68 1999**

**The Biographical Dictionary of Scientists [2<sup>nd</sup> ed.]:** Providing a wide-range of biographical information for scientists in many fields and throughout history, this source contains about 1,200 entries.

**Located in Reference: Q 141 .B526 1994**

**Biography Index:** This source, published annually beginning in 1946, indexes journal articles and books which contain biographical material.

**Located in Reference Indexes: CT 120 .B56**

**Also available in online database from 1984 – present; with some articles full-text, for access: <http://library.ferris.edu/alphabetical.html>**

**Contemporary Authors:** This set contains biographical sketches and lists of writings for over 100,000 published authors. Separate index volumes cumulatively cover the different series.

**Located in Reference: 200+ vols. [First Revision, vols. 1 – 44]: PN 451 .C6**

**New Revision, 100+ vols.: PN 451 .C62**

**Autobiography Series, 30+ vols.: PN 453 .C63**

**Contemporary Black Biography [30+ vols.]:** Beginning in 1992, several volumes of this series have been published every year. Each volume stands on its own, offering an alphabetically-arranged group of subjects. A cumulative index is found at the end of each volume. Coverage is international in scope. Please note that some entries have been updated in later volumes.

**Located in Reference: E 185.96 .C66**

**Current Biography Yearbook:** The Yearbooks contain bound versions of the monthly issues of Current Biography. FLITE owns 1940 – present (except 1982). A separate volume indexes 1940 – 1995. Subjects are drawn from a variety of fields.

**Located in Reference: CT 100 .C8**

**The Dictionary of Art [34 vols.]:** This set is a comprehensive reference source covering the world of art; many biographical entries for artists are included.

**Located in Reference: N 31 .D5 1996**

**The Dictionary of National Biography [63 vols. + several supplements]:** A classic of its kind, this source features biographical articles on prominent British subjects. The original 63 volumes were published between 1885 – 1900, and the various supplements cover the years 1901 – 1985.

**Located in Reference: DA 28 .D48**

**Dictionary of Scientific Biography [18 vols.]:** This set includes scientists of all fields from all time periods. Please note that an individual had to have been deceased prior to 1970 in order to appear in this source. Volume 16 is an Index, and volumes 17 and 18 contain supplementary material, mainly including scientists who died between 1970 and 1981.

**Located in Reference: Q 141 .D5**

**The Film Encyclopedia, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.:** This monumental one-volume work by the late Ephraim Katz contains thousands of biographical entries for actors, directors, and all key personnel who have enriched the cinema throughout its over 100-year history.

**Located in Reference: PN 1993.45 .K34 1998**

**Great Lives From History:** Encompassing three five-volume series; American, Renaissance to 1900, and Twentieth Century; this set prints about 1,500 biographical entries on important persons in government, politics, science, and the arts. Each entry includes a bibliography listing full-length biographical sources.

**Located in Reference: American – CT 214 .G74 1984, Renaissance to 1900 – CT 104 .G68 1989, Twentieth Century – CT 120 .G69 1990**

**Jewish Women in America [2 vols.]:** This set contains over 800 biographical entries and 110 topical essays relating to the contributions of Jewish women in all aspects of American life. Generally, biographical entries are for deceased subjects and if living, over 60 years of age.

**Located in Reference: DS 115.2 .J49 1997**

**The National Cyclopedia of American Biography [75 vols.]:** Comprising over 66,500 entries, the volumes in this source, published between 1891 and 1984, include entries for prominent Americans in such field as politics, business, medicine, law, and entertainment. The “permanent” series is numbered 1 – 63 (in all but the last volume, only persons who were deceased at time of publication are included) and the “current” series (persons were alive at time of publication) is labeled A – L. Please note that use of the separate Index volume is essential as entries do not appear in alphabetical order.

**Located in Reference: E 176 .N27**

**Notable Asian Americans:** This source includes information on approximately 250 prominent Asian- and Pacific Islander- Americans, both living and deceased.

**Located in Reference: E 184 .O6 N67 1995**

**Something About the Author [125+ vols.]:** Containing biographical and bibliographic information on authors and illustrators of books for young people, over 125 volumes of this series have been produced, roughly four a year, since 1971. Every other volume contains a cumulative index. Please note that some entries have been updated in later volumes.

**Located in Reference: PN 451 .S6**

**Who’s Who in Modern History:** Concise biographical entries, which contain brief bibliographies, cover subjects who have significantly impacted the fields of government and politics since 1860.

**Located in Reference: CT 168 .P34 2002**

**Women in World History: A Biographical Encyclopedia [10 vols.]:** Augmented by 90 genealogical charts, this source contains over 10,000 articles on women who have influenced world history.

**Located in Reference: HQ 1115. W6**

## Internet Resources

For Biography Sources on the Internet see <http://www.ferris.edu/library/VirtualRefDesk/biographies.html>