



Biography: A Guide to Selected Resources

The following is a guide to selected biographical resources available in the Owen Library or through electronic access. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Please consult a Reference Librarian for advice about the best information resources and search strategy for your specific topic.

Indexes

Biography and Genealogy Master Index

Available online through PITT*Cat*

General Biographical Resources

American National Biography

Reference CT213.A68 1999

Available online through PITT*Cat*

Multi-volume set intended as successor to the Dictionary of American Biography. Includes over 17,000 entries on men and women who made significant contributions to life in the United States and who died prior to 1996.

The Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography

Reference CT213.C36 1995

Coverage includes deceased and living Americans, providing personal and professional information. It includes coverage of some lesser-known individuals.

Chambers Biographical Dictionary 8th ed.

Available online through PITT*Cat*

Current Biography

Reference CT100.C8

This biography series provides longer biographies for contemporary individuals and includes detailed discussions of their life, work, and achievements. A photograph usually accompanies entries. Each volume contains an obituary section.

Dictionary of American Biography

Reference E176.D56 1964

This is an eleven volume set considered the most authoritative source for biographical information about deceased Americans. It is updated by supplements.

Dictionary of National Biography

Reference DA28.D47 suppl

This titles provides biographical information for notable individuals in the United Kingdom and America. It is considered the standard resource for historical British biography. The revised edition is available via Pitt*Cat* as Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

International Who's Who

Reference CT120.I5 2004

Available online through PITT*Cat*

Coverage includes international heads of state, politicians, religious leaders and ambassadors, as well as leaders in business, finance, technology, film, music, fashion, sport, literature and the performing arts.

White's Conspectus of American Biography

Reference E176 W588 1972

This large biographical encyclopedia provides the most comprehensive source of information for biographical information on Americans living from the late 19th century to time of compilation.

Who's Who in America

Reference E176.W642

Also available online through PITT*Cat*

This is the standard biographical dictionary of living Americans. It provides brief biographical information.

Who Was Who in America

Reference E176.W64

This is the standard biographical dictionary of deceased Americans who have made a significant contribution to American life. It provides brief biographical information.

Specialized Resources

American Men and Women of Science

Reference Q141.A474

Also available online through PITT*Cat*

Coverage includes more than 100,000 living scientists from the United States and Canada.

Biographical Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Philosophers

Reference B804.B52 1996

Also available online through PITT*Cat*

This title provides brief biographical entries on philosophers of twentieth-century.

Black Women in America

Reference E185.86 B542 2005

This resource contains more than 600 entries describing the lives of prominent African American women. The majority of the entries are biographical; organizations, movements, and the place of black women in the arts, literature, and various professions are also thoroughly discussed.

The Cambridge Dictionary of Scientists

Reference Q141.C128 2002

Covers 1300 scientists (including more than 70 pioneering female scientists) focusing on the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, geology, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, meteorology, and technology. Also includes a chronology of science, an index to Nobel Prize winners, and a detailed subject index.

Dictionary of American Negro Biography

Reference E185.96 D53 1982

Provides biographical information on African Americans of historical significance who died prior to 1970.

Dictionary of Scientific Biography

Reference Q141.D5 1981

Multi-volume set provides international and historical coverage of scientists from all time periods. Volume 15 includes biographies and topical essays. Volumes 17 and 18 extend the coverage into the 20th century.

Founders of Modern Nations: A Biographical Dictionary

Reference D226.7 H36 1995

This resource provides biographical information on leaders in existing nations. It also includes brief country profiles, chronology and a bibliography of sources.

Notable American Women 1607-1950

Reference CT3260.N57

Also available online through PITT*Cat*

Provides historical biographical coverage for women deceased prior to 1950 that made significant contributions.

Notable American Women: Completing the 20th Century Reference CT3260.N5735 2004
Available online through PITT*Cat*
Brings the project up-to-date covering women who died between 1976 and 1999.

Notable American Women: the Modern Period Reference CT3260.N573
Available online through PITT*Cat*
Provides coverage for women who died between 1951 and 1975.

Notable Mathematicians from Ancient Times to the Present Reference QA28.N66 1998

Notable Native Americans Reference E89.N67 1995
Provides biographical information on Native Americans throughout history with an emphasis on contemporary individuals. A good subject index provides access to battles, treaties, and organizations.

World Philosophers and Their Works Reference B104.W67 2000
This three volume set examines 226 of the greatest world philosophers of all time. Written with the needs of students and general readers in mind, the chapters present clear introductory discussions of the philosophers and their works.

Internet Resources

African American Women Writers of the 19th Century http://digital.nypl.org/schomburg/writers_aa19/
Collection is searchable by author, title, and genre. Includes authors of fiction, poetry, biography, autobiography and essays.

American Presidents: Life Portraits <http://www.americanpresidents.org>
Produced by C-SPAN to complement their television series American Presidents: Life Portraits. Biographical content is brief, but resources for additional information are listed.

Authors & Illustrators on the Web <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authorsmisc.html>
Good resource for biographical information on children's authors and illustrators.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774 to Present <http://bioguide.congress.gov>
Provides biographical information on all individuals who have served in the United States Congress and Continental Congress. Includes images of many and references for additional information. Updated through current Congress.

Biography.com <http://www.biography.com>
Provides brief biographical information on more than 20,000 individuals, living and dead. Searchable by name of individual. Information from Cambridge Encyclopedia Database and the Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography.

Black History: Biographies www.gale.com/free_resources/bhm/bio/index.htm
This resource contains biographies of famous African Americans. Information includes extensive biographical sketches, hypertext links that allow for cross-referencing amongst related individuals, and a short list of further resources to consult.

Inventors Hall of Fame

<http://www.invent.org>

Information on hundreds of inventions and inventors, including biographies and pictures.
Searchable site.

National First Ladies Library

<http://www.firstladies.org>

Provides a biography of each first lady. Also provides a list of print materials for discovering more information on each woman.

The-artists.org

<http://www.the-artists.org>

Features an extended database of 20th Century and contemporary visual artists. Artists are represented with their portrait, dates and places of birth and death, images of their work, links to other web resources and, if it exists, the artist's personal website.