



PATHFINDER: BIOGRAPHIES

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

To find biographies in encyclopedias, check to see if there is an encyclopedia article under the name of the person and, also, check the encyclopedia's index under the name of the person.

You might want to start with the World Book Encyclopedia (R/031/W927)
Try, also, the Encyclopedia of World Biography (R/920.02/E56)

REFERENCE BOOKS

Here are some examples of reference works that include biographical information. (In some cases, you will need to check an index for a reference work to locate which volumes of the work have useful biographical information. A few of these works have more than one index. Please check with a reference librarian if you are uncertain which index to use.) You may also want to check other books in the areas by these books.

Actors and Actresses (R/791.4303/I61ac)

American National Biography (R/920.073/A512na)

Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians (R/780.922/B168)

Biographical Dictionary of American Sports (R/796.0922/B615)

Biographical Dictionary of Artists (R/709.22/B615)

Contemporary Authors (R/809/C761a) and Contemporary Authors New Revision Series (R/809/C761an)

Contemporary Musicians (R/780.922/C761)

Current Biography (R/920.00904/C976ye; R/920.00905/C976ye)

Dictionary of American Biography (R/920.073/D554)

Dictionary of Scientific Biography (R/509.22/D554)

Grolier Library of North American Biographies (R/920/G875)

The Oxford History of African Americans Biographical Supplement (R/973.0496/Y68fr)

Notable American Women (R/920.720973/N899)

Notable Black American Women (R/920.72/N899)

Sports Stars (R/796.0922/S764fo)

Who's Who in America (R/920.073/W628wh)

Women in World History (R/920.72/W872)

World Film Directors (R/791.430233/W927)

Other Pathfinders

Check pathfinders about:

Composers

Exploration (for information about where to find biographies of explorers)

History of Math (for information about where to find biographies about mathematicians)

Presidents, Vice Presidents, and First Ladies

Saints

Scientists (This will include information about where to find biographies about mathematicians, also)

To Find Addresses:

To find addresses where you can reach famous people, you may want to try:

VIP Address Book (R/920.0025/V811)

Who's Who in America (R/920.073/W628wh)

To Find Pictures of Famous People:

Many books in the Biography sections of the library (both in the Youth Services and in the Adult/Young Adult areas) will include pictures of famous people. Many biographical works in the reference sections of the library also include pictures. (In some cases, you may have to check an index for a reference work to decide which volumes of the reference work have useful information. If you see more than one index and are uncertain which one to use, please check with a reference librarian.) The following sources may be especially useful:

American Historical Images on File: The Faces of America (R/920.073/F137)

Current Biography (R/920.00904/C976ye; R/920.00905/C976ye)

Encyclopedia of World Biography (R/920.02/E56)

Grolier Library of International Biographies (R/920/G875in)

The Portrait File

PERIODICAL INDEX

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature UNDER: the name of the person

FULL TEXT

In Gale Virtual Reference Library UNDER: name of the person

In MasterFILE Premier (some full text) UNDER: the name of the person

In WilsonSelectPlus UNDER: the name of the person

INTERNET RESOURCE

<http://www.biography.com>

BOOKS

Online Catalog: Check UNDER the name of the person (In many cases, you will see that the location of books are in “Biography” or in “J/Biography.” “J/Biography” indicates the biography is in the Youth Services department. “Biography” without the “J” indicates the biography is in the Adult/Young Adult area.)

You may also want to browse in the two **Biography** sections under the name of the person. (In most cases, biographies will be under a person’s last name. However, a few famous people are often referred to by names other than their last names. Sometimes, their biographies will be under those names. For example, you can look under “Teresa, Mother” to find biographies about her, under “Diana, Princess” to find biographies about her, and under “John Paul II, Pope” to find biographies about him.)

Sometimes, biographies about groups of people are in the 920s. A reference librarian can help you decide whether any of these biographies may be useful to you. Sometimes, biographies about groups of people are located in other areas of the library, also, and a reference librarian can help you decide whether any of these biographies might be useful to you.

To Find Autobiographies:

Online Catalog: Check under the name of the person (using an Author search) to see if the person has written an autobiography

You may also want to browse in the Adult/Young Adult Biography section under the name of the person. Browsing in this way will lead you to the correct subject area. Then, you can check authors of the books in that area to see if any are written by the person.

(If a book you are interested in is checked out, one of the reference librarians can put it on hold for you.)

NOTE

This pathfinder was prepared to assist you in locating materials. If you have any questions or require assistance, please ask a Librarian for help.

Niles Public Library District
6960 Oakton
Niles, Illinois 60714
(847) 663-1234

Reference Services: (847) 663-6603 or (847) 663-6604
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