

Schenectady County Community College  
Begley Library and Instructional Technology Center

## HOW TO FIND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### I. SEARCHING THE ONLINE CATALOG

Search the library's online catalog to find the title and location of materials in the library. The link to the catalog is available from the library web site <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library>. Select **Find Books** and **Find Books in This Library**. Type your keywords in the **Basic Keyword Search** text box and select **Subject** as the field to search. Examples of some subject entries that appear in our catalog are listed below.

African Americans Politicians Biography  
Autobiography Women Authors  
Hughes Langston Biography  
Jordan Michael Biography  
Physicists Biography

Authors American 20<sup>th</sup> Century Biography  
Jazz Musicians Biography  
Ellington Duke Biography  
Music Bio-bibliography  
Autism Biography

### II. CIRCULATING BOOKS

Books that may be checked out with the call numbers PS-Z are on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor behind the Reference Collection. The books with the call numbers A-PR are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Some titles include:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Call Number</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>Barbara Jordan : American hero</i>	E840.8.J62 R63 1998	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Hank Aaron and the Home Run that Changed America</i>	GV865.A25 S83 2004	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Body of Truth: D.H. Lawrence, the Nomadic Years</i>	PR6023.A93 Z587 2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>The Beatles: The True Beginnings</i>	ML421.B4 B53 2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston</i>	PS3515.U789 Z63 2003	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
<i>J.R.R Tolkien: A Biography</i>	PR6039.O32 Z6616 2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>I May not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	E185.97.K5 D97 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Bruce Springsteen's America</i>	ML420.S77 C65 2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler</i>	DD247.H5 G49 2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony</i>	HQ1412 .W36 1999	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Mendelssohn: A Life in Music</i>	ML410.M5 T63 2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Jack Kerouac: An Illustrated Biography</i>	PS3521.E735 Z848 1999	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
<i>Jelly's Blues: The Life, Music, and Redemption of Jelly Roll Morton</i>	ML410.M82 R45 2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>The Natural: The Misunderstood Presidency of Bill Clinton</i>	E886 .K64 2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>That Man: An Insider's Portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt</i>	E807 .J36 2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Hillary Rodham Clinton: A First Lady for Our Time</i>	E887.C55 R33 1993	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>The Carter Presidency, and Beyond</i>	E872 .S55 1980	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Hard Drive: Bill Gates and the Making of the Microsoft Empire</i>	HD9696.C62 G3378 1992	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Benjamin Franklin</i>	E302.6.F8 M86 2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Her Life</i>	PS3523.I516 Z69 1999	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
<i>The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler</i>	DD247.H5 G49 2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<i>Einstein: The Life and Times</i>	QC16.E5 C48 1971	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
<i>Charles Darwin: A New Life</i>	QH31.D2 B742 1991	1 <sup>st</sup> floor

### III. REFERENCE BOOKS

The Reference Collection of the library is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor beyond the Reference Desk. Some titles include:

#### **International Biography**

REF CT 100.C8 1940-	<i>Current Biography Yearbook</i>
REF CT 103.C4 1990	<i>Cambridge Biographical Dictionary</i>
REF CT 103.C45 1997	<i>Chambers Biographical Dictionary</i>
REF CT 103.H3 1993	<i>The Harper-Collins Dictionary of Biography</i>
REF CT 103.M27 1973	<i>The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Biography</i>
REF CT 120.I5 1980-1981	<i>International Who's Who</i>
REF CT 120.W5 1987-88	<i>Who's Who in the World</i>

#### **United States and Canada**

REF CT 213.A68 1999	<i>American National Biography</i>
REF CT 213.D563 1964-1990	<i>Dictionary of American Biography</i>
REF CT 213.E53 1996	<i>Encyclopedia of American Biography</i>
REF CT 251.N46 1996	<i>New York Biographical Dictionary</i>
REF CT 3202.C66 1989	<i>The Continuum Dictionary of Women's Biography</i>
REF CT 3260.N57 1971	<i>Notable American Women, 1607-1950</i>
REF CT 3260.N573 1980	<i>Notable American Women: The Modern Period</i>
REF E 176.W642 1999	<i>Who's Who in America</i>
REF E 176.W643 1985-86	<i>Who's Who in the East (and Eastern Canada)</i>
REF E 176.W64 1963-1985	<i>Who Was Who in America</i>
REF E 185.96 W52 1998-1999	<i>Who's Who Among African Americans</i>

#### **Specific Biographies**

REF E 176.A513 2000	<i>American Political Leaders</i>
REF E 184.S75.M435 1997	<i>Notable Latino Americans: A Biographical Dictionary</i>
REF GV 697.A1.F37	<i>African American Sports Greats: A Biographical Dictionary</i>
REF HQ 75.2 .G39 1997	<i>Gay and Lesbian Biography</i>
REF HV 7911.A1 1996	<i>Cops, Crooks and Criminologists</i>
REF ML 102.R6.H5 1996	<i>The Rock Who's Who</i>
REF N40.S78 1997	<i>St. James Guide to Black Artists</i>

#### **Biography of Authors – General**

REF PN 451.M36 1997	<i>Cyclopedia of World Authors</i>
REF PN 451.W673	<i>World Authors</i>
REF PN 452.A88 1978	<i>Author Biographies Master Index</i>
REF PN 761 .N5	<i>Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism</i>

#### **Biography of Authors – Contemporary/Twentieth Century**

REF PN 94.T83 1978-	<i>Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism</i>
REF PN 451.I8 1982	<i>International Authors and Writers Who's Who</i>
REF PN 771.C59 1973	<i>Contemporary Literary Criticism</i>
REF PN 771.K86 1955	<i>Twentieth-Century Authors</i>
REF PN 841.V36 1995	<i>The Schomburg Center Guide to Black Literature</i>
REF PS 1.W73 2001	<i>The Writers' Directory</i>
REF PS 151.C67 1998	<i>Contemporary Women Poets</i>
REF Z 1224.C6 1962	<i>Contemporary Authors</i>

#### **Biography of Authors – United States, Canada, Great Britain, Europe, Africa**

REF CT 213.W6 1976	<i>Who Was Who Among North American Authors</i>
REF PL 8010.H38 1973	<i>African Authors: A Companion to Black African Writing</i>
REF PN 451.K8 1967	<i>European Authors, 1000-1900</i>
REF PN 451.W5 1978	<i>Who Was Who Among English &amp; European Authors, 1931-1949</i>
REF PR 85.B688 1979-1997	<i>British Writers</i>
REF PR 105.K9 1952	<i>British Authors Before 1800</i>
REF PR 451.K8 1936	<i>British Authors of the Nineteenth Century</i>
REF PR 9205.A52.T893 1996	<i>Twentieth Century Caribbean and Black African Writers</i>

REF PS 129.A55 1974-1996	<i>American Writers</i>
REF PS 147.A4 1982	<i>American Women Writers</i>
REF PS 149.A54 1999	<i>American Women Prose Writers to 1820</i>
REF PS 153.I52.N39 1997	<i>Native American Writers of the United States</i>
REF PS 153.N5.A344	<i>African American Writers</i>
REF PS 153.N5.096 1997	<i>Oxford Companion to African-American Literature</i>
REF PS 153.M4.C484 1992	<i>Chicano Writers</i>
REF PS 490.A45 1987	<i>American Writers for Children Since 1960</i>

#### IV. ELECTRONIC DATABASES

Electronic databases may be used to find biographical information. These databases are available online at the Begley Library web site: <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library/>. Select the link **Find Articles**.

##### Literature Resource Center

Provides access to biographical, bibliographical, and critical analysis of authors and their works.

##### Encyclopedia of World Biography

Features biographies of notable historic and current figures from around the world. Select these links in order to access the encyclopedia. This title may be found in the *Gale Virtual Reference Library* electronic database. Select the category *Biography*.

##### General

Some other general electronic databases that contain full-text articles like **Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)** and the **New York Times Full Text Archive** may also contain biographical information on the person you are researching.

#### V. INTERNET

The web sites listed below were found by accessing IPL: The Internet Public Library at <http://www.ipl.org/> and the Librarians' Index to the Internet web site at <http://www.iii.org/>. These sites have been evaluated by librarians for their usefulness.

##### General

<http://www.biography.com/>

Over 25,000 brief biographies.

<http://www.biographi.ca/>

Dictionary of Canadian Biography

<http://www.bartleby.com/65/a0.html>

*The Columbia Encyclopedia* online includes 17,000 brief biographical sketches. Entries are classified under 140 categories; for example, Ancient History, Greece.

<http://www.infoplease.com/people.html>

*Information Please Almanac* online.

<http://www.achievement.org/>

Profiles the achievements of those who have influenced or shaped the world. Includes photographs and interviews.

##### Nobel Peace Prize

[www.nobelprize.org/search/all\\_laureates\\_c.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/search/all_laureates_c.html)

Lists of Nobel Peace Prize winners with links to biographical information.

##### Art

<http://www.artnet.com/library/index.asp>

Over 16,000 artists biographies, many from *The Grove Dictionary of Art*.

##### Sports

<http://www.hwwilson.com/currentbio/cbonline.html>

Short biographies of athletes in sports.

## **African Americans**

<http://www.afgen.com/pioneer.html>

Biographical sketches of African American pioneers.

[http://www.gale.com/free\\_resources/bhm/bio/index.htm](http://www.gale.com/free_resources/bhm/bio/index.htm)

Biographies of famous African Americans

<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/>

Profiles of black mathematicians, computer scientists, and physicists.

<http://webfiles.uci.edu/mcbrown/display/faces.html>

Biographical information on African American men and women who have contributed to the advancement of science and engineering."

<http://www.bridgew.edu/HOBA/gallery.cfm>

Includes biographical information and photographs of inductees in the Hall of Black Achievement.

## **Women**

<http://www.greatwomen.org/home.php>

Biographies of women in the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.

<http://www.jwa.org/exhibits/wov/>

An exhibit of 16 distinguished American Jewish women, from Bella Abzug to Gertrude Weil.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/congresswomen/index.asp>

Biographies of Congresswomen. Searchable alphabetically, chronologically, or by state.

<http://www.law.stanford.edu/library/wlhbp/>

Biographies of pioneering women lawyers.

<http://school.discovery.com/schooladventures/womenofthecentury/>

Notable American women of the 20th century, including activists and reformers, politics and government, arts and media, space and science. Includes categories by decades.

<http://www.digital.library.upenn.edu/women/>

Celebration of Women Writers. Provides links to biographies and bibliographies.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/index.html>

First Ladies of the United States of America

<http://www.firstladies.org/index.htm>

The National First Ladies' Library is a national archive devoted to educating people about the contributions of First Ladies. Information includes bibliographies and timelines.

<http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/4000WS.html>

Biographies of women inventors, scholars, writers, mathematicians, and astronomers

<http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm>

Biographies of women mathematicians

<http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/4000WS.html>

4000 Years of Women in Science

[http://www.//search.eb.com/women/ind\\_articles.html](http://www.//search.eb.com/women/ind_articles.html)

Encyclopedia Britannica's guide to 300 women in history who changed the world

<http://www.DistinguishedWomen.com/>

Biographies of women who contributed to our culture: writers, educators, scientists, heads of state, politicians, civil rights crusaders, artists, entertainers and others.

[http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/siforwomen/top\\_100/1/](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/siforwomen/top_100/1/)

Sports Illustrated for Women provides biographies of 100 great athletes.

<http://www.makeithappen.com/wis/>

Biographies of female athletes indexed by sport and by name.

## **Politics and Government**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/>

Presidents of the United States of America.

<http://www.roman-emperors.org/>

Encyclopedia of the rulers of Rome

<http://rulers.org/>

Lists of heads of state and heads of government

<http://www.worldstatesmen.org/>

Names and timelines of rulers, politicians, and statesmen.

<http://politicalgraveyard.com/>

Locations of final resting places for United States Presidents, Congressmen, Cabinet members, federal judges and other national and local political figures.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/>

Brief biographies of all members of the United States Congress since 1774.

<http://www.oyez.org/oyez/portlet/justices/>

Listings of all the Supreme Court Justices with links to biographies.

#### **Literature**

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/litlinks/>

Within the genres of fiction, poetry, essays, drama, and critical theory are lists of authors, each with a short list of annotated links to Web sites followed by a brief biography.

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

Over 1000 links to biographical and literary criticism web sites.

<http://www.americanwriters.org/>

Brief biographies and critical reviews of works of American writers who have been highlighted on C-SPAN.

#### **Music**

<http://w3.rz-berlin.mpg.de/cmp/Welcome.html>

Biographical information about composers (with portraits and short sound examples).

<http://www.essentialsofmusic.com/>

Includes brief biographies and works of nearly 70 composers.

<http://www.allmusic.com/>

Brief biographies of composers and performers.

<http://www.classical.net/music/mstrindx.html>

Biographical information about composers. Includes lists of compositions.

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/dw3/SPT--BrowseResources.php?ParentId=178>

Comprehensive web site that includes links to biographies of composers.

<http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/>

Profiles of jazz musicians.

#### **Religion**

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12272b.htm>

Biographies of all the popes in the Roman Catholic Church from 32 AD to the present.

#### **Science & Mathematics**

<http://scienceworld.wolfram.com/biography/>

Includes extensive encyclopedias of astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and scientific biographies.

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/information/biography/>

Features biographies of people who have influenced anthropology.

<http://www.biologybrowser.org/bb/Subject/Publications/Biographies/>

Links to biographies of biologists.

<http://www.groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/BiogIndex.html>

Comprehensive site featuring links to biographies of Mathematicians.

[http://www.invent.org/hall\\_of\\_fame/1\\_1\\_search.asp](http://www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/1_1_search.asp)

Brief biographies of national inventors.

<http://turnbull.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/history/BiogIndex.html>

Biographical information about more than 1000 mathematicians

## **VI. LIBRARIANS**

**Reference Librarians** will be happy to help you locate materials for your topic in this library and in other libraries. Please ask for assistance at the Reference Desk. You may also **email or chat live** with a librarian via the Begley Library web site at <http://www.sunysccc.edu/library>.