

# Biographical Information

# User Guide

Centennial Library

Cedarville University

Biographical sources provide information on an individual's general background including their education, accomplishments, and professional activities. Sources may be either of two types:

## **Biographical Indexes**

Contain lists of books and journals containing biographical information.

## **Biographical Dictionaries**

Contain brief or exhaustive descriptions of notable people.

Any of these sources may be international, national, or specialized. International and national sources include people on the basis of nationality. Specialized sources include people according to their occupation or profession.

Each of these sources may also be either retrospective, current, or both. Retrospective publications list people who are no longer living. Current publications list people who are living at the time the source is published.

### • One source that may eliminate many steps is:

#### R 920.073 ***Biography and Genealogy Master Index***

B615 This set of books serves as an index to more than 350 biographical dictionaries. Its coverage is international, retrospective and current, and includes all occupations. This index doesn't give the biographical citation but it refers you to the dictionary, encyclopedia, or literary criticism that has the information. Check the beginning of the volume or the library catalog for the call number of the citation to which you are referred.

If this index doesn't cite your subject, check the other sources listed here based on the individual's nationality, profession, and whether the person is living or dead.

### • If all you know is the name:

R 031 **Encyclopedias**, especially ***World Book***, ***Encyclopaedia Britannica***, and ***Academic American***

R 929.4 ***New Century Cyclopedia of Names***  
N532 Coverage: Proper names having importance in the English-speaking world.

R 920.02 ***Webster's Biographical Dictionary***  
W38A Coverage: Famous people from biblical times to 1970.

### • If you know more:

CedarLINK ***Biography Index***  
Coverage: International, retrospective and current, all occupations.

R 920.073 ***The Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography***  
B787C Coverage: National, American, retrospective and current, all occupations.

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- R 920.042  
C755      ***The Concise Dictionary of National Biography: From Earliest Times to 1985***  
Coverage: National, noteworthy inhabitants of the British Isles and the colonies from the earliest historical period to 1985. Retrospective, all occupations.
- R 928.1  
C741,  
C76      ***Contemporary Authors***  
Coverage: A bio-bibliographic guide to current authors and their work. Contains biographical information and bibliographies listing each individual's publications. Also available on CedarNet.
- R 920  
C976      ***Current Biography Yearbook***  
Coverage: International personalities primarily influencing the American scene. Current, lists all occupations.
- R 920  
D555      ***Dictionary of American Biography***  
Coverage: National, notable Americans, retrospective, all occupations.
- R 920  
D554      ***Dictionary of National Biography***  
Coverage: National, noteworthy inhabitants of the British Isles and the colonies from the earliest historical period to the present time. Retrospective, all occupations.
- R 920.009  
E29E      ***Encyclopedia of World Biography: 20th Century Supplement***  
Coverage: World figures impacting the 20th century through 1973.
- R 917.303  
M826M      ***Makers of America***  
Coverage: 1536-1970, history of the ethnic pluralism of America. Index in volume 10.
- CedarLINK      ***Newspaper Source***  
Coverage: Full text for regional U.S. newspapers, international newspapers, newswires, and newspaper columns.
- 901  
D951      ***Story of Civilization***  
Coverage: Begins with the history of civilization in Egypt and the Near East and continues through European civilization, 1815.
- R 920.07  
W628      ***Who Was Who in America***  
Coverage: Notable deceased Americans, all occupations, does include world notables whose careers had a direct bearing on the course of American history.
- R 920  
W627      ***Who's Who***  
Coverage: English, does include notables from other countries. Emphasis on scholars, professional people, political and industry leaders.
- R 920  
W628      ***Who's Who in America***  
Coverage: National, notable Americans, current, all occupations.