

Durham County Library

Biography Resource Center

Full-text biographical information on more than 275,000 people throughout history .

Access: Library card number

Search Options:

Name Search:

- Type in a person's last and/or first name (In any order)
- Select either Name Contains or Start of Last Name
- Click on **SEARCH**
- Select from the list of names
- Results: Click on:
 - **Biographies** for detailed articles from reference books such as Contemporary Authors or Contemporary Black Biography
 - **Brief Biographies** for a very short list of facts about a person
 - **Magazine Articles** for journal and magazine articles
 - **Websites** for recommended websites outside of the database. Remember that you cite a website differently than you cite an article from a database
- Click on a title from the list to read the article. The citation is at the bottom of the article.

Biographical Facts Search:

- Search for people based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death years and places, nationality, ethnicity, occupation, or gender.
- Select from the subject categories. Categories may be left blank
- Click on **SEARCH**
- Results: A list of people who match the criteria selected
- Select the desired name from the list
- Results: Click on Narrative Biographies, Thumbnail Biographies, Magazine Articles, or Websites (Blue Tabs in the Center of the Screen)
- Click on a title to access the full-text document

Advanced Search

- Perform searches using the following criteria: name, keyword, source, full text, date of publication, and document number.
- Enter search term(s)
- Select search field(s) and Boolean operators
- Click on **SEARCH**
- Results: Click on Narrative Biographies, Thumbnail Biographies, Magazine Articles, or

Websites (Blue Tabs in the Center of the Screen)

- Click on a title to access the full-text document

Special Features

Dictionary: Search the entire Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

Research Guide: Provides research tips for students

Search History: Review previous searches you performed in this session

Spotlight On...: Highlights an individual of current or historical importance. Previous "Spotlight On..." biographies are available in the Archive.

Printing and Saving

Print:



- Selecting **Print** on the left side of the screen gives a printer-friendly version of a document.
- Select **Print** from the **File Menu**.
- It is ten cents a page to print in the library. The print station is the monitor with the purple screen. You will need your library card number to print.

Email:



- Select **Email** on the left side of the screen.
- Enter your Email address.
- Click on **Send**.

If you need more help, please ask a librarian at the reference desk or call 560-0110. We are here to help you.