



## ***SOME WEB SITES FOR BIOGRAPHY RESEARCH***



(Please notify a librarian if any of these links do not work.)

### **4000 Years of Women in Science** <http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/summary.shtml>

Provides a glimpse into the lives of a handful of women scientists. Arranged alphabetically. Can be sorted by field of study or time period.

### **African-Americans in the Sciences** <http://www.princeton.edu/~mcbrown/display/faces.html>

A compilation of African American scientists and engineers in mathematics, chemistry, physics, meteorology, and zoology, as well as other related sciences.

### **All-Media Guide** <http://www.allmusic.com/>

Provides information on all types of musicians, with biographical details presented in six languages, information on recordings, tours and history, listings and links to major influences, and a summary of the artist's/group's achievements.

### **American President: An Online Reference Resource**

<http://www.millercenter.virginia.edu/academic/americanpresident/>

A collection of material about U.S. presidents, including "essays about each President and their lives before, during, and after their presidential terms. Also provides information about the First Lady and cabinet officials of each administration."

### **American Presidents** <http://www.americanpresidents.org>

A complete video archive of all C-Span American Presidents: Life Portraits programs, plus biographical facts, key events of each presidency, presidential places, and reference material.

### **Anthropology Biography Web** <http://emuseum.mnsu.edu/information/biography/>

Alphabetically arranged listing of people who have influenced anthropology in some way. Biographies include a brief biographical data, major accomplishments, and published works. Many include works cited.

### **Artists' Biographies** <http://www.artnet.com/library/index.asp>

Covers painters, sculptors, photographers, architects, designers, and other artists. Many bios derived from articles in The Grove Dictionary of Art.

### **BBC: Audio Interviews** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/audiointerviews/>

Archived interviews with "cultural greats of the 20th Century talking about their work," Including audio clips (most under five minutes long) and biographical profiles. Browseable by name or profession (artists, performers, artists, philosophers, writers, etc.).

### **BBC Science & Nature: Leonardo** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/leonardo/>

"Take an interactive journey through his life and works to discover what made him a true Renaissance man." Includes a timeline, painting and drawing galleries, an interactive tour of Leonardo's studio, and a quiz to see what type of a thinker you are. From the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

### **Benjamin Franklin: An Extraordinary Life, An Electric Mind** <http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin/>

Explores Benjamin Franklin's "career from humble beginnings in Boston to international superstardom: first as a scientist and revolutionary, and then as a founding father and America's first diplomat to France." Features essays, a timeline, "Ben A to Z," a teacher's guide, and more.

Except where indicated, descriptions adapted from the Librarians' Index to the Internet ([www.lii.org](http://www.lii.org)) or the UCSD Libraries web site.

(VO-6/07)

\*Descriptions adapted from issues of Booklist, College & Research Libraries News, Library Journal, Reference & User Services Quarterly, and ResearchBuzz (<http://www.researchbuzz.org/wp/>).

## **bigchalk – Biography**

[http://www.bigchalk.com/cgiin/WebObjects/WOPortal.woa/wa/HWCDA/sections?flt=CAB&sid=1506&t\\_g=](http://www.bigchalk.com/cgiin/WebObjects/WOPortal.woa/wa/HWCDA/sections?flt=CAB&sid=1506&t_g=)

Contains a limited number of biographies arranged by profession, region, and famous women. Provides links to articles in encyclopedias.

## **\*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-Present**

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

Offers a brief summary of the historical highlights of the members of Congress from 1774 on. Permits searching by name, state or territory, political party, date or Congress, or position. Individual entries include links to a bibliography of works by or about the members and, when known, a guide to research collections that house their papers.

## **Biographies of Biologists** <http://www.biosis.org/zrdocs/zoolinfo/biograph.htm>

Entries are selectively culled from other online sites and organized alphabetically. Not an exhaustive list, but impressive and good for quick access to information about biologists.

## **Biography.com** <http://biography.com/>

Created by the A&E network based on the TV show. Provides basic biographical information on more than 25,000 famous and notable persons. Popular figures and historical names tend to have much more in-depth biographies than important scholars and obscure names. Includes links to related people, places, organizations, and featured "Born on This Day" and "Also Born on This Day" biographies.

## **Biographical Dictionary** <http://www.s9.com/biography/>

Usually presenting somewhat in-depth preliminary information on historical figures. Good for finding basic information, especially on historical figures.

## **Biographies: The Poets** <http://www.blupete.com/Literature/Biographies/Literary/BiosPoets.htm>

Provides brief descriptions of the poets' lives and works, with a bias toward British writers from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Contains related links, which range from more complete biographies of the poets themselves to individual poems to other biographies in different sections of the site.

## **Book Lovers-Great Writers** <http://www.xs4all.nl/~pwessel/writers.html>

This personal page clearly states that the writers listed have achieved "world literature level" and that they have at least one "significant" Web page devoted to them. Links lead to some unique, intriguing, and informative sites.

**\*British Monarchy.** Official web site of the British monarchy; covers monarchs since 802, background on royal residences and art collections, and photos of the current royal family. <http://www.royal.gov.uk>

## **Clarence Seward Darrow (1857-1938)** <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/DARROW.HTM>

A biographical site with information and photos on Darrow's life as well as illustrated outlines of his famous defenses of Leopold and Loeb, Bill Haywood, and John Scopes in the renowned "monkey trial" of 1925.

## **\*De Imperatoribus Romanis: An Online Encyclopedia of Roman Emperors** <http://www.roman-emperors.org/>

Includes an index of all the emperors who ruled from 27 B.C to 1453 A.D., biographical essays on the individual emperors, family trees of important imperial dynasties, an index of significant battles, capsule descriptions and maps of the battles, and maps of the empire at different times. Many have links.

### **Distinguished People in Arab History** <http://el.hct.ac.ae/UAE/Arab/Peop.htm>

Contains links to many articles, which are broken down by category, e.g., scientists, women, and scholars.

### **Distinguished Women of Past and Present** <http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/>

Contains links to numerous biographies of “women who contributed to our culture in many different ways . . . [including] . . . educators, scientists, heads of state, politicians, civil rights crusaders, artists, entertainers, and others.” Although the collection of names is limited, the biographies reviewed are well-written and the links informative.

### **Dr. Estrella’s Incredibly Abridged Dictionary of Classical Composers**

<http://www.stevenestrella.com/composers/index.html>

Covers “composers of historical interest.” Directions to information on more contemporary composers via the timeline, which contains links to lists of the major composition award winners of recent decades. The dictionary contains basic biographical information on more than 500 composers; biographical essays; and links to additional information at other web sites, books and CDs about composers, and sheet music.

### **First Ladies' Gallery** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/>

White House site presenting brief biographies of the current and past First Ladies. Some profiles include images. Also provides a link to information about life in the White House.

### **First Ladies of the USA** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/>

A section of the White House site that presents each First Ladies’ history. Includes visuals wherever possible and links to information on their husbands.

### **Great Canadian Scientists** <http://www.science.ca/scientists/scientists.php>

Information about Canadian scientific accomplishments and the men and women who achieved them. Biographies contain lengthy descriptions of the scientist's field of study and insights into each one's personality.

### **History Makers** <http://www.historycentral.com/bio/index.html>

Alphabetically listed short biographies contain an image of some type, vital statistics, and a short narrative of the person’s life.

### **Internet Movie Database (IMDb) Biography Index** <http://us.imdb.com/Sections/Biographies/Index/A>

Alphabetical biographies of the famous and not-so-famous connected to motion pictures and TV: actors, directors, composers, etc. Can also be accessed by using the larger IMDB (<http://us.imdb.com/>) search facility.

### **Lincoln/Net: Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project** <http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu>

"Presents historical materials from Abraham Lincoln's Illinois years (1830-1861), including Lincoln's writings and speeches, as well as other materials illuminating antebellum Illinois." Also provides a biography of the 16th U.S. president and collections on themes such as frontier settlement and law and society.

### **Major World Philosophers**

<http://www.cftech.com/BrainBank/OTHERREFERENCE/PHILOSOPHY/MajWrldPhilsop.html>

Concise descriptions of the philosopher’s origins, major field of philosophical investigation, and bits of other pertinent information, which help identify the accomplishments and achievements of each philosopher.

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

Provides depth of information with comprehensive, well organized, and detailed biographies. Most biographies include a portrait, a list of references, a link to other mathematicians born in the same country, and other links.

Universal in scope and updated regularly.

**Most Dangerous Woman in America** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/typhoid/>

Covers "Typhoid Mary" (Mary Mallon), "a cook who was quarantined for life against her will in the early 1900s" because she was a carrier of typhoid fever. Features a historical analysis, a letter from Mary asking for her release, and a chronology of quarantine. Also includes an interactive epidemiology feature, program transcript, teacher's guide, bibliography, and links to related sites.

**National Inventors** <http://www.invent.org/book/book-text/indexbyname.html>

Sponsored by the National Inventors Hall of Fame, biographies listed range from the brief to the detailed. Each inventor is an inductee into the Hall of Fame and each biography lists the date of induction, the notable invention(s), and the patent number(s). Includes links to additional sites.

**Naxos: Composers** <http://www.naxos.com/newDesign/fcomposers.files/bcomposers.htm>

A section of a larger site on classical music (<http://www.naxos.com>). Provides biographical information, discussion of the composer's works, and links to the audio of works on the Naxos site.

**Nobelprize.org** <http://nobelprize.org/index.html>

Provides information on the history of the Nobel Prize and biographies of the winners. Includes a list of all winners, listed chronologically within area (Chemistry, Peace, etc.), and images. Searchable by name.

**PBS Jazz** Nearly 100 famous jazz musicians are profiled at this site; audio samples of the artists' work are included. <http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/>

**Political Graveyard** <http://potifos.com/tpg/>

Provides basic biographical information on tens of thousands of politicians, including dates of birth and death (if applicable), political position held, relationship to other political figures, and numerous links to other pertinent information.

**POTUS: Presidents of the United States** <http://www.potus.com/>

Offers detailed information on all U.S. Presidents, including film and audio clips, transcripts of speeches, and further research information. Part of the Internet Public Library.

**Religious lives.** Two sites are the **Catholic Encyclopedia List of Popes** (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12272b.htm>), which offers detailed biographical information on all the Popes, and **Catholic Online Saints and Angels** (<http://saints.catholic.org/stsindex.html>), which provides the stories of the saints and their origins.

**Robert F. Kennedy Memorial: Life and Vision** <http://www.rfkmemorial.org/lifevision/>

Biographical material includes photos, speeches, recommended reading, and other resources on Kennedy.

**Rock and Roll Hall of Fame** <http://www.rockhall.com/hof/allinductees.asp?sort=ln%2Cfn>

Information on rock stars inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame can be searched by name or induction year.

**Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy** <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

Entries written and maintained by experts in the field, who update them as needed, are detailed, containing lengthy explanations of the philosopher's areas of inquiry, bibliographies, and links to related sites.

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

Provides two primary search options—biographies of 20th century and contemporary visual artists from an

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alphabetical list or artist's name from a list organized by art movement, style, or medium. Although the biographical data is brief, each contains a picture of the artist and links to additional sites and resources.

**Union List of Artist Names (ULAN)** <http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabulary/ulan/>

Global in scope; covers the periods from antiquity to the present. Each record includes variations of the artist's name, dates, geographic locations, relationships (such as student-teacher relationships), notes, and sources for the data.

**Supreme Court Justices** <http://oyez.nwu.edu/justices/justices.cgi>

Provides comprehensive biographical information on every Supreme Court justice from John Jay to Stephen Breyer. Includes details on each justice's personal life, education, legal career and case participation, as well as his or her predecessor and successor.

**\*Time Person of the Century** <http://www.time.com/time/time100/poc/home.html>

Articles, photo essays, and audio clips cover Time's Person of the Century, Albert Einstein, and the two runners-up, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mahatma Gandhi. Includes a "Quiz of the Century" and links to the current Time list of 100 "people who shape our world."

**Voices From the Gaps: Women Writers of Color** <http://voices.cla.umn.edu/>

An instructional site focusing on the lives and works of North American women writers of color, who can be located either by name, birthplace or geographical location, racial/ethnic background, or significant dates. Though not all of the writers listed have completed biographies, the ones that are there include bibliographies and related links.

**WebMuseum, Paris: Artist Index** <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/>

Contains information about the great masters of Western art. Organized alphabetically by last name, the majority of the artists are European and Americans who have studied or worked for years in Europe. Biographies are accompanied by at least one thumbnail of the artist's works and its provenance. No longer updated.

**What a Character!.com** <http://www.what-a-character.com/>

Cover biographical information on hundreds of character actors, searchable by an alphabetical index, including each actor's photograph. Provides a brief bio and complete filmography of the film and television appearances of each actor.

**Women's Legal History Biography Project** <http://www.stanford.edu/group/WLHP/>

Biographies written by students. Limited in the number of women studied, but comprehensive for those listed.

**WWI Biographical Dictionary** [http://raven.cc.ukans.edu/~kansite/ww\\_one/bio/bios-home.html](http://raven.cc.ukans.edu/~kansite/ww_one/bio/bios-home.html)

Contain descriptions of some of the major world figures from this era. Biographies vary from the succinct to the more extensive and each includes an image.

For books, see the **MESA COLLEGE LIBRARY - SUGGESTED REFERENCE SOURCES FOR BIOGRAPHY RESEARCH** handout.

**IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK A LIBRARIAN.**