

Los Medanos College Library

Biographical Research Resource Guide

The Los Medanos College Library collection includes many useful reference books, circulating books, and periodicals that provide information on people.

Knowing a few simple facts about the person, such as birth and death dates, country of origin, professional area, and ethnicity, is helpful in locating the best sources of information.

REFERENCE BOOKS

The reference collection (located on Level 3) is a good place to start your biographical research. The books in this collection cannot be borrowed, but they may be photocopied. The following are examples of reference books that may be worthwhile to your biographical research.

GENERAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS

World Book Encyclopedia, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, and *Collier's Encyclopedia* are good sources of articles on well-known people.

SPECIALIZED ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Subject specific encyclopedias are worthwhile resources for biographical information on people well-known within the subject area covered. For example, a biography of Erich Fromm is included in *The Encyclopedia of Psychology*.

GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE MATERIALS

<i>Chalmer's Biographical Dictionary</i>	CT 103 .C4
<i>Current Biography (1941-)</i>	CT 100 .C8
<i>Merriams-Webster's Biographical Dictionary</i>	CT 103 .W4
<i>Who's Who in the World</i>	CT 120 .W5

SPECIALIZED BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE SOURCES

Americans

<i>American Reformers</i>	CT 215 .A67 1985
<i>Concise Dictionary of American Biography</i>	E 176 .D564 1980
<i>Dictionary of American Biography</i>	E 176 .D563
<i>Encyclopedia of American Biography</i>	CT213 .E53 1995
<i>Notable Americans: What They Did, From</i>	E 176 .N89 1988

1620 to the Present

Who's Who in America E 176 .W642
Who Was Who in America 1607- E 176 .W64

Ethnic Groups

African Americans Voices, of Triumph-Leadership E 185 .A2585 1993
African Americans Voices, of Triumph-Perserverance E 185 .A259 1993
Mexican American Biographies: A Historical Dictionary, 1936-1987 E 184 .M5 M454 1988
Native American Women: A Biographical Dictionary E 98 .W8 B38 1993
Notable Asian Americans E 184.06 N67 1995
Notable Black American Women E 185.96 .N68 1992
Notable Hispanic American Women E 184 .S75 N68 1993
Notable Native Americans E 89 .N67 1994
Who Was Who in Native American History E 89 .W35 1989

Women

International Dictionary of Women's Biography CT 3202 .I57 1982
Native American Women: A Biographical Dictionary E 98 .W8 B38 1993
Notable American Women: A Biographical Dictionary, 1607-1950 CT 3260 .N57
Notable American Women: The Modern Period CT 3260 .N573
Notable Black American Women E 185.96 .N68 1992
Notable Hispanic American Women E 184 .S75 N68 1993
Two Thousand Women of Achievement CT 3235 .T87
Who's Who of American Women CT 3260 .W5

Professional and Subject Biographies

Look in these call number areas in reference and circulating books to find additional resources:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Call Number</u>	<u>Example in Reference</u>
Art	N 6489 .E72 1995	<i>Artists: From Michelangelo to Maya Lin</i>
	N 6490 .C6567 1989	<i>Contemporary Artists</i>
Military	E 467 .W29	<i>Generals in Blue</i>
	E 467 .W3	<i>Generals in Gray</i>
Music	ML 105 .S612 1997	<i>Baker's Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Musicians</i>
	ML 105 .E944	<i>Great Composers 1300-1900</i>

Prize Winners	AS 911 .N9 N59 1987	<i>Nobel Prize Winners</i>
Religion	BL 72 .G65 1995	<i>Believers: Spiritual Leaders of the World</i>
Rulers/Gov't	E 176.1 .D43 1989 D 107 .W5	<i>Complete Book of U.S. Presidents Kings, Rulers and Statesmen</i>
Science	Q 141 .N726 1999 Q 141 .Y675 1999	<i>Notable Black American Scientists A to Z of Women in Science and Mathematics</i>
Theater	PN 2012 .W5 1977	<i>Who's Who in the Theatre</i>
Writers	PS 21 .K8 Z 1224 .C59	<i>American Authors 1600-1900 Contemporary Authors</i>

ONLINE CATALOG

The online catalog contains the records for the reference books and circulating books (books which can be borrowed, located on Level 4).

To find books on people, various subject searches may be useful. You can access the online catalog from the Library's website at <http://www.losmedanos.net/library.htm>

Exact SUBJECT Heading searches can be useful for biographical research:

Type the person's name. Put the last name before the first name, or

Type a word associated with the area/work that made the person famous followed by "biography". Examples: scientists biography or artists biography, or

Type the subject "biography", then choose a subdivision by century from the menu. Example: biography-19th century.

VIDEO CATALOG

To locate videotapes on people at the Library, use the online video catalog. Videotapes are located and may be viewed on Level 2.

When searching the online video catalog for people, type the word BIOGRAPHY in the Subject Box or type the name of the person you are researching.

Examples of biographical videotapes in the Library collection are:

<i>America's Great Indian Leaders – Geranimo, Quannah Parker, Crazy Horse, Chief Joseph</i>	VR 1800A
<i>Gandhi</i>	VR 1289
<i>Kandinsky</i>	VR 851
<i>A Son of Africa: the Slave Narrative of Olaudah Equiano</i>	VR 1976
<i>With Silk Wings – Four Women</i>	VR 055A

PERIODICALS

To find articles on people in magazines, journals, and newspapers, consult the following electronic databases and periodical indexes.

ELECTRONIC DATABASES Includes many articles in full-text. These databases are accessible from off or on campus over the Internet from the Library's website at <http://www.losmedanos.net/library.htm>.

Dialog@ Carl (includes *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The San Jose Mercury News*, and *The Contra Costa Times*)

Ethnic Newswatch (provides access to newspaper, magazine and journal articles of the ethnic, minority, and native press)

GALE Literary Databases (includes *Contemporary Authors* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography*)

Infotrac's Exanded Academic ASAP (provides access to articles from more than 1900 scholarly and general-interest publications)

ProQuest Direct (includes five major national newspapers)

SIRS Researcher (provides articles on social, scientific, health, historic, business, economic, political, and global issues)

PRINT INDEXES (located on the Index Table and Index Shelves on Level 3)

Biography Index September 1976-

New York Times Index 1971-1994

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature March 1969-

San Francisco Chronicle Index 1977-1994

The most recent issue of periodicals collected by the Library are located in the Periodical Area on Level 3. To learn the location of back issues of periodicals, go to the Library's Web page at <http://www.losmedanos.net/library.htm> and click on Periodicals List.

Periodicals in the Library cannot be borrowed, but they may be copied.

INTERNET RESOURCES

The Internet has resources of value when researching people. Examples of websites with biographical information are:

Biographical Dictionary	http://www.s9.com/biography
Biography.com	http://www.biography.com
Lives: the Biography Resource	http://amillionlives.com
World Biographical Index	http://www.biblio.tu-bs.de/wbi_en

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