



Pathfinder for Biographies
This pathfinder will help
you with research for your
grade 9 English class and
any other biography
research.

Search Tools: When you are in the library you can use one of our two catalog lookup stations to find books that you need. From any computer in the high school you can use the same catalog by using the following URL
10.1.9.75:8080

The Biography section is located in the 900s area of the library. The Biography section consists of two different types of books. The 92s which have purple dots are autobiographies. The 92s which have orange dots are biographies. Books with call numbers ranging from 920-927 contain biographies of different people, but they are usually related in some way; an example would be a book of biographies on famous American jazz musicians. These books are shelved in the 900s.

Terms and Keywords: Use Alexandria, our on-line catalog, to look for your book sources. Say you want to find a book on a NASCAR driver, but you aren't sure which one you want to research. Do a search on the search station for 'NASCAR drivers'. You will see in the 92 section there are single biographies of certain drivers. There are also some books in the 920s because they contain more than one driver. There are also books in the 796.72 area because that is where books on car racing are located. Using the index of these books might give you more information on the driver you are looking for. Some subjects to look up in biographies:

- Autobiography
- Biography
- Use an occupation -Artist, Author, President
- Use a descriptive term of the persons avocation-philanthropist, environmentalist, humanitarian

Reference Materials: The books with a reference sticker *cannot* be checked out, however, you may make copies of the pages you need in them. Don't forget to copy the title page to use for your works cited page. Here are just a few of the reference books for biographical information:

- REF 920.02 UXL UXL Newsmakers
- REF 923.8 DRE Icons of Business
- REF 920 UXL Encyclopedia of World Biography
- REF 796.092 GRE Great Athletes
- REF 609 INV Inventions and Inventors

Internet Resources: When you google a topic you can literally get millions of websites. It is difficult to know whether you have a reputable website. Most websites with the suffix .edu and .org are reliable. Make sure the .com sites are credible, if they are from well-known entities like historychannel.com or newsweek.com they are fine to use. Here are a few good sites.

- www.Biography.com A good site for general bios on a variety of people
- http://invent.org/hall_of_fame/1_1_search.asp inventors hall of fame
- <http://scienceworld.wolfram.com/biography/> Fact monster
- Eric Weisstein's World of Biography. Math and science bios.
- www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/ The Whitehouse's official website for presidential biographies.