



Jackson Middle School Library Biography Research Pathfinder January 2013



Step one in research is always to identify what you are trying to accomplish and what you need to know. Develop a plan that includes your significant questions.

On the Shelf:

Biographies and biographical information are located in different places in different libraries. You might find biographies in their own section (B) or in the non-fiction section in 920 (collective biographies) or 921 (individual biographies).

Unlike other books in the library, biographies are shelved alphabetically by the last name of the person they are about. A biography of Abraham Lincoln would be shelved in the biography section under Lincoln, no matter what the author's name might be.

Biographical information can also be found in the Reference section of the library in encyclopedias and in the 920 section. In the 920s section of reference, the collection generally cover people in a specific fields such as scientists or authors, but you will also find biographical dictionaries there.

Find specific book resources by using the library catalog- it's online on the Jackson Middle School Library website.

On the JMS Library Web Page:

For access to the databases at home, you need to know the passwords. Pick up a bookmark from the JMS Library with the passwords for remote access.

World Book Online:

World Book Student is your primary resource in the World Book Online collection. Look for Biography Center on the main page for links to people in many fields.

OSLIS Research Databases:

Choose the best databases for your subject.

- Student Resources in Context (Search by name or View All under Biography)
- Gale Virtual Reference Library (e-books)
 - Complete Dictionary of Scientific Biography
 - Women in World History: A Biographical Encyclopedia

Multnomah County Library (Linked from the JMS Library web page)

To use the public library resources, you will need your MCL card number and PIN.

Go to Research- Databases A-Z and choose **Biography Reference Center** or **Biography Resource Center in Context**.

Web Site Starter List:

[Multnomah County Library Homework Center](#)
[Biographies- LibrarySpot.com](#)
[Great Websites for Kids- History & Biography](#)