

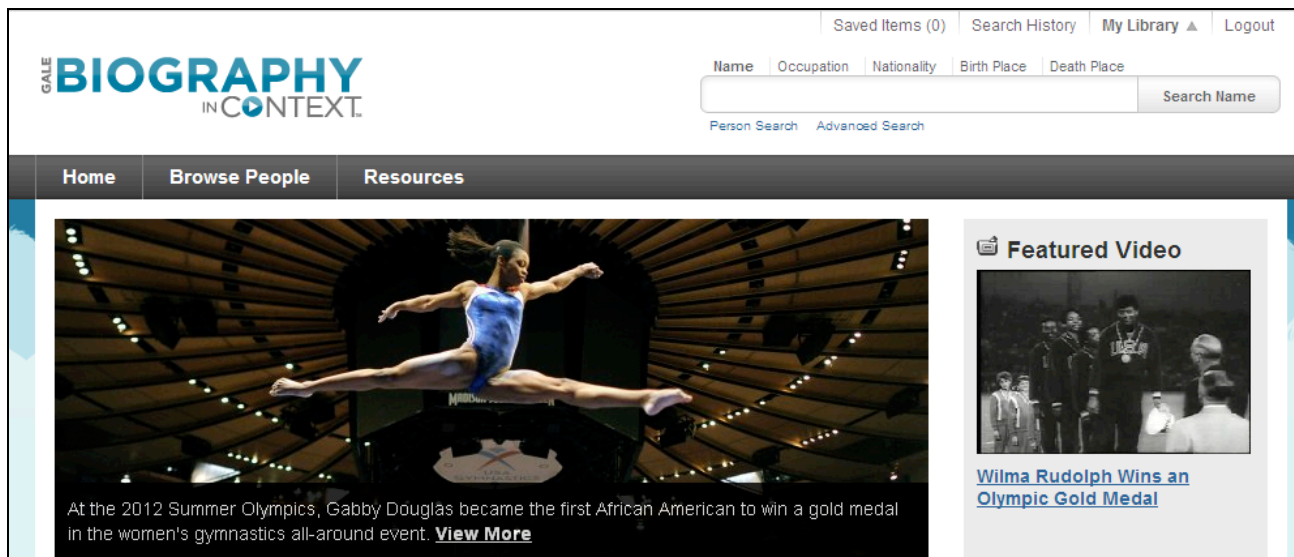
Biography in Context

Biography in Context is a database with more than 220,000 full-length biographies and one million short biographies. The biographies can be searched by name, birth/death date, occupation, nationality, ethnicity, and gender.

To get to Biography in Context,

1. Go to the Multnomah County Library website: www.multcolib.org
2. Click on the **Research** tab and choose **Homework Center**
3. Click on the **Homework Databases** link.
4. Click on **Biographies**.
5. Type in your Multnomah County Library card number (the whole number--without any spaces) and PIN.

Your screen will look like the one below:



The screenshot shows the Biography in Context website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: "Saved Items (0)", "Search History", "My Library", and "Logout". Below these are search filters: "Name", "Occupation", "Nationality", "Birth Place", and "Death Place". A search box contains the text "Search Name" and a "Search Name" button. Below the search box are links for "Person Search" and "Advanced Search". The main navigation bar includes "Home", "Browse People", and "Resources". The main content area features a large image of a gymnast performing a leap, with a caption: "At the 2012 Summer Olympics, Gabby Douglas became the first African American to win a gold medal in the women's gymnastics all-around event. [View More](#)". To the right, there is a "Featured Video" section with a thumbnail image and the text: "Wilma Rudolph Wins an Olympic Gold Medal".

If you are searching for a particular person, type their name into the **Search** box at the top of the page. If the **Name** tab is chosen, it doesn't matter if you type their first name or last name first. Then click on the **Search** button. If there is more than one person with the name you typed, you'll see a list of people to choose from. Click on the name you want.



The screenshot shows a close-up of the search interface. The search filters are "Name", "Occupation", "Nationality", "Birth Place", and "Death Place". The search box contains the text "j.k. rowling" and a "Search Name" button. Below the search box are links for "Person Search" and "Advanced Search".

Note that you can search by other attributes as well. Here are the results of searching for "Oregon" as a **Birth Place**, sorted by **Name Ascending**:


Displaying 1 - 20 of 2,475 Sort By

Name	Occupation	Birth Date	Death Date
Abbey, Robert Fred	Statistician	May 27, 1947	
Abbott, Bruce	Actor	July 28, 1954	
Adair, Margaret Weeks	Writer		1971
Adams, Richard Owen	Scientist	March 05, 1933	
Adrian, Charles R.		March 12, 1922	May 28, 2004

Once you've selected the person you want, you'll see a page like this:

Topic

J.K. Rowling



Joanne K. Rowling

J. K. Rowling (born 1965) has sold more than a quarter-billion books from her series of novels about a British boy wizard named Harry Potter. With the wildly popular series, Rowling singlehandedly revived the market for children's literature. The books, translated into more than 600 languages, spawned a sequence of worldwide box-office movie hits, and were credited with getting an entire generation of children raised on video games, television, and the Internet interested in reading again. Born in 1965, in Chipping Sodbury, a small town near Bristol, England, Joanne Rowling was the daughter of a French-Scottish mother named Anne, and... [View More](#)

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The initial entry is a general biography from an encyclopedia. Click the link to read more. You can also link to other resources on this page through the toolbar on the right. If you scroll down *even more* on the first page you'll see some additional choices:

Reference [View All 10](#)

J. K. Rowling

Authors and Artists for Young Adults, 2000
 Writings: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Bloomsbury, published in the U.S. as Harry Potter and the...

J. K. Rowling

Contemporary Authors Online, 2009
 WRITINGS: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Bloomsbury (London, England), 1997, published as Harry Potter and...

J. K. Rowling

Encyclopedia of World Biography, July 1, 2005
 Children's Book of the Year, British Book Awards, and Rowntree Nestlé Smarties Prize, both 1997, both for Harry Potter...

News [View All 238](#)

[JUDGE WON'T DISMISS ROWLING LAWSUIT](#)

World Entertainment News Network, October 14, 2010
 Oct 14, 2010 (WENN via COMTEX) -- A judge has refused to throw out a plagiarism lawsuit against HARRY POTTER author...

['Harry Potter' lawsuit comes to the U.S.](#)

The New York Times, July 16, 2010
 The plagiarism accusations that dogged J. K. Rowling in Britain have now reached Scholastic, her American publisher....

[Harry Potter's US Publisher Sued for Copyright Infringement](#)

PR Newswire, July 14, 2010
 NEW YORK, July 14 /PRNewswire/ -- The Trustee of the Estate of the late English author Adrian Jacobs will hold a news...

Magazines [View All 371](#)

[Magic Kingdom](#)

Time, August 2, 2010
 Byline: Richard Corliss/Orlando One reason so many wizards wanted to get rid of Albus Dumbledore was that he was soft...

[Hogwarts & all in Fla](#)

Variety, June 21, 2010
 [ILLUSTRATION OMITTED] Universal's Orlando resort opened its doors June 16 to Hogwarts Castle, and kicked off the days...

[Children's series and tie-ins bestsellers](#)

Publishers Weekly, February 22, 2010
 [ILLUSTRATION OMITTED] Peter Lerangis, author of The Viper's Nest, book seven in The 39 Clues, recently appeared on...

Reference includes biographies, **News** are articles from daily newspapers and wire services, and **Magazines** are magazine articles. Click on any of the links for the full article. There are more links even further down this page!

Here's what the beginning of a selected biography looks like:

J. K. Rowling

Authors and Artists for Young Adults, March 1, 2010

Listen

Born: July 31, 1965 in Chipping Sodbury, United Kingdom

Nationality: British

Occupation: Children's writer

WRITINGS

- *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Bloomsbury (London, England), 1997, published as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books (New York, NY), 1998.
- *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, Bloomsbury (London, England), 1998, Scholastic (New York, NY), 1999.

Tools

- Bookmark
- Download
- Share
- Citation Tools
- Email
- Print
- Translate
- Save

If you aren't looking for a particular person, you can browse the biographies by using the list that appears once you click the **Browse People** tab (directly above the photograph). You can also scroll down the database's main page to the types of people and select from the brief lists there, or click on **View More** for the full list of biographies within a category.

American Presidents [View More](#)

- [Abraham Lincoln](#)
- [Barack Obama](#)
- [George Washington](#)

- [Actors](#)
- [African Americans](#)
- [American First Ladies](#)
- [American Presidents](#)
- [American Revolution](#)
- [Ancient Greeks and Romans](#)
- [Architects](#)
- [Artists](#)
- [Asian Americans](#)
- [Athletes](#)
- [Authors](#)

Once you are at the **View More** page, you will also see a list of all the categories you can search on, from Actors to World Royalty.

Try searching for these!

- When was Johnny Appleseed born?
- What is the real name of author Lemony Snicket?
- Can you find the biography of another author who was born in San Francisco?