



World Biographical Information System (WBIS) Navigation Guide

Thomson Gale Professional Development Services & Training Department
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World Biographical Information System Online (WBIS) Navigation Guide

The **World Biographical Information System Online (WBIS)** is the most comprehensive database available offering a practically inexhaustible supply of information for research on social, cultural, political, scientific, historical, and genealogical topics. Users can easily access biographical information on millions of prominent individuals from all walks of life, across all eras and from all around the world. It is based on the digitization of K.G. Saur's microfiche editions of biographical archives. Each Biographical Archive covers a different language and cultural area. For the individual archives the original texts of biographical articles from various reference works were taken and facsimile reproductions made. In *WBIS Online* these articles are presented as exact copies of the original articles.

WBIS Online offers worldwide biographical information on persons covered in reference sources published from the 16th century to the present. From A to Z the strength of the Biographical Archives lies in the variety of the biographies covered. Men and women from all centuries, all areas of society and professions are included, encompassing business, culture, politics, and science. Occupations such as painters, jurists, physicians, sailors, journalists, clerics, aristocrats and writers can be found, to mention but a few. *WBIS Online* portrays the population as it was in real life, containing entries on people from all walks of life, all professions. Biographical Archives give a true-to-life picture of people of different linguistic and cultural areas, along with their achievements and attainments, their curiosities and peculiarities.

Overview/Contents

With the *World Biographical Index (WBI)* as the entry point to the product, *WBIS Online* already provides:

- brief biographical details on a total of 3.8 million people
- biographies - data and biographical articles - on 1.3. million people
- 2.28 million original biographical articles, published from 1559 to the beginning of the 20th century
- biographical articles of people who lived and were influential in the following countries and regions of the earth: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latin America, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, North America, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain.

Each Biographical Archive contains biographies reproduced from all important, available biographical sources relating to a country or specific linguistic/cultural area, namely: original biographical articles from reference works, source books, encyclopedias, handbooks, almanacs and Who's Who's, with all full-text in the typography of the original text, stored and displayed on the screen as image files.

By retaining the original typography of the full-text biographies, the documentation and historical character of the information is maintained.

Content is available in eight of the following Biographical Archives, already in digitized form:

- American Biographical Archive (ABA I) Online - 500,000 biographies
- Biographical Archives of the Benelux Countries (Biografisch Archief van de Benelux (BAB I) Online) - 142,000 biographies
- British Biographical Archive (BBA I) Online - 330,000 biographies
- French Biographical Archive (Archives Biographiques Françaises (ABF I) Online) - 232,000 biographies
- German Biographical Archive (Deutsches Biographisches Archiv (DBA I) Online) - 480,000 biographies
- Italian Biographical Archive (Archivio Biografico Italiano (ABI I) Online) - 200,000 biographies
- Scandinavian Biographical Archive (SBA I) Online - 200,000 biographies
- Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American Biographical Archive (Archivo Biográfico de España, Portugal e Iberoamérica (ABEPI I) Online) - 200,000 biographies

The Biographical Archives cover the following countries: USA, Canada, Latin-America, Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, UK, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Time Period Covered:

- For all Archives, up to 1910
- For Scandinavia, up to mid-20th century

An Index is available that indexes 31 Biographical Archives that consist of 6,300 international reference works from the 16th century to the 20th century, containing 5.7 million biographical entries on more than 3.7 million people.

International Scope

The interfaces are searchable in five languages: German, English, Spanish, Italian, and French with total accessibility from around the world, anywhere, anytime.

Expansion

WBIS Online will be expanded each year by about one million additional entries from an additional seven to nine Biographical Archives, extending the coverage of the database geographically as well as historically.

- By 2009 *WBIS Online* will contain 47 Biographical Archives and 2 Supplements. It will make available to libraries approximately 10 million full-text biographies on more than 5 million people from the beginning of history to the present day and from all countries and regions worldwide.
- By 2009 *WBIS Online* will contain entries from 15,045 volumes of 8,631 biographical reference works, published in a total of 40 languages from 1559 to present.

When complete, *WBIS Online* will be one of the largest electronic biographical information systems ever assembled -- featuring biographical profiles from all countries and regions worldwide, from the beginnings of history to the present, culminating with more than 5.7 million people from all walks of life, from around the world.

Search Functionality

A variety of search paths allow you to easily access the entries contained within the database. These search paths include:

- Name
- Period
- Year of Birth/Death
- Year/Era Cited
- Occupation
- Occupation Classification
- Source
- Archive
- Direct Image Search
- And more

Biographical and source information is detailed, allowing you to identify the correct person and jump to the corresponding biography.

Home Screen



Language Selection

The homepage also allows you to select the interface language of your choice. The language you select at the beginning of your session will remain throughout your session unless you return to the home page and choose a different language. The following languages are available:

- Deutsch (German)
- English
- Español (Spanish)
- Français (French)
- Italiano (Italian)

English is the default language.

Major Search Paths

- **Basic Search** -- Available from the Home Page and each results page in the database; looks for an individual whose name corresponds to what is entered into the search field and the corresponding search option that is checked whether *exact name* or *name contains* (default).
- **Biographical Search** -- Searches for people based on one or more specific personal characteristics, such as name, year all, year of birth and death, year cited, occupation, occupation classification, archive, source, country, Saur document number, or gender.
- **Bibliographic Search** -- Allows you to search bibliographies of reference works which were used to compile the biographical archives. You can base your search of the bibliographies upon certain characteristics: keyword in bibliography, author, title, short title, series, publisher, place of publication, publication year, and archive.
- **Advanced Search** -- Allows you to search for biographical or bibliographical records in *WBIS Online* through an expert mode.
- **Microfiche Search** -- Allows you to search for the image of a certain biographical article on a specific digitized microfiche if you know the details of the archive and the location (= frame) of the image on the microfiche.

Basic Search

The Basic Search, which is available on the homepage and on each result page in the database, allows you to search a name by entering it into the text box at the top of the screen. The Name Search will look for an individual whose name corresponds to whatever is entered into the search field. You may search for a person by selecting **Exact name** or **Name contains**.

- **Exact name** searches for names that match the term as entered into the box. The name has to be entered in the form *Last name, First name*.
- **Name contains** allows you to key a full name or any word or combination of words known to be part of the person's name.

If you know the exact name (meaning the complete name of the person), the name must be entered *last name, first name, middle name, etc.* For example, if you want


biographical information on Eleanor Roosevelt, you must type roosevelt, anna eleanor for an exact name search. If you search for eleanor roosevelt without her first name Anna, *exact name*, you will get an error message because the exact name was not complete. If you did not know her first name was Anna and you searched for eleanor roosevelt, *name contains*, you will get results for her.

If other people have the same name or name contains the same name as the name you searched, results will be sorted alphabetically by name. You have the option of re-sorting the results by Name, Year, or Archive by selecting one of the options in the "Sort Results by" menu at the top of the list.

If you wish to perform a Basic Search from any of the results pages, fill in the "find" box at the top of the page and select *Name Contains* or *Exact Name* from the drop-down list before selecting "Search."

Basic Search Example

Let's try a basic search for John Wayne, *name contains*.



The screenshot shows the search interface for the World Biographical Information System. The search term "John Wayne" is entered, and the "Name contains" option is selected. The results page shows 12 results, sorted by Name. The first result is "Wayne, John", an actor, with a digitized article available from the American Biographical Archive.

| Name | Occupation | Year | Archive |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Chamelin, John Wayne | lawyer, professor, mayor | 1831 | American Biographical Archive |
| Cole, John Wayne | chemist | 1913 | American Biographical Archive |
| Delehant, John Wayne | lawyer, judge | 1890 | American Biographical Archive |
| Griffith, John Griffith Wayne | landowner | 1870 | British Biographical Archive |
| Laslett, John Wayne | mathematician, educator | 1891 | American Biographical Archive |
| Moran, John Wayne | major | 1915 | British Biographical Archive |
| Morrison, Wayne John | journal editor | 1945 | South-East Asian Biographical Archive |
| Richards, John Wayne | educator | 1878 | American Biographical Archive |
| Van Orman, John Wayne | lawyer | 1906 | American Biographical Archive |
| Wayne, John | actor | 1907 | American Biographical Archive |

The results list returned names of people whose name contained John Wayne (any order). John Wayne, the actor, is the first person whose name was listed solely as Wayne, John which has a digitized article from the American Biographical Archive.

The screenshot shows the Thomson Gale World Biographical Information System (WBIS) interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Basic Search', 'Biographical Search', 'Bibliographic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Microfiche Search'. The search results for 'John Wayne' are displayed, showing a list of biographical entries. The entry for 'Wayne, John' is selected, and a 'View Digitized Article(s) from Archive' link is visible. The interface includes navigation arrows and a 'Document 10 of 12' indicator.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name: | Wayne, John |
| Other Name(s): | stage name of Marion Mitchell Morrison |
| Year of Birth: | 1907 |
| Year of Death: | 1979 |
| Gender: | m |
| Occupation: | actor |
| Occupation Classification: | Actors (622) |
| Archive: | American Biographical Archive (ABA) |
| Fiche Location: | I 1699,139J 657,222-223 |
| Short Title(s) of Source(s): | Picturegoer's WW; P.S. 1934; P.S. 1940 |
| Short Title: | Picturegoer's WW |
| Source Citation: | The Picturegoer's Who's Who and Encyclopedia of the Screen To-day - 1st ed. - Long Acre [et al] Odhams Press, 1933 |
| Short Title: | P.S. 1934 |

Viewing Digitized Biographical Articles

If a digitized biographical article to the corresponding biographical entry is available a camera icon will appear next to the archive name in your biographical results list, provided your institution has a subscription to the archive. It is possible to view the digitized biographical articles from the biographical entry page. To view the full biographical entry, select the name of the person you want to view in the results list. A link "View Digitized Article(s) from Archive" is displayed at the top of the biographical entry page when a digitized article is available. The first image from an available source will display once you select this link.

The page with the digitized biographical article will give you short information on the person. The actual number of images which are available on this person is displayed at the top of the image. You can navigate through the digitized microfiche images by using the next and previous arrows. You may also jump to a specific image by entering the image number into the text box between the two arrows and selecting the "Go" button.

Let's view the digitized image on John Wayne in 50% scale.

World Biographical Information System Search History | Start Over

Basic Search | Biographical Search | Bibliographic Search | Advanced Search | Microfiche Search

Find: john wayne Options: Name contains SEARCH

Basic Search | Results | Biographical Entry | Facsimile Page

Image Number: 1 of 1 GO Scale: 50% Original Position

1907 - 79

WAYNE, John, b. 1908, Winterset, Id-aho. 6 ft. 2 in. Dark brown hair; grey eyes. Working as prop. boy at Columbia when Raoul Walsh chose him for lead in *The Big Trail*; other films include *Girls Demand Excitement*, *Three Girls Lost*, *Arizona*, *Men Are Like That*, *Range Feud*, *Maker of Men*, *Ride Him—Cowboy*, *Texas Cyclone*, *The Big Stampede*. Add.: c/o Columbia Studios, Hollywood.

Biographical Search

The Biographical Search allows you to search for individuals by using specific personal characteristics. You can search for individuals based on one or all of the following characteristics:

- **Name:** Can be any part of a name (name contains) or the exact name.
- **Year All:** Combined search through years of birth, death, and years cited
- **Year of Birth:** as it appeared in the original source(s); can be more than one
- **Year of Death:** as it appeared in the original source(s); can be more than one
- **Year Cited:** Information on year cited is included if no information on year of birth or death is available.
- **Occupation:** Occupation or social status as given in the sourced reference works and in the language of the biographical archive.
- **Occupation classification:** Standardized occupation information on all biographical entries
- **Archive:** Biographical archive you wish to search, either for the full name or the abbreviation (e.g. ABA for "American Biographical Archive" or DBA for "Deutsches Biographisches Archiv")
- **Source:** Short titles of source works used to compile a biographical entry. Note that short titles that consist of several words must be enclosed in quotation marks.
- **Country:** Country names provide access to the geographic regions where persons lived, worked or were born. This search field is only available for five archives. Note that country names that consist of several words must be enclosed in quotation marks (e.g., "America del SUR" or "America South").

- **Saur Document Number:** Identification number from the World Biographical Index (WBI), e.g. I001-255-3. Note: a search on the Saur Document Number supersedes all other searches
- **Gender:** Checkboxes for Male, Female, Family, Group (e.g. the ethnic group of the Zulus) and cross-references. When more than one box is checked, the search terms will be combined with the Boolean Operator OR.

The screenshot shows the 'Biographical Search' interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Basic Search', 'Biographical Search', 'Bibliographic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Microfiche Search'. The main search area includes fields for Name, Year All, Year of Birth, Year of Death, Year Cited, Occupation, Occupation Classification, Archive, Source, and Country. Each field has a text input box and a dropdown menu with 'AND' and a 'Browse' link. A 'Saur Document' field is at the bottom. A note states 'NOTE: Country search is only available for free archives'.

To begin searching, select the Biographical Search link from any of the pages. Enter a term in one or more of the fields on the form and select AND, OR, NOT from the drop down menus next to the form to combine search terms. You can enter Boolean operators within the search boxes as well, but they need to be in English, or they will be considered part of the search criteria. If you are uncertain if a search term is available in the database and how it is spelled, you may select the "**Browse**" link available for most search fields. Selecting the browse function allows you to view the index of a certain category. You may choose a term from the list and it will populate the search box. When selecting dates, you may enter one date in the field or choose a range of dates by filling both available fields. When selecting gender, you may choose any combination of the check boxes, the search terms will be combined with OR.

NOTE: Searching by Saur Document Number supersedes all other searches. If you submit a search using the Saur Document Number all other search criteria will be ignored.

Select "**Search**" and you will receive a results list matching your criteria. The results list will provide the following information which you can re-sort:

- Name
- Occupation
- Year
- Archive

Biographical Search Example

Let's perform a search for male sculptors born in Italy in the 1700s. Type *sculptor* in the occupation search box. Type *Italy* in the search box for country. You can search for sculptors in a particular country; however, the country selected must be one of the five countries that is archived. Check the box for male gender. For the date range, leaving default to AD, type 1700 in the box for year of birth to 1800. The results listed 6 sculptors who met this criteria.



World Biographical Information System Online (WBIS) Search Results

Your search "(Year of Birth From = 1700 AD Year of Birth To = 1800 AD AND Occupation = sculptor AND Country = Italy AND Gender = Male)" returned 6 results

Page: 1

Sorted results by: Name

| Name | Occupation | Year | Archive |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| Bonomi, Joseph | sculptor, draughtsman, traveller | 1756 | African Biographical Archive |
| Byström, Johan Niklas | sculptor, bibliophile | 1783 | Scandinavian Biographical Archive |
| Castrén, Erik | sculptor | 1771 | Scandinavian Biographical Archive |
| Eronius, Daniel Erlend | professor, sculptor | 1766 | Scandinavian Biographical Archive |
| Pekari, Petrus | painter, sculptor, architect | 1775 | African Biographical Archive |
| Serafi, Johan Tobias | professor, sculptor | 1740 | Scandinavian Biographical Archive |

Page: 1

Using Classification Codes

You can browse occupation classification terms to aid you in your biographical search. Occupation classification terms and codes have been assigned to each biographical entry to standardize occupations/professions, independent of the original sources used to compile the biographical entry. Occupation classifications are independent of the language of the Biographical Archive and allow a cross-search through all Archives for specific standardized occupation terms. Please note that in contrast to the occupation classification, the information in the field "occupation" is dependent on the language used in the Biographical Archive and originates from the source work used for a biographical entry (example: German Biographical Archive "Maler", British Biographical Archive "painter", French Biographical Archive "peinteur"). Therefore, to make a search for all painters of a certain time period, use the occupation classification search. Browse the index for "Painters, Draughtsmen, Graphic Artists

(631)", select the term/classification code and make your search for the time period. This search will then come up with all painters of the specified period independent of the language of the original sources used to compile the biographical entries.

In reference to the above search for sculptors, to locate sculptors from all countries for a combined search, you must browse the Occupation Classification code list to find sculptors, which is listed under Art (600), Plastic Artists (630) then Sculptors, Carvers, Founders, Modelers (632) Otherwise, if you type *sculptor* in the Occupation Search box and do not type a particular country or countries in the Country Search box, then you will only get sculptors from the English-speaking archives who use the English word for sculptor. For example, a search for sculptors with the same criteria in no particular country yielded 247 results whereas a search for Occupation Classification Code 632 with same search criteria yielded 3,480 results, listing sculptors, carvers, founders, and modelers from all archived countries.

Bibliographical Search

The Bibliographic Search allows you to search bibliographies of reference works which were used to compile the biographical archives. You can search for bibliographies based on one or all of the following characteristics:

- Short Title
- Keyword in Bibliography
- Author
- Title
- Series
- Place of Publication
- Publisher
- Publication Year
- Archive



To begin searching, select the Bibliographic Search link from any of the pages. Enter a term in one or more of the fields of the form and select AND, OR, NOT from the drop down menus next to the form to combine the search terms. You can enter Boolean operators within the search boxes as well, but they need to be in English, or they will be considered part of the search criteria. If you are uncertain if a search term is available in the database and how it is spelled, you may select the "**Browse**" link available for most search fields. Selecting the browse function allows you to view the index of a certain category. You may choose a term from the list and it will populate the search box.

When selecting dates, you may enter one date in the field or choose a range of dates by filling both available fields.

Select "**Search**" and you will receive a results list matching your criteria. The results list will provide the following information:

- Short Title
- Author/Title
- Year

Results will be sorted alphabetically by Short Title (default). You have the option to sort the results by author/title or year by making your choice in the "Sort results by" menu at the top of the list.

To view a full bibliographic record simply select a short title link from the results list. You will now see the full bibliographic record which includes the following information:

- Short Title
- Source Citation
- Archive
- Gale Document Number

The different display fields are:

- **Short title** names the abbreviation of a biographical reference work which is used for a Biographical Archive. The short title is unique and can be used to easily find a reference work again.
- **Source citation** contains the full bibliographic record of a reference work, including author name, full title, series, publisher, publication place and publication year (if available).
- **Archive** holds information about the Biographical Archive (including part designation) the particular biographical reference work was used. Depending on the kind of reference work, it can be used in one or several Biographical Archives.

Bibliographical Search Example

Let's try a Bibliographic Search for a book about black musicians. We don't remember the exact title but we remember the author's last name is Southern. Type *Southern* in the author search box and click Search. Results listed three documents, one of which was the document needed authored by Eileen Southern, "*Biographical*

Dictionary of Afro American and African Musicians," published in 1982. After clicking on the Short Title, we were able to retrieve the source citation containing the full bibliographic record.

The screenshot shows the 'Bibliographic Search' results page. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Gale Databases | Help' and 'Search History | Start Over'. Below that, there are tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Biographical Search', 'Bibliographic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Microfilm Search'. The search criteria are displayed as 'First: [] Options: Name contains SEARCH'. The results section shows 'Document 2 of 3' and a 'Mark this document' checkbox. The search results are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Short Title: | Southern |
| Source Citation: | Southern, Eileen, Biographical Dictionary of Afro-American and African Musicians. - Westport [et al] : Greenwood Press, 1982. - (Greenwood Encyclopedia of Black Music). |
| Archiver: | African Biographical Archive (ABA) |
| Gale Document Number: | DA351600035 |

Advanced Search

The Advanced Search allows you to search for biographical or bibliographical records in *WBIS Online* through an expert mode.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' page. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Gale Databases | Help' and 'Search History | Start Over'. Below that, there are tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Biographical Search', 'Bibliographic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Microfilm Search'. The search criteria are displayed as 'First: [] Options: Name contains SEARCH'. The results section shows 'Document 2 of 3' and a 'Mark this document' checkbox. The search results are as follows:

To begin searching, select the Advanced Search link from any of the pages. To use the Advanced Search:

1. Select either a **Biographical** or **Bibliographic** search by using the radio buttons at the top of the search screen.
2. Select one of the search fields from the pull down menu underneath the text box and select "**Add**".
3. Enter a corresponding term in the text box. Adding quotation marks around your search will limit the search to the exact phrase.
4. Either select "**Search**" or add a space if you wish to add another search criteria.
5. If you wish to combine the search terms, choose one of the Boolean operators from the pull-down menu and select "**Add**".

6. Repeat steps 2-5 as often as necessary.

Entering Dates

When searching by year you may add the > (greater than) or < (less than) symbols if searching for a date range. For example, if you are looking for a person born before 1900, add < 1900 in your search. If you are searching on a B.C. date add a - (minus) to your search (e.g. -44). Here are some examples for finding birth years, which are also applicable to other date searches:

| Date Search | Enter the Following |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| YEB after 1900 | YEB > 1900 |
| YEB in the year 1900 or after | YEB >= 1900 |
| YEB before 1900 | YEB < 1900 |
| YEB in the year 1900 or before | YEB <= 1900 |
| YEB in the year 2 BC | YEB = -2 |
| YEB between 1800-1900 | YEB >= 1800 NOT YEB > 1901 |
| YEB in the year 1800 OR 1900 | YEB = 1800 OR YEB = 1900 |

Advanced Search Example

Let's try an Advanced Search. First, to build an advanced search query, we must select one or more search fields from the pull down menu list underneath the text box.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface. At the top, there are radio buttons for 'Biographical' (selected) and 'Bibliographic'. Below this is a 'Search Query:' text box. Underneath the text box is a 'Field:' dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing a list of search fields: NAM = Name, GEN = Gender, YEA = Year All, YEB = Year of Birth, YED = Year of Death, YEC = Year Cited, OCC = Occupation, OCL = Occupation Classification, ARC = Archive, LIT = Source, and COC = Country. To the right of the dropdown menu, there are 'Add' buttons and an 'AND' operator button. A blue 'SE' button is visible to the left of the dropdown menu. A blue 'of Use' link is visible to the right of the dropdown menu.

For a biographical search of research scientists born between 1800 AD and 1850 AD from American Biographical Archive, using the fields list, build the search query like this:

OCC = research scientist AND YEB = 1800 AD -1850 AD AND ARC = american biographical archive

Advanced Search

Biographical Bibliographic

Search Query:

Field:

The biographical search returned 25 hits based upon the specific criteria.

Advanced Search - Results

Your search "OCC = research scientist AND YEB = 1800 AD - 1850 AD AND ARC = american biographical archive" returned 25 results

Page: 1 - 2 - 3

Sort results by

| Name | Occupation | Year | Archive |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anderson, Frederick Osband | research scientist, educator | 1887 | American Biographical Archive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barua, Girsh Chandra | research scientist | 1935 | American Biographical Archive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bauer, Leonard David | research scientist | 1901 | American Biographical Archive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beacher, Lester Lawrence | optometrist, lecturer, research scientist, author | 1905 | American Biographical Archive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cordell, Robert James | research scientist | 1917 | American Biographical Archive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cox, Harold Rosa | research scientist | 1907 | American Biographical Archive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crane, Robert Treat | political scientist, research director | 1880 | American Biographical Archive |

Microfiche Search

The Microfiche Search allows you to search for the image of a certain biographical article on a specific digitized microfiche if you know the details of the archive and the location (= frame) of the image on the microfiche. This search is intended for users familiar with the microfiche details and who already know the location details of the biographical article they are looking for. A subscription to the specific Biographical Archive is necessary in order to view the images.

To perform a microfiche search simply select the Microfiche Search link from any of the pages. A new screen will display with the following entry fields:

- Archive
- Microfiche Number
- Frame Number

Insert information into the Archive and Microfiche Number text boxes (these two fields are required). The biographical archives shown in the drop down box for the field "archive" are dynamically generated by the application and depend on the subscription. If you wish to narrow your search even further, you may supply the Frame Number as well. *WBIS Online* will retrieve all images of biographical articles associated with the selected microfiche, or if you also supplied the Frame Number, only this image will be retrieved. If you have not supplied the Frame Number you will receive all images from a certain microfiche. You can navigate through these images by using the next and previous arrows. You may also jump to a specific image by entering the image number into the text box between the two arrows and selecting the "Go" button.

***NOTE:** The biography you are viewing may spread across microfiches. If this is the case, you may need to search for the next microfiche in order to receive a complete biography.

Microfiche Search Example

Our search for microfiche number 1818 from the American Biographical Archive yielded the facsimile pages of biography of John H Allison, 459 pages total.



The screenshot shows the Thomson Gale World Biographical Information System (WBIS) interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "Gale Databases | Help" and "Search History | Start Over". Below this is a search bar with a "Find:" field and a "SEARCH" button. The search options are set to "Name contains". The search results show a microfiche search for "Facsimile Page" with a page number of 1 of 459. The search results display the following text:

ALLISON (John H.) b. 1847

John H. Allison, a merchant and mine operator at Elmore, Luna county, has been a resident of New Mexico since 1866, coming to the Territory from Texas, Colorado. He was born in Champaign, Iowa, June 4, 1847, but as early 1866 went to Colorado, and since 1866 has been engaged in the stock business in Grant and Luna counties, New Mexico. He devoted his attention to cattle until 1874, when he sold his cattle and is now engaged in the breeding and raising of Angora goats. This is a comparatively new industry in New Mexico, but one which is proving very profitable, the wool of the goats bringing excellent prices, while the value of the animals in other directions is well known. In connection with his live stock raising, Mr. Allison has for some time been engaged in mining copper, lead and silver in the Chiricahua mountains in the western part of Luna county. He is thus actively associated with the development of the mineral resources of the Territory, and his business interests are of a character which promote the general improvement and prosperity as well as his individual success. It may be said the U.M.W. miners' hall in Elmore, Luna county, was established by the improvement of the city. Since 1874 he has been an advocate of the mining claims in New Mexico and old Mexico, in which Mr. Allison is deeply interested, having in his possession papers descriptive of his mines of great value left to him by Don Luis Sanchez who died in 1866 in Luna county, New Mexico, in 1866, when some three months from age.

On July 27, 1869, Mr. Allison was married to Miss Mary Charlotte Ely. Children: Louis H., Mr. E., Andrew H. and William J.

History of New Mexico, 2v. 1907.

Search History

The Search History can be helpful if you need to go back to previous searches in a session. To view the Search History, click on the "Search History" button in the blue banner. The Search History is limited to 10 qualifying searches. Once you exceed that limit, the Search History will start to delete earlier searches in the order in which they were added.

Mark List

You can mark biographical and bibliographic documents that you find especially helpful or interesting in order to create a personalized citation list. Documents may be selected from a results list by checking the box to the left of the citation, or while viewing a document by checking the box to the left of "Mark this document". After selecting one or more documents, you may view your list by clicking on the link "Mark List" in the top navigation bar.

The mark list is organized by biographical and bibliographic entries. To remove a document from your mark list, simply deselect the box to the left of the citation, or, while viewing the document, deselect the box to the left of "Mark this document".

The entries in the Mark List may be printed (brief citations or complete biographical and bibliographical entries), emailed (list view or each biographical and bibliographical document separately) or saved as an InfoMark.

Emailing

Mark lists, as well as biographical and bibliographic records can be reformatted for emailing to yourself or others. You will not be able to email digitized biographical articles.

To email biographical or bibliographic records select the E-mail icon located in the left hand navigation bar on those pages. To email a record or mark list please enter information into the following text boxes:

1. **Mail to:** Enter an email address.
2. **Subject:** This will automatically be filled in, but you may edit the subject line if you wish.
3. **Format options:** You will have a choice between html (default) or plain text. The plain text format will omit product banner and navigation features

Printing/Viewing PDFs

By selecting the print icon at the left of screen, the page is re-formatted for printing, i.e. all navigation is removed and the text is presented on a page for easy printing. The *World Biographical Information System Online* also allows you to retrieve and print PDF files of the digitized biographical articles. You can print the images individually, or you can select the multi-page option and print/view 10 pages at a time.

InfoMarks



An InfoMark at the top of any page indicates that the URL of the page *persists* even when the session is over. Persistent URLs can be bookmarked for future reference or copied into an electronic mail message or onto a Web page. Use your browser to save the page as a bookmark or copy the URL from the browser and paste it into another application or e-mail. InfoMarks are valid for search results, mark lists, and biographical and bibliographic record displays. You will *not* be able to InfoMark the images of the digitized biographical articles.

One common use for InfoMarks is to create a predefined search. Any combination of searching and limiting that produces results can be saved. A predefined search could be as narrow as a specific biographical or bibliographic search or as broad as, for example, all biographical entries from a particular Biographical Archive. Each time the saved link is selected, the search will be run anew. To create a predefined search, save the URL at the results list page, the page with a list of matching documents. Saving a results list page provides a link to the list with the most recent count of matches.

InfoMarks and Mark Lists

Saving a mark list page provides a link to a list of selected articles. If you are in a session and have a mark list page and then wish to open a bookmarked mark list, the system will merge the two lists together. This will be successful if the merged mark list does not exceed the 50 item limit placed on mark lists. You may merge multiple mark lists together provided you do not exceed the 50 item limit. Should you exceed the limit, an error message will appear.

For more information on how to use InfoMarks, refer to the web site www.galegroup.com/infomarks.

For more information about these tips and additional information about **World Biographical Information System Online, check out the **Help** section in the database by clicking on the Help link that appears on the top banner portion of all screens.