



Biography Resource Center (BioRC)

Navigation Guide

The Biography Resource Center (BioRC) is the comprehensive database to search for information about people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas.

Overview:

- Nearly 300,000 narrative biographies from over 70 sources
- 900,000 thumbnail biographies
- Covers over 185,000 people; with Marquis Who's Who over one million people
- 250 periodicals updated daily
- 4,000 web links and growing
- 5,000 images
- Thousands of biographies are added to the database each year
- Most sources from the 1990's

International Entries: (Almost 33% of **BioRC** database is international)

- Asia = 2,500
- Africa = 1,400
- Australia/New Zealand = 1,800
- Canadian = 3,900
- Central America/Caribbean = 1,100
- Europe (including former USSR) = 28,000
- Middle East = 1,200
- South America = 700

Sources: (To find a complete list of sources, view the source list on the left-hand navigation bar.)

- Information from over 70 Gale and St. James Press titles, including:
 - *Encyclopedia of World Biography*
 - *Newsmakers*
 - *Contemporary Musicians*
 - *Notable Twentieth-Century Scientists*
 - *Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives*
 - *Dictionary of American Biography*
 - *Business Leader Profiles for Students*
 - *Contemporary Authors*
- The Complete Marquis Who's Who, fully integrated within BioRC, is available as an optional purchase (but cannot be purchased separately without BioRC)
- Selected full text articles from periodicals such as *American History*, *Maclean's* and *National Review*
- Tips on Biographical Research
- Brief entries with lists of additional resources from *Almanac of Famous People*

Photos/Images:

- Approximately 8,000 images are included



Types of Biographical Information:

- Multicultural
- Women
- Government Leaders
- Notables
- Writers
- Scientists and mathematicians
- Historical figures
- Business Leaders
- Bibliography

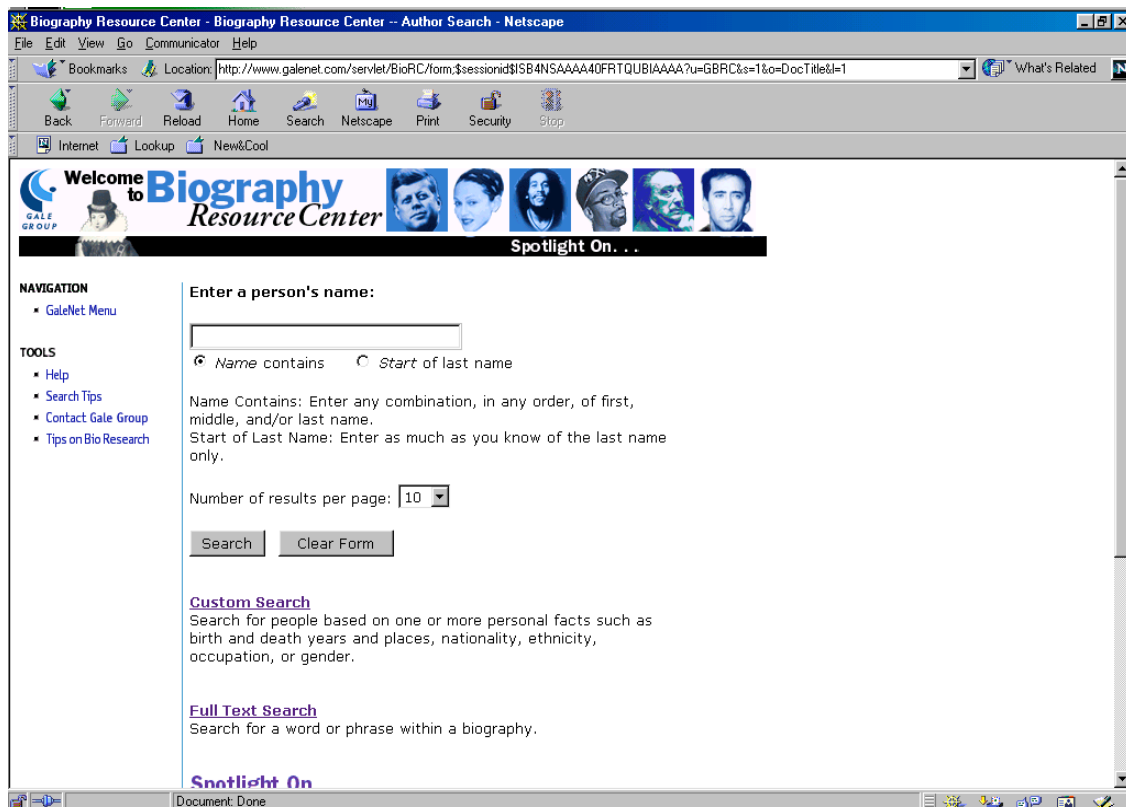
Updates:

- Most biographies have been published or substantially updated within the past 5 years, and many have been recently updated for Biography Resource Center
- Full text periodicals are updated daily.

Search Options:

BioRC offers the following search options:

- Search by Name
- Custom Search
- Full Text Search





Name Search

The quickest way to search for a biography in **BioRC** is to enter a name or part of a name in the field on the **BioRC** Main Menu. Name Search will look for an individual whose name corresponds to whatever you key into the search field, whether you type the full surname, the first name and last name in any order, or just the beginning of the surname.

There are two options to this search feature. Searches can be done by either selecting the **Name contains** or the **Start of last name** option.

Name contains: example search for Steinbeck

The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window displaying the Biography Resource Center search results for the keyword 'Steinbeck'. The browser's address bar shows a complex URL. The page header includes the Gale Group logo and the text 'Biography Resource Center'. Below the header, there is a row of small portrait photos of various biographical subjects. The main content area is titled 'Current Search Results' and contains the following text: 'Your search on Name contains steinbeck found 7 name(s). Name(s) 1-7 of 7 displayed below. Select a name from the list below:'. A list of seven search results is provided, each with a blue hyperlink and a yellow highlight background: 'Steinbeck, Barbara Albright (1932-)', 'Steinbeck, David William', 'Steinbeck, Gary Michael (1958-)', 'Steinbeck, John (American writer, 1902-1968)', 'Steinbeck, John Mason (1932-)', 'Steinbeck, John William (1961-)', and 'Steinbeck, John Witherup, II (1931-)'. On the left side of the page, there are two sections: 'NAVIGATION' with links for 'Revise Search' and 'Main Menu', and 'TOOLS' with links for 'Help', 'Tips on Bio Research', and 'Dictionary'. At the bottom of the page, there are additional links: 'Revise Search', 'Main Menu', 'Help', 'Tips on Bio Research', and 'Dictionary'.

The search on Steinbeck resulted in a list of 7 John “Steinbecks.” We will select “John Stenbeck, American writer” within the list:

[Steinbeck, John E\(rnst\) \(American writer, 1902 – 1968\)](#)

Start of last name: example: Stein (may even type in part of component, such as “Stei”)



Bookmarks Location: ocType=Marquis+Biography+Resource+Page+or+Biography+Resource+Page&secondary=false&origSearch=true&KW&s=1&r=s&o=DocTitle&l=7 What's Related

Biography Resource Center

Current Search Results

NAVIGATION

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- Main Menu

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- Help
- Tips on Bio Research
- Dictionary

Your search on Start of Last Name = stein* found **1365** name(s). Name(s) 1-10 of 1365 displayed below.

Select a name from the list below:

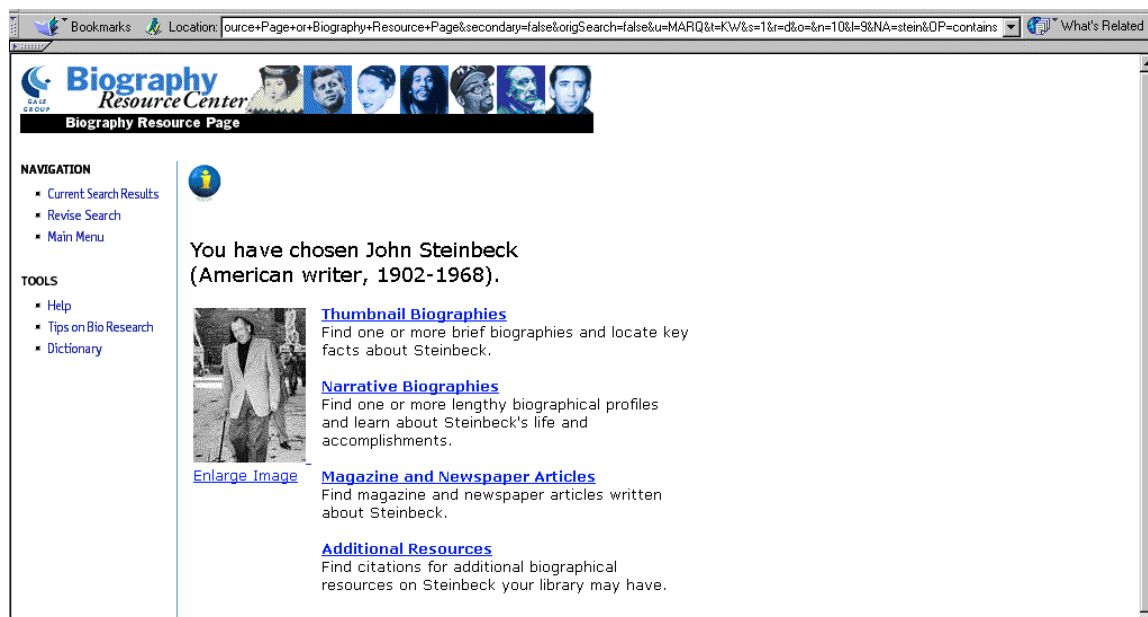
Page#: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#) - [6](#) - [7](#) - [8](#) - [9](#) - [10](#) - [11](#)

- [Berger, Helmut \(1944-\)](#)
- [Delany, Samuel R\(ay\), \(Jr.\) \(American writer, 1942-\)](#)
- [Hanussen, Erik Jan \(German stage clairvoyant, 1889-1933\)](#)
- [Hegeler, Sten \(Danish writer, 1923-\)](#)
- [John-Steiner, Vera P\(olgar\)](#)
- [John-Steiner, Vera P\(olgar\) \(Hungarian writer\)](#)
- [Mayer, Gerda \(Kamilla\) \(Czech writer, 1927-\)](#)
- [Nason, Tema \(American writer, 1937-\)](#)
- [Ross, Eulalie Steinmetz \(American writer, 1910-1975\)](#)
- [Sarah, Edith \(1921-\)](#)

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The Start of last name search yields less precise results. Notice the above search on Stein (start of last name) yielded 1365 names in the results list.

When you select an individual, you will be taken to the Biography Resource Page. From there you can access biographies, journal articles, and other information on the person.



Bookmarks Location: ource+Page+or+Biography+Resource+Page&secondary=false&origSearch=false&u=MARQ&t=KW&s=1&r=d&o=&n=10&l=9&NA=stein&OP=contains What's Related

Biography Resource Center

Biography Resource Page


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You have chosen **John Steinbeck** (American writer, 1902-1968).



[Enlarge Image](#)

Thumbnail Biographies
Find one or more brief biographies and locate key facts about Steinbeck.

Narrative Biographies
Find one or more lengthy biographical profiles and learn about Steinbeck's life and accomplishments.

Magazine and Newspaper Articles
Find magazine and newspaper articles written about Steinbeck.

Additional Resources
Find citations for additional biographical resources on Steinbeck your library may have.

The Biography Resource page for him displays a photograph, gives other names he was known by, and gives links to Narrative Biographies; Thumbnail Biographies; Magazine and Newspaper Articles, and Additional Resources.



Custom Search

Use this search to perform highly targeted searches to identify individuals who match certain search criteria. You may search one, multiple, or all terms on the page for searching.

Custom Search Categories:

Name: Type a complete name or any word or combination of words known to be part of a person's name. Variant names and pseudonyms used by an individual are also searchable.

Occupation: Type a word or combination of words that specify a job title, field of endeavor, or a related concept. Examples: professor, accountant, lecturer. Occupation information appears in the career section of the biography.

Nationality: Use the pull-down menu to select where they were born or their citizenship in a particular nation or country. You may make several selections from the Nationality list by pressing and holding the Control Key and clicking on multiple terms.

Ethnicity: Use the pull-down menu to select an ethnicity: an individual's membership in a group that shares a common language, culture, customs, or background. You may make several selections from the ethnicity list by pressing and holding down the Control Key and clicking on multiple terms.

Birth Year and Death Year: From the pull-down menu, select:

- a. exact year (is)
- b. range of years (is between; use hyphens between years)
- c. before a certain year (is before)
- d. after a certain year (is after)

Birth Place and Death Place: Type a word or phrase for a city, state, or country where the individual was born or died. For a state, enter the full name of the state for best results.

Gender: Pull-down menu: Male or Female or Any (for both)

If you enter more than one word in a field, **BioRC** assumes the AND search operator unless you specify another search operator.



Biography Resource Center -- Custom Search - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Biography Resource Center Custom Search

NAVIGATION

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Enter your search criteria below.
You may enter criteria in one field, some of the fields, or all of the fields below. For example, you could search for American inventors born between 1850 and 1900, by filling in the Occupation, Nationality, and Birth Year fields. For more information on how to use Custom Search, [click here](#).

Name:

Occupation:
(singular form recommended)

Nationality:
*None selected
Afghan
Albanian
Algerian
American

Ethnicity:
*None selected
African American
Asian American
Hispanic American
Native American

Birth Year: is A.D.

Death Year: is A.D.

You can enter a range of dates separated by a hyphen. [More tips](#) on date searching.

Document: Done

A Custom Search for Occupation: Philosopher, Nationality: Greek yielded 27 names in the results list.

Biography Resource Center -- Results List - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Biography Resource Center Current Search Results

NAVIGATION

- Revise Search
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Your search on Occupation = philosopher AND Nationality = "Greek" found 27 name(s).
Name(s) 1-10 of 27 displayed below.

Select a name from the list below:

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- [Anaxagoras \(Greek philosopher, 500 B.C.-428 B.C.\)](#)
- [Anaximander \(Greek natural philosopher, c. 611 B.C.-c. 546 B.C.\)](#)
- [Antisthenes \(Greek philosopher, 444 B.C.-371 B.C.\)](#)
- [Apollonius of Tyana \(Greek philosopher\)](#)
- [Aristotle \(Greek philosopher, 384 B.C.-322 B.C.\)](#)
- [Carneades \(Greek philosopher, c. 213 B.C.-c. 128 B.C.\)](#)
- [Chrysippus \(Greek philosopher, c. 280 B.C.-c. 206 B.C.\)](#)
- [Democritus \(Greek natural philosopher, 460 B.C.-370 B.C.\)](#)
- [Diogenes \(Greek philosopher, 412 B.C.-323 B.C.\)](#)
- [Empedocles \(Greek philosopher, c. 493 B.C.-433 B.C.\)](#)

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Full Text Search

Use the Full Text Search to search for the presence of any word or words within a biography's main essay text. This search is good to use when you have search on a particular field and your search was unsuccessful.

This search will return a combined list of thumbnail biographies, narrative biographies, and additional resources that contain a match of the search term(s). The Results List will display the name of the subject of the biography, followed by a bibliographic citation for the biography. These lists will be arranged alphabetically by the person's last name.

Four Search Options:

A drop down menu allows you to quickly choose a search strategy – “All the words”; “Any of the words”; and “Exact phrase,” – or you can choose to do a more advanced search using a Boolean phrase (see instructions below).

1. **All the words:** Searches for documents containing all the words that you type in the text field. These words may be in any order and may not be in close proximity of each other.
2. **Any of the words:** Searches for documents containing any of the words that you type in the text box. Results will have at least one of the words entered.
(Note: You may also select "Look for: any of the words" and enter multiple words without the OR operator.) It is also possible, depending on the desired search term, to use the truncation (or wildcard) feature to retrieve both singular and plural forms of a word, e.g. composer*.
3. **Exact phrase:** Searches for documents containing all of the words that you type in the text box, in the exact order entered.
4. **Boolean phrase:** Searches for documents based on the text entered and the Boolean operators includes. You may use more sophisticated searching operators within this option, such as AND, or OR operators or wildcards.

The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window titled "Biography Resource Center -- Full Text Search - Netscape". The page header includes the Gale Group logo and "Biography Resource Center Full Text Search". On the left, there are navigation and tools menus. The main content area is titled "Enter a word or phrase:" and contains a search form with the following elements:

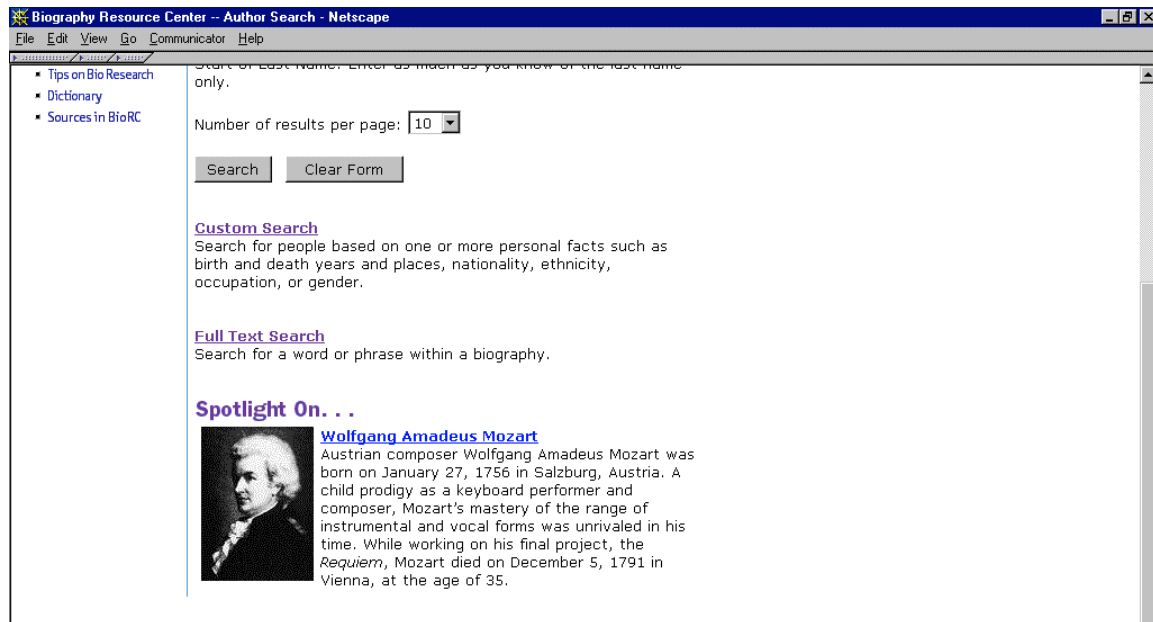
- A text input field labeled "Full Text Search:".
- A dropdown menu labeled "Look For:" with "all the words" selected.
- A note: "You can also do powerful searches using [Boolean expressions](#). Click [here](#) for instructions on word or phrase searching."
- A dropdown menu labeled "Number of results per page:" with "10" selected.
- "Search" and "Clear Form" buttons.
- Footer links: [Main Menu](#), [Help](#), [Search Tips](#), [Tips on Bio Research](#), and [Dictionary](#).

Use of Quotation Marks: When you type information, use quotation marks around multiple words to find citations that contain only those words in the order specified. If you do not use quotation marks, BioRC will find all citations that contain the words you entered regardless of the order of the words.

You can choose the number of results to be returned per page, but remember the more you choose, the longer it will take the computer to display the page.

Spotlight On:

Biographies, magazine and newspaper articles are provided on a particular person of current or historical importance. This Spotlight On profile changes periodically.



Strategies:

- The more search terms you add, the more precise your search results will be.
e.g. bulls (results=273)
 bulls chicago (results=175)
 bulls chicago basketball (results=127)
 bulls chicago basketball player (results =118)
- Be specific. If you want information about the Sundance Film Festival enter all those terms in your search rather than just the word film.

Punctuation:

- **Ampersand**—An ampersand (&) is NOT recognized by the search engine and should **not** be included in your search.
e.g. AP (not A&P)
- **Capitalization**—Capitalization does not affect your search since the search engine is not case sensitive. That means that a search on Bill Clinton and bill clinton will return the same results.
- **Double Quotes**—Use double quotes when you want to find your search term as an exact phrase.
e.g. "Lilith Fair"
- **Hyphen**—If a hyphen (-) is considered to be part of the search terms and used between them, the search engine will recognize it in your search.
e.g. dry-clean



- **Parentheses**—Complex searches can be constructed with parentheses. For really powerful searches, parentheses can be combined with Boolean operators.
e.g. “Ang Lee” and ((writer or author) or director)

Truncation:

- The **asterisk (*)**—standing for any number of characters
e.g. athlet*

This will return results with words like athlete, athletes, athletic and athletics. Note: you must have at least two characters preceding the asterisk (To* Morrison not T* Morrison).

- The **question mark (?)**—used to replace exactly one character within a word
e.g. athl?te

The question mark is good for those times when you are not sure about spelling. In this example, the results list will include essays with the word athlete in the text.

- The **exclamation point (!)**—stands for one or no characters
e.g. athlete!

This will return results with either the word athlete or athletes included.

**You cannot use the asterisk (*) or the question mark (?) in date fields.

Date Ranges:

- 1980-1989 (This will search for any year in the 1980s.)
- 1939-1945 (This will search for any year from 1939 to 1945.)

Boolean Search Operators:

Boolean operators used in **Biography Resource Center** are applied in the order in which they appear.

- **AND**—both terms must appear in the essay
e.g. Einstein AND relativity
This search will find essays that include both Einstein and relativity somewhere in the essay but not necessarily together.
- **OR**—broadens the search because only one of the terms must appear in the essay
e.g. Einstein OR relativity
This search will find essays that include either Einstein or relativity, but not necessarily both. OR can be used to find plural or other word endings, like actors or actor or acting. OR can also be used with searches involving synonyms, like author or writer.
- **NOT**—the term following not will not be found in the essay
e.g. Einstein NOT relativity
This search will find essays that include Einstein but do not include the word relativity.

Proximity Operators:

- **The W operator**—finds essays containing the specified words in the specific order within the number of words you indicate
e.g. Peking w2 opera
This search will find the word Peking within 2 words of opera, but opera must follow Peking.
- **The N operator**—locates essays containing the words you specify within the number of words you indicate, but the words can be in ANY order
e.g. electronic n2 book
This search will find the word electronic within 2 words of book in any direction.



Citation Style:

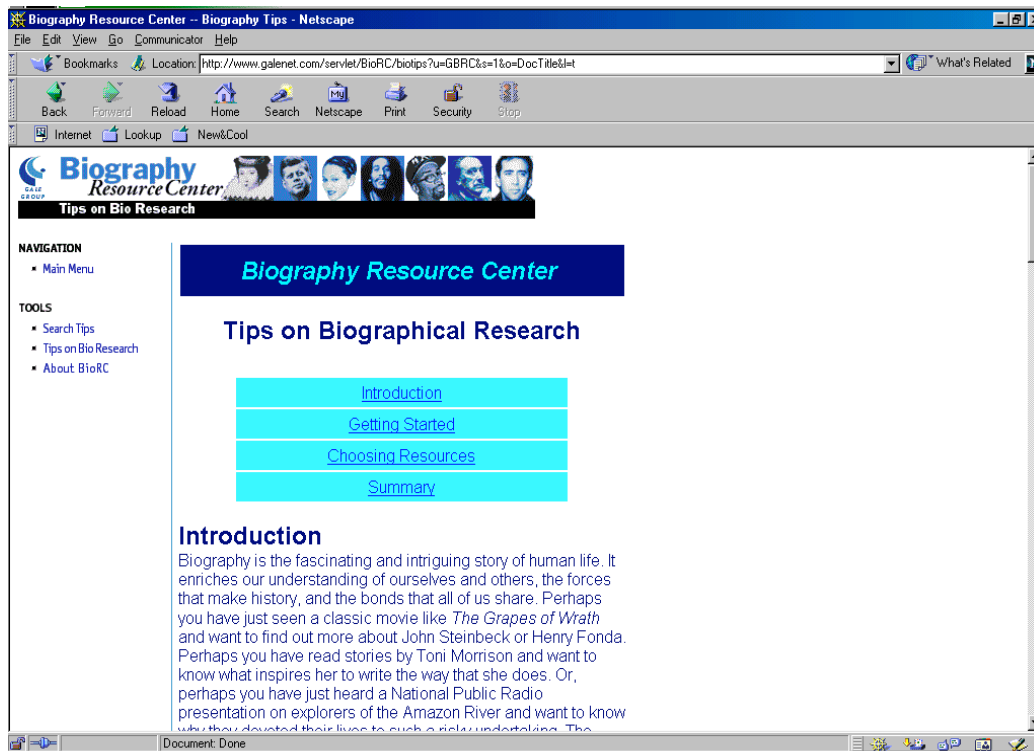
Biography Resource Center has a Citation Generator option. This feature allows you to click on the Citation Generator button on the left-hand side of the screen. A customized citation for that article will automatically be created for citing your source.

Tools:

On the home page and throughout subsequent screens, you will find tools to assist you. The home page gives you a listing and many of these will be available throughout your search. These tools include:

- Help
- Search Tips
- Contact Gale Group
- Tips on Biography Research
- Dictionary
- Sources in **Biography Resource Center**

Tips on Biography Research:



This feature of **BioRC** provides tips on different resources available for biography research. Many of the resources discussed are included in Biography Resource Center. Information on how to use these resources is also outlined.

The **Getting Started** section walks you through steps such as identifying why you need the biographical information, identifying what kind of biographical information you need, and asking yourself what information you already know about your subject.



The **Choosing Resources** section discusses the process of determining how much information you need and what kind of information is appropriate. For example, you may need more information than a thumbnail biography would provide, but you do not need a resource that is book length. Magazines and newspapers may be appropriate, but Internet ones may not be. The Choosing Resources section discusses the various possibilities.

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. InfoMarks lets you save and relaunch searches and embed them on Web pages, e-mail, word processing documents, and more. With a click of the mouse, you can access a comprehensive knowledge base that you have designed. InfoMarks is the premier tool for creating reading lists, course packs, study guides, content services, guidelines for special projects, bibliographies, training sites, electronic journal directories, and so much more. You could track a company, InfoMark the search, then revisit the new and updated data as often as you like.

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 Biography Resource Center, check out the **About and **Help** sections in the Biography Resource Center database.