American National Biography

“The life of a nation is told by the lives of its people…”

The American National Biography has been described as a “big telephone book of American history.” The online version of the 24 volume print set from Oxford University Press, updated quarterly, provides about 17,500 authoritative full text biographies of people whose significant actions either occurred in the United States or whose life or career influenced United States history. Living people are not included. It is located on the Milne Library web site under “Find Articles/Core List” http://www.oneonta.edu/library/find/alpha.html

The American National Biography (ANB) is the work of about 6,100 subject specialist authors. The chronologically arranged articles trace a person’s life from birth to death. The concluding paragraph puts the subject’s life into historical perspective. The ANB is searchable by full text, name, occupation, birthplace, birth date, death date, special collection, and contributor.

Selected collections are available for Black History, Women’s History, Asian Pacific American Heritage, American Indian Heritage, and Hispanic Heritage. Articles range in length from 750 to 8000 words. Examples of biographies include:

Basie, Count
(21 Aug. 1904–26 Apr. 1984),
Bandleader, Pianist

Bourke-White, Margaret
(14 June 1904–27 Aug. 1971),
Photographer

Carson, Rachel Louise
(27 May 1907–14 Apr. 1964),
Ecologist, Nature Writer

Carver, George Washington
(c. 1864–5 Jan. 1943), African-American scientist and educator

Chapman, John
(Johnny Appleseed)
(26 Sept. 1774–10 Mar. 1845),
Pioneer nurseryman

Crockett, Davy
(17 Aug. 1786–6 Mar. 1836),
U.S. Representative, Folk Hero, Frontiersman

Greenberg, Hank
(1 Jan. 1911–4 Sept. 1986),
Baseball Player

Puente, Tito
(20 Apr. 1923–1 June 2000),
Bandleader, Percussionist

Thoreau, Henry David
(12 July 1817–6 May 1862),
Transcendentalist, Essayist, Naturalist

Washington, George
(11 Feb. 1732–14 Dec. 1799),
Revolutionary Army Officer, U.S. President

Whittemore, Samuel
(27 July 1696–3 Feb. 1793), Farmer and folk hero of the American Revolution

Kaufmann Book Dedication

Plan to attend a very special event on Sunday, June 6, 2004 honoring one of our most generous donors, William Kaufmann. Over the past 10 years, Mr. Kaufmann, a retired publisher whose wife graduated from SUNY Oneonta, has donated over 10,000 books to the library. The subjects represented in this collection cluster around John Burroughs, nature study, and the environment. To dedicate the Kaufmann collection, the library is hosting a dessert reception and a speaker. As part of the dedication, the library has published a catalog which will list representative titles. (A more complete list will be available later in the summer.)

This dedication coincides with the second Burroughs Conference to be offered on campus June 6–10. Displays of John Burroughs books and other memorabilia will be on exhibit in Milne Library during this whole week.

The speaker is Edward Kanze, renowned Burroughs biographer and author of The World of John Burroughs. He will be talking about Burroughs and books following the dessert reception in the library at 2 pm.

For further information on this or any other library databases, contact Nancy Cannon (cannonns@oneonta.edu) ext. 2160.
Exploring the World of Google Searching

Google is such a presence in contemporary life that it is now used as a verb; hence you will hear about singles “googling” prospective dates on the Internet. Google has earned its reputation because of its huge database (currently nearly 4 and a half billion web pages) and its sophisticated search engine. Noteworthy features include the image, groups (Usenet), news (over 4,500 news sources), and Froogle (shopping) search engines and the translation tool found under Language Tools. Behind the simple and colorful search screen, however, lies a treasure trove of power tools and services not necessarily noticed by the casual user.

One of the more immediate and valuable helps available is the Google Toolbar. Once downloaded, the toolbar is added to the other toolbars at the top of your browser and provides instant access to a Google search box, so that you never have to go to the Google homepage to do a search. The Toolbar includes an excellent pop-up blocker, a highlighter to underscore the search terms in your results pages, a drop down search history button, and a dozen or so other niceties, all optional. All the extra search buttons Google offers (images, groups, news, etc.) can be included on the toolbar for quick access. (To download the toolbar follow the more >> link, then scroll down the page to the Google Toolbar link.) Google Buttons similarly adds buttons to the existing toolbars, but is more limited in its scope than the Toolbar.

Most of the Google goodies are a layer or two below the surface. By clicking on the more >> link directly above the Search button, a page of possibilities presents itself. University Searches limits your search to the contents of a specific college or university. The Directory button offers subject categories that can be browsed or searched. Answers is a service which, for a price, provides answers to your questions from researchers. (Be aware that the Internet Public Library offers the same service for free, and it uses only professional librarians as its “researchers.”) Google Local limits your search based on zip code. Special Searches allows you to limit searches to your choice of government sites, MS Window sites, Apple Macintosh, BSD sites, or Linux sites. Remember, any of these pages can be set as your home page.

Perhaps most interesting of the links under the more >> button is that to Google Labs, a cornucopia of odd, and variously useful, experimental tools being developed by the Google folks. For example, Froogle Wireless lets you shop using your cell phone. A more purposeful example is the Personalized Web Search: select a series of subject categories that represent your interests and searches will only be conducted in those categories. Participate in Google Compute and get “your computer to help solve challenging scientific problems when it would otherwise be idle.”

Many of the most effective tools for conducting a precise search on Google can be found behind the Advanced Search link to the right of the search box. If you need to search for a phrase, such as John F. Kennedy or child abuse, use “with the exact phrase” box. “With at least one of the words” looks for synonyms, such as elderly or aged or seniors. The box “without the words” allows you to exclude certain words from the search, such as space center or airport.

The drop-down boxes allow you to limit your search in a variety of ways including by language and by date. File Format either restricts to or eliminates from the search one of six file formats: pdf (Adobe Acrobat), ps, doc (MS Word), xls (MS Excel), ppt (MS PowerPoint), rtf (generic, formatted text). The Domain limiter is a fabulous tool to use when the quality of the site is a factor because you can limit searches to only the domain most appropriate, i.e. .gov, .edu, .org, .com, etc.

Don’t overlook a couple features that only show up in the search results. If the search list includes a page that no longer exists, click on the cached link to see an archived copy of the page as it existed. Clicking on similar pages causes Google to search its databases for related pages, with similar content.

For a list of even more features follow the link About Google from the Google homepage to Google Web Search Features.

Kay Benjamin
Encyclopedias

The reference section of the library has acquired several encyclopedic works to help students with introductory material pertaining to their courses. Among the new books are the following:


This resource is more comprehensive than some other materials available for human ecology studies. The encyclopedia would be useful to students in education, psychology, sociology, and a number of other courses as well as human ecology classes. Its scope includes individual and group studies in psychology and sociology, professions within the field, biographies and interdisciplinary concerns. Interdependence of humans and their environments includes local topics such as parenting and elder abuse and global topics such as air quality.

Articles are signed and include bibliographies of 5–30 citations for further references of use to students. Following the articles are “See also” sections which cross-reference the reader to other articles with similar content. One example is an article entitled *Achievement Motivation* which is three and a half pages in length and includes five cross-reference topics: “Curiosity; Gender Roles and Society; Resiliency; Self, Self-Concept, and Self-Esteem; Self-Efficacy.” Nineteen citations are given for further reading. The article is signed by Janine Bempechat who is identified in the contributor list as being at Tufts University.

When doing a paper, this encyclopedia would be a good starting point for topic overview, resources, and crystallizing the topic.

*The Encyclopedia of Addictive Drugs* by Richard Lawrence Miller

Entries for each drug cover enough information to familiarize the reader with various aspects of the drug. The 130 drugs include natural and pharmaceutical products, all associated with misuse and addiction. Each drug has a guide for pronunciation, chemical abstracts service registry number, formal name, slang or informal names, type of drug, USA availability, and pregnancy category. The body of information for each drug contains discussion of its uses, abuses, drawbacks, drug interactions, cancer risks, and possible problems with pregnancy. Following the entry is a bibliography.

Preceding the alphabetized entries for drugs is an extensive discussion section of drug types. This section has its own bibliography of 47 citations. A student doing research would find these citations useful.

The index includes many street names for the drugs. “Alcohol” in the index subdivides to interactions with many of the drugs. This might be a good study possibility.

A comprehensive “Sources for more information” includes print and internet sources for further study.

Daily Life through History

For those researching or interested in learning about the daily life of people in various historical time periods, a new resource entitled *Daily Life through History* is available through Milne Library’s web site. This “online sourcebook series provides a detailed portrayal of what life was like for ordinary people in different cultures throughout history.” The library has purchased sixteen titles in the series. They can be located on the library’s web site by clicking on the Find Articles link, and then selecting from the alphabetical list of resources, *Daily Life through History*. When that link is selected, the titles of the sixteen sourcebooks appear some of which include: *Daily Life of the Ancient Romans, Daily Life during the Holocaust, and Daily Life on the Old Colonial Frontier*.

Each book, written by a scholar, allows the user to make connections between daily activities and historic events. Some of the topics covered are: food, religion, clothing/fashion, family, politics/government, language, amusements/entertainment, women, and work.

There are several ways to navigate through the sourcebook: 1) The table of contents list (which is always present on the left side of the screen) enables one to select a specific section such as Introduction, Chronology or Timeline, Topics and subtopics (specific to the particular sourcebook), or Bibliography; 2) On the upper right of the screen (and also repeated on the bottom) are links called Previous and Next which move the user through the sourcebook “page by page”; 3) The search page allows users to do simple keyword searches as well as more complex Boolean searches (using AND, OR, AND NOT, and NEAR). The user can also limit searches to specific chapters by checking boxes on the search page. Search queries are not case sensitive and quotation marks are not necessary.

To print a selection, click on the print icon on the right side of the page. Using the print icon reformats the page by removing the headers, footers, and table of contents and adds a source citation at the bottom.

Searchable links are provided across the top of each page. The links are to Home, Search, Help, Image Gallery, Lesson Plans, and Related Links. The Image Gallery furnishes color and black-and-white images, maps, and illustrations pertinent to the subject of the sourcebook. The Lesson Plans, arranged by broad historical periods including The Ancient World, The Medieval World, 15th and 16th Centuries, 17th and 18th Centuries, 19th Century, and 20th Century, are designed for teaching the content and are correlated to the National Center for History in the Schools standards. The Related Links section provides links to relevant web sites arranged by the same broad historical periods as the Lesson Plans.

For assistance in finding and using this resource, stop by the Reference Desk.
Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to the following students who have worked in the library and will be graduating this May:

**Bibliographic Services:**
Tovah DiPrinzio

**Circulation:**
Brandi Barringer
Erin Blackwell
Lindsay Carter
Samantha Cronk
Angelisa Del Pilar
Lisa Petrozzo
Melanie Pedersen
Carolyn Weinell

**Reference:**
Eileen Maloney

---

### Library Hours

**Intersession** Thursday, May 20–Monday, May 31
- Monday–Friday ................................................................. 8 AM–4:30 PM
- Saturday & Sunday ............................................................. Closed
- Memorial Day, Monday 31 .................................................. Closed

**Summer Session I** Tuesday, June 1–Thursday, July 1
- Monday–Wednesday ......................................................... 8 AM–8 PM
- Thursday & Friday ............................................................. 8 AM–5 PM
- Saturday ............................................................................ Closed
- Sunday ................................................................................ 4 PM–8 PM
- Saturday, June 5 (Alumni Weekend) .................................... 1 PM–4 PM

**Intersession** Friday, July 2–Monday, July 5
- Friday, July 2 ................................................................. 8 AM – 4:30 PM
- Saturday & Sunday ............................................................. Closed
- Monday, July 5 ................................................................. 8 AM–4:30 PM

**Summer Session II** Tuesday, July 6–Thursday, August 5
- Monday & Tuesday .............................................................. 8 AM – 8 PM
- Wednesday – Friday .......................................................... 8 AM – 5 PM
- Saturday & Sunday ............................................................. Closed

**Intersession** Friday, August 6–Tuesday, August 24
- Monday–Friday ................................................................. 8 AM–4:30 PM
- Saturday & Sunday ............................................................. Closed

---

Milne Library News is a publication of James M. Milne Library
State University of New York College at Oneonta
Oneonta, New York 13820-4014
Phone: 607.436.2723  Fax: 607.436.3081
http://www.oneonta.edu/library
Editor: Jim Coan