



Biography Reference Center

Description: Biography Reference Center (BRC) offers a comprehensive collection of more than 460,000 full text biographies. In addition to keyword searching, users can locate biographies of interest by browsing key categories, including occupation, nationality, publication, and more. BRC comes with its own dedicated interface, but is also available via the *Explora* interfaces.

Audience: Biography Reference Center is useful for students doing biographical research.

Content: Biography Reference Center provides comprehensive coverage for many of the most prestigious biographical reference collections available, including complete coverage from *Biography Today* and *Biography*; 9,000+ biographies from *American National Biography*; *Cambridge Dictionary of American Biography*; *Encyclopedia Britannica* biographies; and *Hutchinson's Biography Database*.

Biography Landing Page: Biography Reference Center is organized around a record called the Biography Landing Page. The Biography Landing Page includes information about your subject, such as birth/death dates, nationality, occupations, and achievements. The page may include an image or photograph of the subject, if one is available, along with links to one or more detailed biographies, concise biographies, or related articles about the person. Detailed and concise biographies are both drawn from biographical reference sources, the difference being that detailed biographies are two or more pages in length, while concise biographies are less than two pages long. Below is a screenshot of the Biography Landing Page for Jon Stewart:

Jon Stewart, 1962 -

Also Known As: Jonathan Stuart Leibowitz
Born: 11/28/1962, New York, New York, United States
Nationality: American
Occupations: Television Show Host; Comedian; Writer
Achievements: Grammy Award: Best Comedy Album - "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents...America: A Citizen's Guide To Democracy Inaction", 2005; Grammy Award: Best Spoken Word Album - "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents Earth (The Audiobook)", 2011; Known as the host of "The Daily Show" television program; NCTE George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language, 2005; Peabody Award for "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart: Indecision 2000", 2000; Peabody Award for "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart: Indecision 2004", 2004

Related Information

Detailed Biographies

- [Jon Stewart](#)
 By: Southard, Brad C.. Great Lives from History: Jewish Americans, 2010, p150-150, 2p Reading Level (Lexile): [1250](#)
[Add to folder](#)
[HTML Full Text](#)
- [Jon Stewart](#)
 Jon Stewart (Biography Today), 2010, p1-1, 2p Reading Level (Lexile): [1070](#)
[Add to folder](#)
[HTML Full Text](#)

Concise Biographies

Interviews

While Biography Landing Pages feature prominently in Biography Reference Center, providing basic biographical facts, as well as a starting point for research, searchers should not limit themselves to the content available via Landing Pages. A basic keyword search on a person's name often retrieves additional full text biographical content on the individual. Read on to learn how to browse your way to Biography Landing Pages, and search your way to additional content!

Basic Search Screen

The default Basic Search screen offers a simple keyword search option, as well as the ability to browse the biography carousel, browse biographies by genre, and browse all biographies. We'll start off talking about the three browse options.

Biography Carousel: The biography carousel is the most eye-catching feature of the Biography Reference Center Basic Search screen. It appears as a horizontal row of images highlighting famous individuals included in the database. To scroll through the 40+ images displayed on the carousel, click on the arrows on the left and right sides of the carousel.



If you don't recognize a person featured on the carousel, place your cursor over their image to display their name. Clicking on an image will take you to the Biography Landing Page for that person.

Biographies by Genre: Biography Reference Center allows you to browse biographies by genre from both the Basic and Advanced Search screens. Available genres include Actors, African Americans, Authors, Business Leaders, Current World Leaders, Historical Figures, Inventors, Musicians, Native Americans, Politicians, and many more.

Click on a genre (e.g. Athletes) to retrieve a list of individuals in the database that fit into that genre. (Note: Genre lists are not meant to be exhaustive representations of all individuals in a genre; instead, they highlight a selection of famous individuals, past and present, in a specific category.) Click on the name of an individual (e.g. Adu, Freddy) to display the Biography Landing Page for that individual.

Biographies by Genre

- [Activists & Reformers](#)
- [Actors](#)
- [African Americans](#)
- [Arab World Protests](#)
- [Artists](#)
- [Asian Americans](#)
- [Athletes](#)
- [Authors](#)
- [Business Leaders](#)
- [Canadians](#)
- [Classic History: Greeks & Romans](#)
- [Current World Leaders](#)

Athletes

- [Aaron, Hank \(American Baseball Player, 1934-\)](#)
- [Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem \(American Basketball Player, 1947-\)](#)
- [Adu, Freddy \(American Soccer Player, 1989-\)](#)
- [Agassi, Andre \(American Tennis Player, 1970-\)](#)
- [Aikman, Troy \(American Football Player, 1966-\)](#)
- [Ali, Muhammad \(American Boxer, 1942-\)](#)

Freddy Adu, 1989 -

Also Known As: Fredua Koranteng Adu
Born: 6/2/1989, Tema, Ghana
Nationality: Ghanaian
Occupations: Soccer Player
Achievements: MLS Cup Champion, 2004; MLS Supporters' Shield, 2006; Two-time MLS All-Star (2004, 2006)

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Related Information

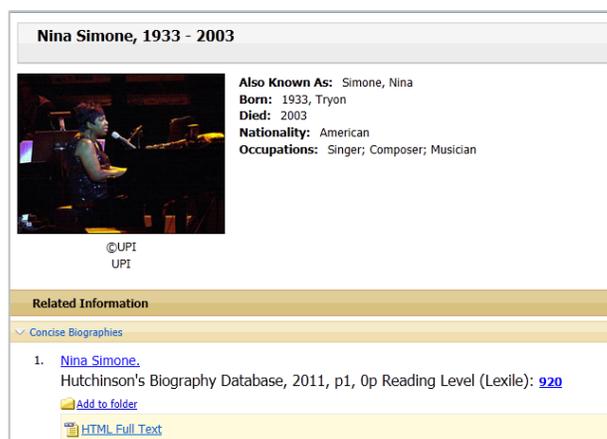
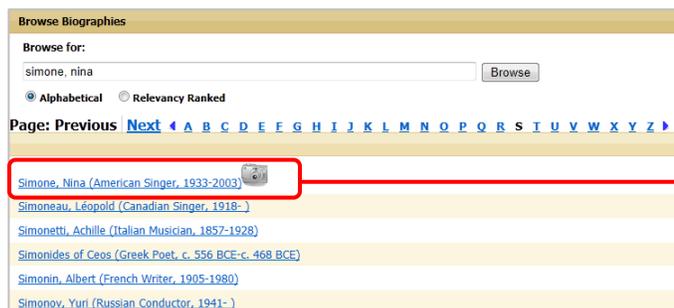
Detailed Biographies

- [Freddy Adu](#), Freddy Adu (Biography Today), 2010, p1-1, 2p Reading Level (Lexile): [1040](#)
[Add to folder](#)
[HTML Full Text](#)

Browse All Biographies: Click on the “Browse All Biographies” link on the Basic Search screen to browse an alphabetical list of all individuals included in the database. On the Basic Search screen, the “Browse All Biographies” link appears in the upper-right corner of the Biography Carousel.

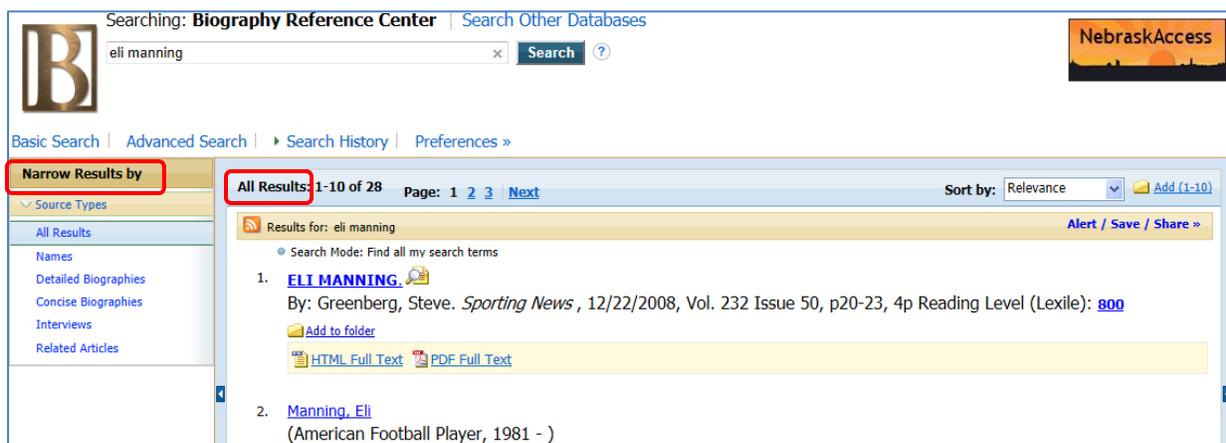


After clicking on the link, the Browse Biographies page displays. Enter all or part of the name you are searching for (in last name, first name format) in the “Browse for” field and click “Browse.” If you don’t immediately see the name you searched for, use the A-Z links or the Previous | Next links to browse through the list. Browsing biographies alphabetically is the default setting. When browsing alphabetically, names appear in last name, first name format. When you find the name you are looking for, click on it to view the Biography Landing Page for the person.



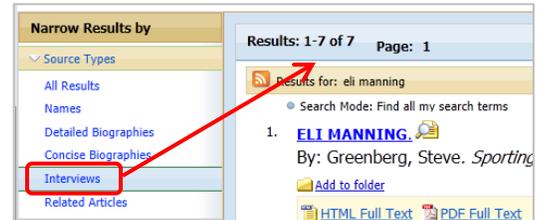
To summarize, in the three browsing examples outlined above, the end result is always a Biography Landing Page. As previously mentioned, Biography Landing Pages are often good starting points for research, but it is often possible to find more information on your subject by doing a basic keyword search on their name. Let’s take a look at how that works now!

Basic Search: To perform a basic keyword search, enter a search term, such as a person’s name, in the search box and click “Search.” If your search matches content in the database, you will retrieve a Result List. The screenshot below shows the result list retrieved in response to a basic keyword search for Eli Manning. As you can see, the list contains 28 records!



Result List: The Result List Screen has two columns, a “Narrow Results By” column on the left and an “All Results” column on the right. Depending on the content retrieved by your search, the “Narrow Results By” column may give you the option of narrowing by Source Type, Nationality, or Occupation. In the Eli Manning example above, the only option is to limit by Source Type; available source types in this instance include All Results, Names, Detailed Biographies, Concise Biographies, Interviews, and Related Articles.

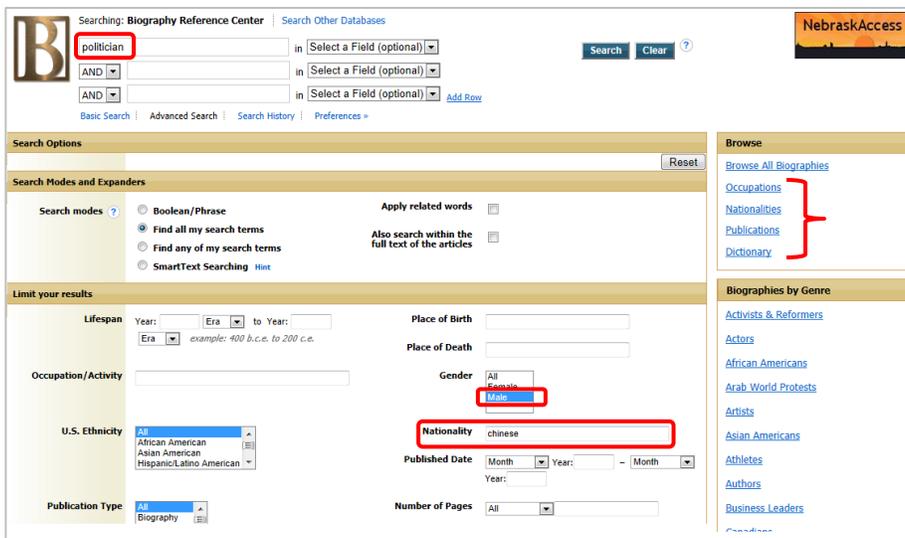
To limit the result list to only results of a particular source type, click one of the source type links in the left column. For example, clicking on the “Interviews” link reduces the result list to just seven articles that contain interviews with Eli Manning.



Limiting to the “Names” source type will narrow your results to just Biography Landing Page records. There is only one Biography Landing Page per person. Result lists retrieved in response to some searches, such as those for an occupation (e.g. football player) or nationality (e.g. Chinese American), may include Biography Landing Pages for multiple individuals. In this Eli Manning example, however, limiting to the “Names” source type results in a single Biography Landing Page record for Eli Manning. You can always identify Biography Landing Page records in result lists because they contain only the person’s name, followed in parentheses by their nationality, their claim to fame, and their birth/death dates.



Advanced Search: To access the Advanced Search screen, click the “Advanced Search” link on the Basic Search screen. In addition to allowing you to search for different information in different fields at the same time, the Advance Search screen contains useful limiters that allow you to narrowly define the type of person you want to research, even if you don’t know specific names. For example, you could type a term like “politician” in the first search box, select “Male” from the Gender limit box, and type “Chinese” in the Nationality field. This search retrieves a list of 47 male Chinese politicians.



In addition to offering the same “Browse All Biographies” and “Biographies by Genre” options as the Basic Search screen, the Advanced Search screen also offers the ability to browse Occupations, Nationalities, Publications, and a Dictionary. When you click on the Occupations or Nationalities links, you are taken to the “Browse an Index” screen.