Biography Reference Bank

Biography Reference Bank, an H.W. Wilson database, encompasses all the standard Wilson resources including <u>Biographies Plus Illustrated</u>, <u>Current Biography</u>, the <u>Junior Authors and Illustrators Series</u>, the Wilson biographical series on world artists, authors, composers, songwriters, musicians, and film directors, and over 70,000 profiles licensed form other publishers. Additionally, it contains links to every article on any individual from the thousands of periodicals covered by other Wilson databases.

Go to: **RCPL** (**http://www.myrcpl.com**)
Click: ***Research and Learning***
Click: ***Research Tools***
Click: ***Biography (or View All Databases Alphabetically for a list)***
Scroll down to: ***Biography Reference Bank***
Click: ***Inside the Library*** or ***Home Access***

⭐ To begin a new search, click ***Basic Search*** or ***Advanced Search*** on the left side of the screen.

> Computer commands, field names and mouse actions are in *Italics*.
> Text that you must type is within single quote marks (' ').

1. **What was Johnny Appleseed's real (i.e. given) name?**
   - ❑ At the *Basic Search* screen, type 'appleseed johnny' (or 'johnny appleseed') in the *Find* box.
   - ❑ Click the *Start* button.
   - ❑ At the *All Results* screen, select (click) *Appleseed, Johnny 1774-1845* from the list of matches.
   - ❑ When the *Record View* screen appears, Appleseed's real name, *John Chapman*, is given in the abstract at the beginning of the record.

2. **I read that pioneer Johnny Appleseed was influenced by someone named Emanuel Swedenborg. Who was he?**
   - ❑ At the *Basic Search* screen, type 'swedenborg emanuel' in the *Find* box.
   - ❑ Click the *Start* button.
   - ❑ At the *All Results* screen, select *Emanuel Swedenborg* from the list of matches..
   - ❑ When the *Record View* screen appears, a biographical essay on Swedenborg is given along with the correct pronunciation of his name. Additional material can be found by clicking the tabs for *Most Recent Articles* (some of which are full text), *Reviews and Criticism*, *Articles and Books*, *Books About*, and *Books By*.

3. **I'm writing a paper for a literature class and need information on authors who wrote about abuse or were themselves abused.**
   - ❑ Click *Advanced Search* (above the *Find* box).
   - ❑ When the *Advanced Search* page appears, type 'abused persons' (not just 'abused') in the first *Find* box. (Consult the *Thesaurus* [tab at the top] to determine the subject headings utilized by this database.)
   - ❑ At the *Profession/Activity* field, type *Authors* in the box next to it. **(**Leave *Date of Birth*, *Date of Death*, and *Place of Origin* blank, and set *Gender* at *All.*)

❑ Click either of the two *Start* buttons. An alphabetical list of clickable matches will be displayed.

4. **A patron born on February 20 wants to know if there are any "notables" with the same birthday (same day, not necessarily the same year).**
   ❑ Click *Advanced Search.*
   ❑ Leave the radio button at the *Date of Birth* (default) setting.
   ❑ From the drop-down menu at *Month*, select *February.*
   ❑ From the drop-down menu at *Day*, select *20.*
   ❑ Click the *Start* button. An alphabetical list of notables born on February 20 will be displayed as clickable links.

5. **I want to research artists, but that is a very broad search term that retrieves thousands of matches.   How can I get a list of more specific classifications used by *Biography Reference Bank*?**
   ❑ At the top of the screen, click *Thesaurus.*
   ❑ Type 'artists' in the *Search Thesaurus For* box.
   ❑ Click the *Start* button.
   ❑ The second match in the resulting list indicates that *Biography Reference Bank* uses over 30 *Narrower Terms* for different types of artists.
   ❑ Clicking *Narrower Terms* will display a list of different types of artists (i.e., calligraphers, cartoonists, enamelers, lithographers, etc.).

6. **Years ago I remember reading about a person called "Fish Bait" who was connected somehow with the U. S. Congress and wrote a book about it, but I have no other information.**
   ❑ At the *Basic Search* screen, type 'fish bait' in the *Find* box.
   ❑ Click *Start. Miller, William Mosley* appears on the *Search Results* screen and is identified as doorkeeper to the U. S. House of Representatives. Click his name to access the *Record View* screen.
   ❑ The *Record View* screen repeats "Fish Bait's" given name, William Mosley Miller, in the box on the left, and gives "Fish Bait" Miller as a *Cross Reference Name*. Clicking *Biography Index Citations* displays those records.

7. **What is the proper way to cite electronic sources?**
   ❑ Click the *Exporting/Citing* link at the top of the screen.
   ❑ When the *Exporting/Citing* page appears, click the *How to Cite* link to the right of the Wilson Web logo. The displayed page gives numerous examples using MLA (Modern Language Association) and APA (American Psychological Association) styles.