

Finding Information: Biographies

Print Sources:

- Encyclopedias
- Text books: the Harcourt text series include a biographical dictionary at each grade level.
- Library books
- Our Hickman Charter Annex!!!

Internet Sources:

When using the internet as a source for ANY information, some cautions are in order. The internet can be a wonderful source of information, but it is a wild and crazy “place”. Advertisements pop up when least expected, often with accompanying sound. What seems to be a reliable source may provide surprises. A very general rule is to look at the extensions on the end of links. If you see .gov, .edu, .org, you’ll probably be in a more reliable place than a .com. But not always!!!

Subscription services (those for which you pay) should be more free of advertising and other problems. Examples include Time For Kids, World Book Encyclopedia, etc. Often these subscription services offer a pared-down level at no charge, but then require payment for full services. First on your list of subscription services should be **Discovery Streaming**. If you do not have an account, ask your EC for information to open your account. In addition to video material, you can find print sources via Discovery Streaming.

Possible sites to consult:

www.biography.com. has much information, and also much advertising!!! Proceed with caution.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/index.html>. More parent than student information...

<http://www.ipl.org/IPLBrowse/GetSubject?vid=12&cid=3&tid=4293&parent=4245>. No longer maintained or updated, but still highly valuable for research

Public Library Websites:

Perhaps one of the most valuable and overlooked internet sources is the public library. Many are available for use by anyone anywhere in the world, but some require a library card number. For the price of a single trip to the library to register for the card, either the San Joaquin County or Stanislaus County library system will provide a large number of resources, from the convenience of your home!

For **Stanislaus County**, from their homepage (<http://www.stanislauslibrary.org/>) click on the resources tab on the left and proceed from there. Under the “databases” heading, you’ll find all KINDS of information, even how to fix your car!

For **San Joaquin County**, from their homepage (<http://www.ssjcpl.org/>) click on kid stuff on the left. From the next screen, start with “homework help.” Alternatively click on “research” at the top, and you’ll have access to various databases, some the same as Stanislaus County, some different.

And.... Try our nation’s library! The **Library of Congress**: <https://www.loc.gov/families/> has a whole section devoted to information for kids and families.