BearCat Search Strategies
Finding biographies, autobiographies and primary sources on historical figures in BearCat can be done in one of several ways:

1. Search for your person (last name first) as a Subject;
2. If this produces too many items, consider using Keyword search and use search field abbreviation “d:” before the keyword “biography” to retrieve only the biographies for this person (ex.: d:Eva Peron and dbiography - note: there is no space between the colon and the word and use “and” as a logical connector);
3. Search for your person in “firstname lastname” order as a Keyword with one of these terms: sources or letters or correspondence to get to primary sources on this person (ex.: Eva Peron letters)

To search for subject specialty encyclopedias type in the subject term and the term encyclopedias (ex.: philosophy encyclopedias). Almost every discipline has an encyclopedia devoted to its history, ideas, and major personalities.

Finding Current Research
Periodical indexes and databases will lead you to the most current scholarly research on historical individuals. Which one or ones should you use? Here’s a very selective list of places to start:

**General:** All of these resources provide indexing, abstracting, and some full-text access to both scholarly and popular journals:
- Academic OneFile
- Academic Search Premier
- InfoTrac OneFile
- World Biographical Information System

**Business:**
- ABI/INFORM Global: full text; worldwide coverage
- Business Source Complete: full text; scholarly and popular journals

**History (world history, history of science, history of western civilization):**
- Historical Abstracts (for European and world figures)
- America: History and Life (predominantly for United States, but with some coverage of Canada and South and Latin America).
- International Medieval Bibliography Online (articles in English and other languages)

**Literary Figures:**
- MLA International Bibliography: published by the Modern Language Association for research in all languages and literatures.

**Religion & Philosophy:**
- ATLA Religion Database: full-text abstract and index to scholarly articles in religion and theology.
- PhilosopherIndex: classical to contemporary philosophy; abstracts only.
- Catholic Periodical and Literature Index: print index devoted to scholarly & some popular journals on Catholic history, theology, etc. (Ref AI 3 C32)

**Psychology:**
- PsycInfo: abstract and full-text to scholarly journals in psychology.

If a resource does not contain full-text articles you can use the BU InfoLinks button to locate the item in Baylor’s print and electronic collections. If Baylor does not own the item we can order it for you.
from Interlibrary Services (OsoFast), given enough time.

**Indexes to Biographical Sources**

*Master Indexes,* published by Gale

- **Historical Biographical Dictionaries Master Index**
  (Ref Z 5305.U5 H57)
- **Business Biography Master Index**
  (Ref HC 29 .B87x 1987)

Almanac of Famous People. 5th ed.
(Ref CT 104 B56)

(Latest in Reference) (Ref CT 103 .M35x)

Biography Index. 1964-.

This source will lead you to articles that appear in books and periodicals about people regardless of dates, country, or field of activity. (Ref Z 5301 .B5)

A Dictionary of Universal Biography of All Ages of All People. 2d ed.
(Ref CT 103 .H9 1951)

**Guides to the Best Biographical Works**

Research Guide to America Historical Biography. 3 vols.
(Ref CT 214 R47 1988)

Research Guide to European Historical Biography. 4 vols.
(Ref CT 759 R44x 1992)

**General**

In many cases current volumes of biographical sources are kept in the Reference Collection, Jones Library, 1st floor. Older volumes are shelved in the General Collection by call number.

**World Wide**

Twentieth Century Culture
(Ref CT 120 T89x)

Thinkers of the Twentieth Century. 2nd ed
(Ref CT 120 T45 1987)

Makers of Modern Culture
(Ref CT 120 M36 1981)

The Annual Obituary
1980-1993 (Ref CT 120 A56)

**North America**

American National Biography (Online)
Online resource

Dictionary of American Biography

Great Lives from History: American Series. 5 vols. “Masterplots” for people
(Ref CT 214 G74 1987)

More Memorable Americans, 1750-1950
(Moody Gen Coll. CT 214 D69 1985)

National Cyclopaedia of American Biography
68 volumes. Index: 1975 (Ref E 176 N28)

3 volumes (Ref CT 3260 N57)

(Ref CT 213 .S37 1998)
The New York Times Obituaries Index
Who Was Who in America
   Various volumes with coverage back to 1607 (Ref E 176 W64)

Britain
Dictionary of National Biography
   Main set covers from the earliest times to 1900. Supplements cover to 1990 (Ref DA 28 D47)
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
   (Ref DA 28 .O95) Also online
Who Was Who
   British with some international figures (Ref DA 28 W65)