

# LC Science Tracer Bullet

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES IN THE SCIENCES-- LIFE, EARTH AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES (1989-2006)**

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**TB 06-4**

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**SCOPE:** This guide offers a systematic approach to the wide variety of published biographical information on men and women of science in the life, earth and physical sciences, primarily from 1989 to 2006, and complements *TB88-3 (Biographical Sources in the Sciences, compiled 1988)* and *TB06-7 (Biographical Sources in the Sciences -- General Works and National Sources, compiled 2006)*. Works previously listed in *TB88-3* have not been retained, but older works which did not make it into the previous bibliography have been included. Both historical and contemporary scientists are covered, with emphasis on Americans. As in *TB88-3*, bibliographic citations include the indication of illustrations, particularly portraits, and the inclusion of preliminary pagination extending to more than 13 pages and unnumbered as well as numbered series notes.

Departing from the usual Tracer Bullet format, where one subject is treated per publication, *Biographical Resources in the Sciences* instead is being issued in three parts, *General Works and National Sources; Life, Earth and Physical Sciences (1989-2006);* and *Technology and Computer Sciences (1989-2006)*. Each Tracer Bullet contains an introduction to the topic that includes basic works on biography and a general listing of subject headings. This part, *TB06-4* includes Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine Conservation; Astronomy; Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology; Mathematics; Medical Sciences; Physics; Abstracting and Indexing Services; Journals; and Selected Internet Resources.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC**

#### **On Searching for Biographical Information**

In seeking biographical information about scientists, one is apt to encounter contrary difficulties, most easily described as "feast or famine." Dozens of book-length biographies may be available for the great figures, such as Newton or Darwin, while little or nothing is ready to hand for less well known or obscure individuals. A few suggestions may be in order for

searchers confronted with the latter situation. Look for journal articles; nowadays, authors' affiliations are usually given, and these can provide a useful starting point. Check membership directories of societies in the scientist's field where varying amounts of biographical information can often be found--at the very least, an address. If the individual is no longer living, a death date will facilitate the search for newspaper obituaries. If only the year of death is known, an obituary may be found by browsing journals and/or society newsletters in the scientist's field. The organization or institution that last employed the scientist may be able to offer advice or assistance. If the location of the person's home at the time of death is known, consider addressing a query to the local library. Many libraries keep clipping files devoted to noteworthy local residents, and may even be able to supply addresses of surviving family members. Published genealogies and local histories can be consulted as well. If the scientist's educational background is known, examination of college and university alumni magazines may produce information; if these are not readily available, one can try contacting the institution's alumni office.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS** used by the Library of Congress, under which biographical materials on scientists and engineers can be located in most library catalogs, include the following:

### **Highly Relevant**

SCIENTISTS--BIOGRAPHY  
SCIENTISTS--BIOGRAPHY--DICTIONARIES  
SCIENTISTS--BIOGRAPHY--DIRECTORIES  
SCIENTISTS--BIOGRAPHY--INDEXES

See also subdivision "Biography" under headings for groups of scientists, e.g., "African American Mathematicians;" "African American Scientists;" "Women Astronomers;" "Women Scientists;" "Scientists with Disabilities;" "Jewish scientists;" "Catholic scientists;" "Muslim scientists."

SCIENTISTS--UNITED STATES--BIOGRAPHY

See also subdivisions for other countries or geographic areas, e.g., "Scientists--China--Biography;" "Scientists--India--Biography;" "Scientists--Europe--Biography;" "Scientists--Latin America--Biography."

### **Relevant**

MEDICINE--BIOGRAPHY

See also subdivision "Biography" under headings for other scientific disciplines, e.g., "Aeronautics;" "Electronic Data Processing;" "Photography." Note: these headings are used for collective biography only.

PHYSICS--BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also subdivision "Bio-bibliography" under headings for other scientific disciplines, e.g., "Geology;" "Medicine;" "Science."

## ZOOLOGISTS--BIOGRAPHY

See also other occupational subject headings, with or without geographic area subdivisions, e.g., "Anatomists;" "Astronomers;" "Biochemists;" "Biologists;" "Botanists;" "Chemists;" "Computer Engineers;" "Conservationists;" "Earth Scientists;" "Ecologists;" "Engineers;" "Entomologists;" "Environmentalists;" "Geologists;" "Inventors;" "Industrialists;" "Malacologists;" "Mathematicians;" "Meteorologists;" "Microbiologists;" "Mineralogists;" "Molecular Biologists;" "Mycologists;" "Naturalists;" "Oceanographers;" "Ornithologists;" "Paleontologists;" "Physicians;" "Physicists;" "Plant Collectors;" "Psychiatrists;" "Technologists;" "Veterinarians."

### Related

#### SCIENTISTS--ANECDOTES

SCIENTISTS--ANECDOTES, FACETIAE, SATIRE, ETC.

#### SCIENTISTS--CORRESPONDENCE

SCIENTISTS--CORRESPONDENCE, REMINISCENCES, ETC.

#### SCIENTISTS--INTERVIEWS

#### SCIENTISTS--PORTRAITS

See also subdivisions "Anecdotes;" "Anecdotes, Facetiae, Satire, Etc.;" "Correspondence;" "Correspondence, Reminiscences, Etc.;" "Interviews;" and "Portraits" under headings for groups of scientists, e.g., "Engineers;" "Physicists;" "Technologists", with or without geographic area subdivisions.

### More General

#### BIOGRAPHY

#### OBITUARIES

## SPECIALIZED TEXTS

### Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Conservation

*Agricultural & veterinary sciences international who's who.* 5th ed. Harlow, Essex, Longman Group; New York, Stockton Press, 1994. 1157 p. S415.W45 1994 <SciRR Desk>

"... contains details of over 10,800 senior agricultural and veterinary scientists concerned with research from 132 countries." A country and subject index (p. 1125-1157) lists names under professional fields for each of the countries included.

Axelrod, Alan, and Charles Phillips. *The environmentalists: a biographical dictionary from the 17th century to the present.* New York, Facts on File, 1993. xiv, 258 p. illus., ports.

Includes bibliographical references.

S926.A2A94 1993 <SciRR>

Treats organizations as well as individuals.

Becher, Anne, and others. *American environmental leaders: from colonial times to the present*. Santa Barbara, CA, ABC-CLIO, 2000. 2 v. (xviii, 921 p.) illus. GE55.B43 2000 <SciRR>  
Includes bibliographical references.

*Biographical dictionary of American and Canadian naturalists and environmentalists*. Edited by Keir B. Sterling and others. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1997. xix, 937 p.  
Bibliography: p. 881-890. QH26.B535 1997 <SciRR>

Braun, Elisabeth. *Portraits in conservation, Eastern and Southern Africa*. Golden, CO, North American Press, 1995. xxxiii, 268 p. illus., maps, ports. QL26.B73 1995  
Bibliography: p. 257-262.  
"Each conservationist is striving to find a balanced and interactive relationship among people, wildlife, and the environment."

Breton, Mary Joy. *Women pioneers for the environment*. Boston, Northeastern University Press, 1998. xiv, 322 p. illus. GE55.B74 1998 <SciRR>  
Bibliography: p. 305-309.

Drum, Sue, and H. Ellen Whiteley. *Women in veterinary medicine: profiles of success*. Ames, Iowa State University Press, 1991. xv, 270 p. ports. SF612.D78 1991  
Biographies of 20 women.

*Environmental activists*. Edited by John Mongillo and Bibi Booth. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 2001. 356 p. illus. GE55.E57 2000 <SciRR>  
Includes bibliographical references.

Holmes, Madelyn. *American women conservationists: twelve profiles*. Jefferson, NC, McFarland, 2004. 202 p. illus. QH26.H66 2004  
"List of published writings of twelve women conservationists," p. 191-197.  
Mary Austin -- Florence Merriam Bailey -- Rosalie Edge -- Marjory Stoneman Douglas -- Helen Nearing -- Rachel Carson -- Contemporary women conservationists : Faith McNulty, Ann Zwinger, Sue Hubbell, Anne Labastille, Mollie Beattie, and Terry Tempest Williams -- Conclusion, ideas for our time.

Marczakiewicz, August, and Jan Stępiński. *Słownik biograficzny działaczy kółek rolniczych*. Warszawa, Krajowy Związek Rolników, Kółek i Organizacji Rolniczych, Komisja Historyczna, 1992. 157 p. ports. S415.M26 1992

Muhm, Don, and Virginia Wadsley. *Iowans who made a difference: 150 years of agricultural progress*. West Des Moines, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, 1996. xvi, 367 p. illus., ports. S415.M84 1996  
Bibliography: p. 361-367.

*Our history of women in veterinary medicine: gumption, grace, grit, and good humor.* By the Association for Women Veterinarians; compiled and edited by Phyllis Hickney Larsen. Littleton, CO, The Association, 1997. 115 p. illus. SF612.O87 1997  
Bibliography: p. 105-109.

*The Prairie practitioners: 20th century South Dakota veterinarians.* Compiled and edited by Thomas B. Ludgate and Janice Ludgate Kitzler. Freeman, SD, Pine Hill Press, 1996. 288 p. illus. SF612.P73 1996

Scheuering, Rachel White. *Shapers of the great debate on conservation: a biographical dictionary.* Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 2004. xxviii, 312 p. (Shapers of the great American debates) S926.A2S36 2004  
Bibliography: p. 305-306.

Stalheim, Ole H. V. *Veterinary conversations with mid-twentieth century leaders.* Ames, Iowa State University Press, 1996. xxvi, 302 p. illus., ports. SF612.S83 1996  
"Bibliographic Essay": p. 299-302.  
Interviews with "28 innovators who led parts of the prodigious expansion of veterinary medicine in the 20th century."

Who's who of the environment. In *The Environment encyclopedia and directory.* 4th ed. London, Europa Publications Limited, 2005. p. 499-599. GE10.E57 2005 <SciRR>

*World who is who and does what in environment & conservation.* Edited by Nicholas Polunin; compiled by Lynn M. Curme. New York, St. Martin's Press; Geneva, Foundation for Environmental Conservation, 1997. 592 p. GE55.W67 1997 <SciRR>  
Supplementing the biographies is an appendix providing names and brief information arranged by country, and another with listings of names under very narrow specialties.

## **Astronomy**

Bhathal, R. S. *Australian astronomers: achievements at the frontiers of astronomy.* Canberra, National Library of Australia, 1996. 236 p. illus., ports. QB35.B48 1996  
Bibliography: p. 229-232.  
Interviews with 18 astronomers.

Bònoli, Fabrizio, and Daniela Piliarvu. *I lettori di astronomia presso lo studio di Bologna dal XII al XX secolo.* Bologna, CLUEB, 2001. 282 p. illus. (Musei e archivi dello Studio bolognese, 7) QB35.B66 2001  
Bibliography: p. 267-272.  
"Società astronomica italiana."

Brüggenthies, Wilhelm, and Wolfgang R. Dick. *Biographischer Index der Astronomie.* Frankfurt am Main, H. Deutsch, 2005. 481 p. (Acta historica astronomiae, v. 26)  
Alternative title: *Biographical index of astronomy.* QB35.B845 2005

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The appendix provides lists of women honorees, names of honorees arranged by profession and by country of origin, and lunar features by location and by size.
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- Krishnamurthi, K. R. *Indian astronomers*. General editor, N. Mahalingam. Madras, International Society for the Investigation of Ancient Civilizations, 1991. 213 p.  
Short sketches of ancient Hindu astronomers. QB35.K65 1991
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Biographical sketches and portraits of 26 Russian women astronomers.
- McCutcheon, Scott, and Bobbi McCutcheon. *Space and astronomy: the people behind the science*. Chelsea House, New York, 2006. xvi, 192 p. illus. (Pioneers in science)  
Includes bibliographical references. QB35.M224 2006 <SciRR>
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Beidleman, Richard G. *California's frontier naturalists*. Berkeley, University of California Press, 2006. xv, 484 p. illus., maps. QH105.C2B45 2006

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Includes a chapter on "Women in natural history of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries" (p. 252-258) and a chronology, arranged by year of birth, of the naturalists discussed (p. 271-274).
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"Appendix II: Scientists by awards received": p. 417-424.
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Includes bibliographical references.

A lengthy introduction on the development of ornithology in the Netherlands in the 20th century is followed by 550 biographical sketches and a list of the names arranged by date of birth.

Wasserman, Elga. *The door in the dream: conversations with eminent women in science.* Washington, Joseph Henry Press, 2000. xiv, 254 p. illus. QH26.W375 2000

Includes bibliographical references.

*Women in the biological sciences: a biobibliographic sourcebook.* Edited by Louise S. Grinstein, Carol A. Biermann, and Rose K. Rose. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1997. xxii, 609 p. QH26.W66 1997 <SciRR>

Short essays for each of 655 women discuss her life and work and cite writings by and about her.

Appendices list the women in chronological order and by place of birth, place of work, and field of scientific interest, and cite references in biographical dictionaries and other collections.

Yount, Lisa. *A to Z of biologists.* New York, Facts on File, 2003. 390 p. illus. (Notable scientists) QH26.Y68 2003 <SciRR>

Includes bibliographical references.

## Chemistry

*American chemists and chemical engineers.* Wyndham D. Miles, editor. Washington, American Chemical Society, 1976 - < 1994 > 2 v. QD21.A43 <SciRR>

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QC7.N48 1994 <SciRR>

Includes descriptions of collections of the papers of individual scientists, manuscript biographies, and oral history interviews. There is an exhaustive index.

*The Nobel Prize winners: physics*. Edited by Frank N. Magill. Pasadena, CA, Salem Press, 1989. 3 v. (xl, 1364, xix p.) ports.

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**ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES** that index relevant journal articles and other literature of a biographical nature are listed below. **Please consult a reference librarian for the location and format of abstracting and indexing services in the Science Reading Room.**

*America, History and Life* (1964- ) Z1236.A48, Z1236.A484, Z1236.A485, Z1236.A486, Z1236.A488 and Z1236.A487 <MRR Alc> and Electronic format

*Applied Science & Technology Index* (1913- ) Z7913.I7 <SciRR A&I> and Electronic format

*Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts* (1969- ) Z5153.A862 <SciRR> A&I and Electronic format

*Bibliography and Index of Geology* (1933- ) Z6031.G4 and Electronic format

*Bibliography of Agriculture* (1942- ) Z5073.U572 <SciRR A&I> and Electronic format  
URL: <http://agricola.nal.usda.gov/>

*Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (1975- ) Z5305.U5B57 <MRR Biog> <BRS Biog> and Electronic format

*Biography Index* (1946- ) Z5301.B5 <MRR Biog> <BRS Biog> and Electronic format

*Biological Abstracts* (1926- ) QH301.B37 <SciRR A&I> and Electronic format

*Biological and Agricultural Index* (1916- ) Z5073.A46 <SciRR A&I> and Electronic Format

- Chemical Abstracts* (1907- ) QD1.A51 <SciRR A&I>
- Current Biography* (1940- ) CT100.C8 <MRR Biog> <BRS Biog> and Electronic format
- Engineering Index* (1884- ) Z5851.E62 <SciRR A&I> and Electronic format
- General Science Index* (1978- ) Z7401.G46 and Electronic Format
- Historical Abstracts* (1955- )  
D299.H5, D299.H512, and D299.H513 <MRR> and Electronic format
- Mathematical Reviews* (1940- ) QA1.M76 <SciRR A&I> and Electronic format
- New York Times Index* (1913- ) AI21.N44 and AI21.N45 <MRR>
- Physics Abstracts* (1898- ) Q1.S3 <SciRR> and QC1.P46 <SciRR> and Electronic format
- Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* (1900- ) AI3.R48 <BRS> and Electronic format
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URL: <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/node60.html>  
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The following electronic resources may only be available at a large public or academic library. The Library of Congress has subscriptions to these resources which are available to on-site researchers at the Library of Congress. Some titles may be available exclusively in electronic format, while others have components that are represented in book or microfiche formats. **Consult a reference librarian for the location and format of abstracting and indexing services in the Science Reading Room.**

- African American Biographical Database* Electronic format  
Includes Chadwyck-Healey's *Black Biographical Dictionaries 1790-1950*, obituary files, slave narrative collections, photographs, illustrations, and other sources.
- American National Biography* CT213.A68 1999 <MRR Biog> and Electronic format  
Portraits of more than 17,400 men and women from all areas and walks of life whose lives have shaped the nation.
- Biography Resource Center* Electronic format  
Database of biographical information on more than 150,000 individuals from all parts of the world. The information is taken from standard biographical resources, many of which are also available in print format in the Library.
- Chambers Reference Online* CT103.C4 <MRR Biog> and Electronic format  
Contains *Chambers Biographical Dictionary* (1997 ed. with amendments)

*German Biography* Electronic format  
Elektronische Allgemeine deutsche Biographie (E-ADB and E-NDB) is a database for German biographies.

*JSTOR Arts & Sciences I, II III, and Health & General Science* Electronic format  
JSTOR is a collection of full-text, keyword-searchable academic journals dating back to the late 17th century.

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* DA28.O95 2004 <MRR Biog> and Electronic format  
An illustrated collection of 50,000 specially written biographies of the men and women who shaped Britain's past.

*Proquest Historical Newspapers* Electronic format

*World Biographical Information System* Electronic format  
Current component indexes and archives include the following, with more added yearly: *American Biographical Archive (ABA Series I and II)*; *Biographical Archive (ABEP Series I and II)*; *Biographical Archive of the Benelux Countries/Archives biographiques des pays du Benelux (BAB I)*; *British Biographical Archive (BBA Series I and II)*; *Archives biographiques françaises /French Biographical Archive (ABF Series I and II)*; *Deutsches biographisches Archiv/German Biographical Archive (DBA Series I and II)*; *Archivio biografico italiano/Italian Biographical Archive (ABI Series I and II)*; *Russisches biographisches Archiv/Russian Biographical Archive (RBA)*; *Scandinavian Biographical Archive (SBA I)*; and *Archivo biográfico de España, Portugal e Iberoamérica/Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American Archive (ABEP Series I and II)*.

*Xreferplus: Biography* Electronic format  
Component sources include *Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage*, *Debrett's People of Today*, *Macmillan Dictionary of Women's Biography*, *Penguin Biographical Dictionary of Women*, *Who's Who 2003*, *Who's Who in Ancient Egypt*, *Who's Who in Christianity*, *Who's Who in Gay and Lesbian History*, and *Who's Who in The Roman World*.

**JOURNALS** that often contain biographical articles on scientists, or bibliographic listings of relevant books and articles, include:

*Agricultural History* S1.A16

*American Heritage of Invention & Technology* T1.A455

*American Scientist* LJ85.S502

*British Journal for the History of Science* Q125.B77

*Bulletin of the History of Medicine* R11.B93

*Historia Mathematica* QA21.H54

*Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* QC7.H69

*History of Science* Q125.H63

*History of Technology* T14.7.H57  
*Industrial Archaeology* T37.I5  
*Isis* Q1.I7  
*Journal of Chemical Education* QD1.J93  
*Journal of Medical Biography* R134.K33  
*Journal of the History of Ideas* B1.J75  
*Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* R131.A1J6  
National Academy of Sciences. *Biographical Memoirs* Q141 .N2  
*Osiris* Q1.O7  
*Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* Q11.P5  
*Science* Q1.S35  
*Scientific American* T1.S5  
*Scientific Monthly* Q1.S817  
*Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* Q125.S94

### **SELECTED INTERNET RESOURCES**

The Internet offers a growing number of sources that provide information on scientists in virtually every scientific discipline. Use your favorite search engine and the name of the individual or terms such as those provided in the section on subject headings at the beginning of this compilation. Some Internet addresses that may be of interest include:

Biographies of Women Mathematicians

URL: <http://www.scottlan.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm>

The Bruce Medalists (astronomy)

URL: <http://yorty.sonoma.edu/BruceMedalists/index.html>

Chemical Heritage Foundation: Chemical Achievers

URL: <http://www.chemheritage.org/classroom/chemach/index.html>

Contains biographical, scientific, and pictorial material about famous chemists.

History of Astronomy: Persons

URL: [http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/hist\\_astr/ha\\_pers.html](http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/hist_astr/ha_pers.html)

See also "Finding List of Obituaries of Astronomers (1900-1997) and list of other sources.

The History of Chemistry

URL: <http://www.woodrow.org/teachers/ci/1992/>

History of Geology Resources on the Web: a Selection by the History of Geology Group (HOGG)

URL: [http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=HOGG\\_links](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=HOGG_links)

Includes links to geological organizations and online biographies of earth scientists.

The MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive

URL: <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk:80/~history/>

Mathematicians of the African Diaspora

URL: <http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/mad0.html>

Natural History and Biology in the Nineteenth Century: A Bibliography

URL: <http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research/nhbnc.html>

Prizes Named After People

URL: <http://www.answers.com/topic/prizes-named-after-people>

Science Subject Guide: Biography, History of Science

URL: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/subjectguides/biographysg.html>

Scripps Institute of Oceanography Archives

URL: <http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/archives/>

WWW Virtual Library: Chemistry

URL: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/Chemistry/Links/refhistory.html>

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<N&CPR>	Newspaper and Current Periodicals Room
<SciRR>	Science Reading Room
<SciRR Desk>	Science Reading Room reference desk collection
<SciRR Dict>	Science Reading Room dictionary collection