

William Annin Media Center
Sixth Grade English Biography Research, November 2011
Pathfinder for Selected Databases

To locate the William Annin Middle School databases:

Go to the William Annin Middle School home page.

In the left column under **Media Center**, click on **Research** and then **Gr. 6 English, or Databases**.

*(Remember: the more famous your person is, the more results you will get.
It is possible that some people will have few or no results in a database.)*



EBSCOhost: Kids Search (ref, magazine & newspaper articles)
Enter username/password (see Media Center). Click Login.

- Click on **Kids Search**.
- In the **Find** box, type person name in this order: *last name, first name*. Click **Go**.
- If you have *too many* results, look at the left column that says, **Narrow Results by**. Under ▼ **Subject**, there should be one that has your person's name. Click on it.



The default is to sort by **Date** - meaning the most *recent* items are at the top.

- Click the arrow in the **Sort by** window and choose **Relevance** – meaning the articles more *closely related* to your topic will move to the top of the results list.
- Click on the icons to explore the different *types* of articles about your person. Be sure to check the **Biographies** first, and then try looking at **Magazines** and **Newspapers** articles.
- Click on the *title* of an article you want to read. Make sure it has **HTML Full Text** or **PDF Full Text**.
- Look at the **Subject Terms**. These are topics that might be used to *narrow* your topic even further if needed, or focus your research on a *specific aspect* of your person's life.

Read the **Abstract**. This short paragraph gives you a **summary** of the article and can help you eliminate articles that are not providing you with good information.

- If you find a very good article, *save the article to your research folder AND email it home to print out*.
- **TO SAVE:** For **PDFs**, click save and then use the **PDF save** button. For **HTML**, click save and then when the save copy is displayed, click Internet Explorer **Page** button, then **Save As** to save to your research folder.
- **TO EMAIL:** click Email button, enter your email address and Subject of email. Change **Citation Format** to **MLA** using the drop down menu.



SIRS Discoverer (reference, magazine & newspaper articles)

Enter username/password (see Media Center). Click **Submit**.

- Select **Subject Heading** to search for *subjects* related to your person.
- Type your person name in the search box, using *last name, first name* order. **Search**.
- You could get several *subject heading* results depending on how well known your person is. Choose one and click on it to get list of *articles* on that subject. If no subject heading results, go back and do a **Keyword** search.
- By default all the results show in the **All Articles** tab. You can also see how many articles are found in *Newspapers, Magazines*, etc. Click on one of the tabs to see those results.
- The results come up in *date order* with the newest ones first.

52
[All Articles](#)

17
[Newspapers](#)

17
[Magazines](#)

0
[Reference](#)

56
[Pictures](#)

8
[WebFind Sites](#)

NOTE: If you are really lucky, you will have some **WebFind Sites** too. These websites are perfect for you to use for website sources later on. They have already been evaluated and found to be good sources of information. Save the website addresses for our Web searching day.

- The **Summary** (*same as Abstract*) and **Descriptors** (*like Subject terms*) are on the results page. If the summary looks interesting, click on the *title* to read the full article.
- Click “*Source and Summary*” at *top* of the screen to get citation information for the article.



InfoTrac Student Edition/GALE Virtual Reference Library(GVRL)

Enter username/password (see Media Center).

- Click **Proceed**.
- Two choices: **Student Edition** (*magazine/news articles*) **OR Gr. 6 English Bio (E-books.)**

STUDENT EDITION: Basic Keyword Search:

- **Keywords:** type in your person’s name (*last name, first name*). Click magnifying glass icon.
- **Sort:** Sort by *Relevance* at top of screen
- **Full-text:** Click “to documents with full-text” box
- **Content Type:** On left, shows types of articles with # of results. Default display is *Magazines*.
- **Limit Search by:** Narrowing results by: related subjects, doc types, publications, pub. dates.

Emailing/Saving: Under **Tools**, select **Download** to save article to your drive or **Email** to send home. Recommend to select “*send item as attachment*” and **PDF** if file is available in that format.

GR. 6 ENGLISH-BIO (E-books): Type in person’s name (*last name, first name*). Click on person’s name (chapter name) to read e-book.

To save an article, click **Download** icon and **Save**, then choose your research folder.



ABC CLIO (several databases on historical articles –

Original content) Enter username/password (see Media Center).

More challenging reading level. Not every person is in this database, but there are good biographies for people from history. Type your person’s name in the search box (*last name, first name*) and click **Search**. Choose one of the databases to look at its results. **To save an article,** click **Print** then use **IE’s Page button, Save As** feature and choose your research folder. Click **Email** document and fill in boxes with email address and name. Click **Submit/Confirm**, then **Submit**.