Biographical information can be found on the internet. However, when you use them academically, you have to gain accurate information by referring to several reliable sources which you can clearly specify.

### Historical Figures

The information about historical figures and also still-living persons who made remarkable achievements can be found in general biographical dictionaries, which cover wide ranges of fields and eras, and also in encyclopedias.

- **General Biographical Dictionaries and Encyclopedias (Japan)**
  - **Nihon Jinmei Daijiten (JapanKnowledge Lib)** (Japanese Biographical Encyclopedia) [Kodansha] (Library subscription database) (in Japanese only)
    The largest Japanese biographical encyclopedia with more than 75,000 entries. Originally published as *Kodansha Nihon Jinmei Daijiten* (2001).
    Includes approximately 60,000 biographies.

- **General Biographical Dictionaries and Encyclopedias (Worldwide)**
  - **Iwanami Sekai Jinmei Daijiten** [Iwanami Shoten] (book) (in Japanese only)
    The largest non-Japanese biographical encyclopedia includes approximately 38,000 biographies.
  - **Encyclopedia of World Biography** [Gale]
    Biographies on notables from every part of the world and from all time periods.
    Provides biographical information on key figures in British history. Contains the full-text of all 60 volumes of the 2004 printed edition, and also the past 33 editions printed between 1884 and 1996.

### When You Cannot Find the Biographical Information You Want

    Unified indexes of historic Japanese figures listed in leading Japanese biographical dictionaries, encyclopedias, and history encyclopedias, with which you can search for the sources to refer to.

### Still-Living People

General biographical dictionaries and encyclopedias cover the information about the peoples whose achievements are already recognized as historical, so the completeness of the data on people in our time tends to be not enough. In such cases, *Who’s Who* and other similar resources which cover particularly still-living people are useful. *Who was Who* and other resources specialized in people who recently past away should also be referred to.

- **Who’s Who (Japan)**
    These are the oldest who’s who in Japan. They had provided the biographical information in various fields since Meiji era. However, *Nihon Shinshiroku* ended its revision and publication in 2007 with the 80th edition; so did *Jinji Koshinroku* in 2009 with the 45th edition.
  - **Gendai Jinmeirouku (Yomidasu Rekishi Kan)** (Contemporary Who’s Who)] [Yomiuri Shimbun] (Library subscription database) (in Japanese only)
  - **Jinbutsu Database (Kikuzo II Visual)** (Biography Database) [Asahi Shimbun] (Library subscription database) (in Japanese only)
    Who’s who included in Japanese newspaper databases. Provides biographical information of people likely to
There are so many people who made remarkable achievements in specific fields but are not included in general biographical dictionaries or who’s who. In such cases, the biographical sources specialized in the fields should be referred to.

**Biographical Dictionaries in Specific Fields**

- **Nikkei Who's Who (Nikkei Telecom 21)** [Nihon Keizai Shimbun]
  
  (Library subscription database)  
  (in Japanese only)  
  Who’s Who on the presidents, directors, executives, and division heads of Japanese companies. Similar information can be found in other library subscription databases too.

- **researchmap** (public web site)
  
  Provides approximately 220,000 profiles of researchers (as of Apr, 2014).

**Information from Dictionaries, Almanacs, Handbooks in Specific Fields**

Not only from biographical dictionaries, biographical information sometimes can be obtained from dictionaries, almanacs, and handbooks of specific fields.

- **Nihon Kindai Bungaku Daijiten (Dictionary of modern Japanese literature)** [Kodansha]
  
  (book)  
  (in Japanese only)  
  The most complete reference book on modern Japanese literature. Vol. 1~3 are the biographies of authors.

- **Contemporary Authors** [Gale]
  
  (Library subscription database)  
  Biographical and bibliographical data on today’s most influential novelists, poets, playwrights, nonfiction writers, journalists and scriptwriters.

  
  Contains the list of Japanese contemporary artists.

**Biographies And Other Sources**

Besides biographical dictionaries and who’s who, the materials written about specific persons such as biographies, critical essays, and memoires are also helpful, especially when you try to find detailed biographical information. To find such sources, books listed below are useful.

**SUBJECT Search of WINE**

If you search for the last and the first name of the person you are interested in with the subject search of WINE, you can look for the books written about the person. A space has to be inserted between the last and first name. For example, if you search for “Takata Sanae” with the subject search, you will get the result like this.

**Catalogs for Finding Biographies And Other Sources**

- **Nihon Jinbustu Bunken Mokuroku (Catalog of Biographical Materials in Japan)** [Heibonsha]

  Research Navigation, Waseda University Library
Research Navigation, Waseda University Library

- **Jinbustu Bunken Mokuroku** (Catalog of Biographical Materials) [Nichigai Associates]
  - (book) (in Japanese only)
  - Includes biographical materials published from early years of Meiji to 1966.

- **Denki Hyoden Zen Joho** (Comprehensive Catalog of Biographies and Critical Biographies) [Nichigai Associates] (book) (in Japanese only)
  - Annual bibliography of biographical materials. Published every year since 1980.

- **Biographical books** [Bowker] (book)
  - Includes the list of biographies, autobiographies, collective biographies, letters, and diaries.

**Find Biographical Dictionaries and Related Sources**

- **Jinmei Jiten Daijiten** (Dictionary of Biographical Dictionaries) [Jinmei Joho Kenkyukai] (book) (in Japanese only)
  - Includes about 20,000 entries of biographical dictionaries, directories, and related works. Field-specific editions, region-specific editions, and overseas editions are available.

- **Meibo Meikan Zenjoho** (Complete List of Biographical Directories in Japan) [Nichigai Associates] (book) (in Japanese only)
  - The general catalog of the registries and directories published in Japan between 1945 and 2004, including who’s who and biographical dictionaries.

- **Nihon Jinmei Joho Sakuin** (Index of Japanese Biographical Information) [National Diet Library] (book)
  - Government personnel lists, member lists of industry groups, and registries with detailed profiles of actors and sports athletes.

- **Biographical Dictionaries and Related Works** [Gale Research Co.] (book)
  - The second edition published in 1986 covers about 16,000 biographical dictionaries, biographical directories, and encyclopedias of all the countries of the world.