

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILES OF ENTREPRENEURS -- Sources

Entrepreneurship instructors sometimes like to incorporate profiles of successful entrepreneurs into their courses. Following are some useful sources. These are a mix of subscription and open web materials. For instructors not at the University of Illinois, check for similar types of resources at your own library. As well, many larger libraries will have print versions of the electronic tools.

University of Illinois Library Reference collection - Biographical Directories

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/rex/erefs/biography.htm>

These are tools to which our library subscribes - not open Web sources. All are useful when you have a name with which to search. Several are also useful for searches by occupation-related terms - e.g., entrepreneur, founder, inventor. The term founder often pulls out a wider variety of types of entrepreneurs, including social entrepreneurs (and more false hits as well).

American National Biography Online

Excellent source for profiles of dead Americans - I typed in entrepreneur and received 43 profiles. The term founder pulls out traditional and social entrepreneurs - e.g., Jane Addams. Can also type in the name of an individual.

Biography Resource Center

Use the biographical facts search query; in the Occupation box, type entrepreneur. Retrieved over 900 results - living and dead, from around the world. This tool indexes a range of sources, including many popular magazines - e.g., US News & World Report, but can limit results to more formal biographies if desired.

Complete Dictionary of Scientific Biography

Includes inventors. Query for term entrepreneur retrieves 11 items. Best strategy is to search by name.

Marquis Who's Who

A search for the term entrepreneur (using the advanced search and the 'search by keyword' option at the bottom of the page) retrieves over 1000 items. This tool is useful for basic facts, but does not provide narrative profiles.

Oxford African American Studies Center

Under the Search option, choose Biography search, then use the 'full text' search box. A search for the term entrepreneur retrieved 278 biographies; the term founder retrieved over 1,000 items, including social entrepreneurs. Includes living and dead African Americans.



Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Excellent profiles of dead British entrepreneurs. Use full text search option. Retrieves people from many fields.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES - Print and online

Skoll Foundation - brief profiles of recipients of Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship

<http://www.skollfoundation.org/grantees/a-e.asp>

Ashoka Fellows - brief profiles of social entrepreneurs

<http://www.ashoka.org/fellows>

The Biography Channel

<http://www.biography.com/>

Search by name or by terms such as entrepreneur, inventor, founder.

National Inventors Hall of Fame - profiles of inductees

http://www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/1_1_search.asp

About.com - brief profiles of famous entrepreneurs

http://entrepreneurs.about.com/od/famousentrepreneurs/Famous_Entrepreneurs.htm

Bibliography of books on entrepreneurs

<http://www.entrepreneuru.org/student/entrebiogs.php>

This is a site sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation, for university students and faculty.

Our library will have some of these; many can be requested from other Illinois libraries through I-Share.

Entrepreneur Magazine Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurs. Anthony Hallett & Diane Hallett. Wiley, 1997.

Not available through our library, but available through other Illinois libraries (I-Share).

Annotated bibliography of books on entrepreneurs

<http://www.dwc.edu/library/entrepreneurs.shtml>

Our library will have some of these; many can be requested from other Illinois libraries through I-Share.

Business magazines

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/orr/>

Entrepreneurs are often profiled in magazines such as *Inc.*, *Entrepreneur*, *Fast Company* and *FSB: Fortune Small Business*. These magazines have websites, and are also indexed in databases through the Library, including Gale Expanded Academic ASAP and Ebsco Business Source.

