



## Quick Start Guide- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

An illustrated collection of over 50,000 biographies of the men and women who shaped all aspects of Britain's past, from the fourth century BC to the year 2001.

This guide is intended to help you start searching the database.

### Searching

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with 'Search', 'Browse', and 'Themes' buttons. On the right, a 'Quick Search' box contains a dropdown menu with 'full text' selected, a search input field, and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation bar, there is a large search box with the text 'Search for a person in the Oxford DNB' and a 'GO' button. To the right of this is a 'Life of the day' section featuring a portrait and the text 'Today's life Beetle mania' with a link '> Lives of the week'. Below the search box, there are 'More search options' links: 'full text | date, place, occupation | image | more ...'.

You can easily search for a person or for an article (by selecting 'full text' in the top right corner) from the homepage. If you want to conduct a more precise search, click on one of the links under **More search options**. This is useful when you know a specific detail of the article you are looking for, or if you are looking for a specific group of articles.

### People Search

The screenshot shows the 'People Search' interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons for 'Search', 'Browse', and 'Themes'. Below this is a 'Quick Search' box with a dropdown menu set to 'person', a search input field, and a 'GO' button. The main search area is titled 'Find lives that match all the following criteria:' and includes several search criteria sections: 'Name' (with a search box and a link to 'See More Name Options'), 'Fields of Interest' (with a dropdown menu set to 'Any' and a link to 'Open Full List'), 'Sex' (with checkboxes for 'All', 'Female', 'Male', and 'Family / Group'), 'Life Dates' (with 'in or from' fields for Year and Year, and radio buttons for 'Alive' and 'Active'), 'Places, Dates, Life Events' (with 'Event' dropdown set to 'Any', 'in or from' fields for Year, Day, and Month, and a 'Place' field), 'Religious Affiliation' (with 'Faith' and 'Denomination or group' dropdown menus set to 'Any' and a link to 'Open Full List'), 'Image' (with a checkbox for 'Presence of an illustration'), and 'Text Search' (with a search box, a dropdown menu set to 'Complete text', and radio buttons for 'Exact', 'All words', and 'Any words'). There are 'Clear Fields' and 'Search' buttons at the bottom right of the search area.

Fill in any of the criteria, then click **Search** on the right side of the page. You can start again by clicking **Clear Fields**. Click on any of the criteria on the left side of the page to see more information. This will also search for people who are 'known as' what you type next to 'Name', and also people who are related to the person you search for.



## Full Text Search

Search Browse Themes Quick Search person Search Tips GO

People | Full text | References | Contributors | Images

Find articles that match all the following criteria: Clear Fields Search

Find  Complete text  
Match:  Exact  All words  Any words

AND  OR  WITHOUT  Complete text  
Match:  Exact  All words  Any words

AND  OR  WITHOUT  Complete text  
Match:  Exact  All words  Any words

Clear Fields Search

Type the words you want to search for in the text box, then use the drop-down menu to select where you want to search those words for. If you leave it selected as **Complete text** it will search all the information including the biography itself for those words.

It will automatically search for words exactly as you have typed them, like when you search for words using “ “ in search engines. Below the text box you can select **All words** if you want to search for all the words you typed but not in that particular order, or select **Any words** if you want to search for biographies with any of the words you typed.

You can type words in the other text boxes. This means that, for example, you can search for one word in ‘Statement of occupation’ and another word in ‘Quotation text’. It will automatically search for biographies that satisfy the conditions of all the rows, but you can select **OR** if you want biographies that satisfy at least one of the rows, or select **WITHOUT** if you want to exclude biographies that have the words you typed in that row.

Search Browse Themes

People | Full text | References | Contributors | Images

the Oxford DNB:

**Quick Search**  
The quickest way to search is to use **Quick Search** at the top right, or below:

Search for a Person:  GO

Search the Full Text:  GO

**People Search**  
Search for a person or group of persons using a wide selection of characteristics. > [Open people search now](#)

**Full Text Search**  
Search the full text of the dictionary for words and phrases in different contexts. > [Open full text search now](#)

**References Search**  
Search the reference and bibliographic materials associated with each article. > [Open references search now](#)

**Contributor Search**  
Search the index of contributors and find the articles each wrote. > [Open contributor search now](#)

**Image Search**  
Search the portraits and illustrations that appear in the Oxford DNB. > [Open image search now](#)

You can also search references, contributors and images.



## Search results

After you have clicked **Search** a page like the one below will appear.

Click here to print or email your search results

Change the order of your results

Click here to see 'Themes', which are essays and lists of people

Print Email

page 1 of 2 Go to page #  GO

Reorder results

Alphabetical order  
 Birth date order  
 Death date order  
 Reverse Order

Search within these results

Female  Families/groups  
 Male

Alive  Year:   
Any  Place:

Fields of Interest

Any

Illustrated only

Search > Back to original search

Results per page: 20

Your search returned 8 subject(s) with entries in the *Oxford DNB*.  
Your search returned 32 references in *Oxford DNB* themes (lists, groups, and features). 1 - 20 shown in alphabetical order.  
Searching for subjects: called Shakespeare

People Themes

Edwards, Thomas [*called Twm o'r Nant*] (1738–1810), poet [*also known as the Cambrian Shakespeare*]

Hathaway, Anne (1555/6–1623), found in Shakespeare, William (1564–1616), playwright and poet

Keane, Ellsworth McGranahan [*Shake*] (1927–1997), jazz musician and poet [*also known as Shakespeare*]

Morrison, William Shepherd, first Viscount Dunrossil (1893–1961), speaker of the House of Commons and governor-general

Shakespeare, John (*b. in or before 1530, d. 1601*), found in Shakespeare, William (1564–1616), playwright and poet

Shakespeare, John Howard (1857–1928), Baptist minister

Shakespeare, William (1564–1616), playwright and poet

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Narrow down your results

Click the name to read the biography

Click to see a picture of the person

Near the top there is a tab named **Themes**. Clicking that will take you to a list of 'themes', which include lists of people in particular groups, factions or movements, and essays on history which include links to biographies.

You'll see that your search results will also include people who are 'known as' what you searched for, and also people who are related to the person you searched for.

The search results are automatically ordered alphabetically, not by relevance, so even if you typed out their full name they may not be at the top of the list. You can change the order of results on the left side of the page.



# The Online Library

Senate House Library, University of London

When you click on the name of a person you will be taken to the biography, like the one below.

The screenshot shows a web page for a biography of William Shakespeare. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Print', 'Email', and 'Cite'. The main heading is 'Shakespeare, William (1564–1616), playwright and poet' by Peter Holland. Below this, there is a section 'Also including' with links for 'John Shakespeare (b. in or before 1530, d. 1601)' and 'Anne Hathaway (1555/6–1623)'. A list of chapters follows, including 'Shakespeare's parents', 'John Shakespeare and Catholicism', 'Players in Stratford', 'Shakespeare's education', 'After school, and marriage', 'The 'lost years'', 'Shakespeare the player', 'First plays: Henry VI', 'Early comedies, Titus Andronicus, Richard III, and Sir Thomas More', 'Narrative poems', and 'The Lord Chamberlain's Men'. The right side of the page shows the start of the biography text, including a portrait of Shakespeare and the beginning of the text: 'Shakespeare, William (1564–1616), playwright and poet...'. Three red callout boxes with arrows point to specific elements: the first points to the 'Print', 'Email', and 'Cite' links; the second points to the 'Also including' section; and the third points to the list of chapters.

Print Email Cite David Abercromby (d. 1701?)

**Shakespeare, William**  
(1564–1616), playwright and poet  
by Peter Holland

**Also including**  
John Shakespeare (b. in or before 1530, d. 1601)  
Anne Hathaway (1555/6–1623)

Shakespeare's parents  
John Shakespeare and Catholicism  
Players in Stratford  
Shakespeare's education  
After school, and marriage  
The 'lost years'  
Shakespeare the player  
First plays: Henry VI  
Early comedies, Titus Andronicus, Richard III, and Sir Thomas More  
Narrative poems  
The Lord Chamberlain's Men

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**Shakespeare's**  
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the younger branch of the powerful Arden family;  
Agnes Hil  
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1556 and starting to buy further property in town

Click to print or email the biography, or to find out how to cite it

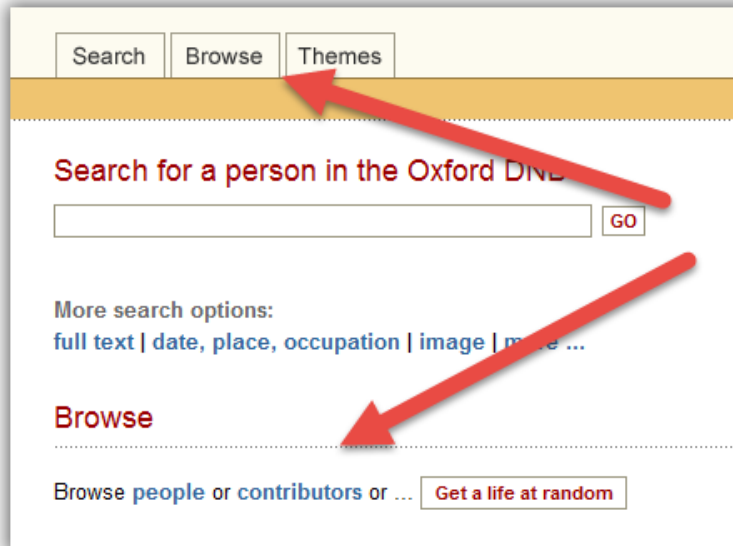
Related people who also have biographies

List of chapters. Click to jump to that chapter

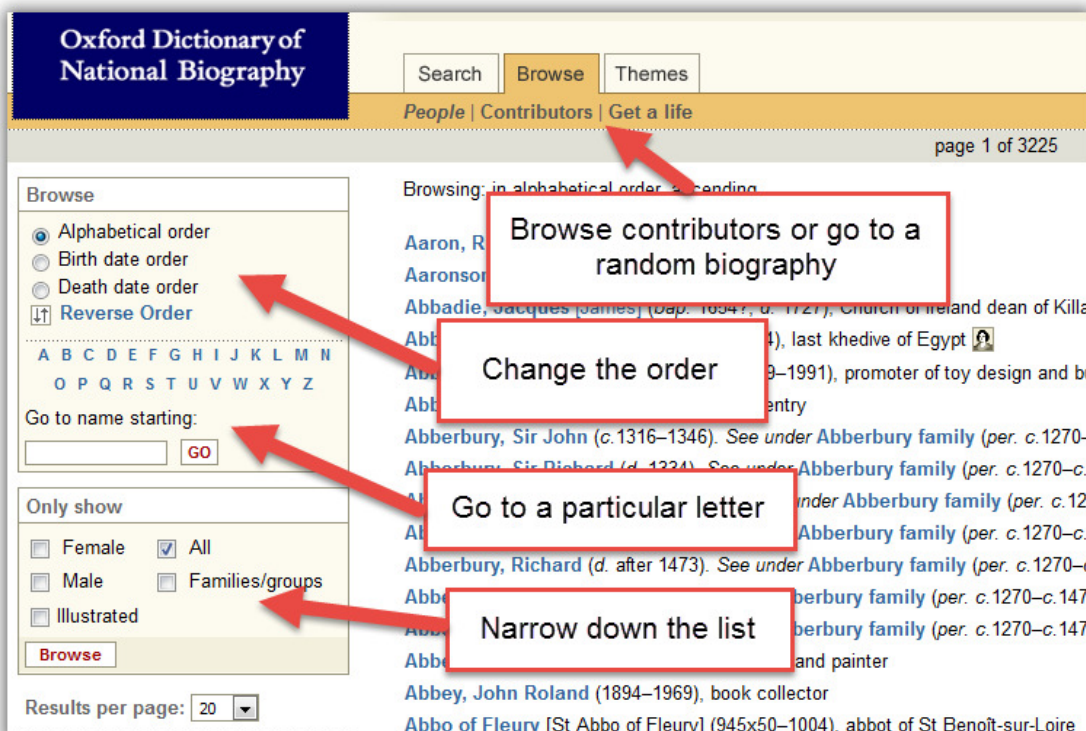


## Browsing

You can start browsing either by clicking the **Browse** tab at the top of the page, or by clicking on one of the links on the homepage. There are three ways you can browse: people, contributors or going to a randomly selected biography.



Clicking on **Browse** or **people** will take you to an alphabetical list of people who have biographies.



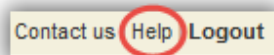


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## Further help

If you need further help click on Help in the top right corner of the page.



Or contact the Online Library in one of the following ways:

+44 (0)20 7862 8478 (between 09.00 and 17.00 UK time)

[OnlineLibrary@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:OnlineLibrary@shl.lon.ac.uk)

<http://onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/about/contact-us>