Author Research Paper

Introduction:

In the past, when you have been asked to do a research project your teacher has asked you to find 3 or 4 sources to use in writing your report. This is your first research project where you are being asked to use 15 or more sources. This type of in depth research demands you use a formalized style in finding information and in taking notes. Keeping track of your notes is extremely important in this type of research, which is why you have been asked to use note cards. Note cards give you two major advantages over just highlighting information from printouts or copies of texts. First, note cards force you to summarize and paraphrase your thoughts as you read each resource instead of skimming and highlighting other people's thoughts and ideas. Second, note cards allow you to quickly rearrange large numbers of notes in the exact order you need them as you write your paper which saves a tremendous amount of time as you outline and write your paper.

Below are some areas in which you can locate many of the 15 sources of information about your author.

Reference sources:

Besides the (R 031 WOR) World Book Encyclopedia and the (R 031 ENC) Encyclopedia Britannica we have several specialty encyclopedia sets you can use finding information about your author.

R 809.04 Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism
R 810.9 MAG Magill's Survey of American Literature
R 810.9 Great American Writers
R 820 GRE Great Writers of the English Language
R 920 CUR Current Biography Yearbook
R 920.03 SOM Something About the Author

Books:

Our library has a nice collection of books by and about authors. Books on American authors can be found in the 813's by the authors last name. Books on British authors can be found in the 823's. In addition, check to see if we have any biographies on your author (920 and 921). If you can't find any books on your author then use our electronic card catalog to locate books about your author.

Premium Databases:

The Sno-Isle Public Library has a wide variety of premium databases you can use if you have a public library card. The Literature Resource Center is a wonderful source to use for this project. In addition, for biographical information about your author you should use the Biography Resource Center. These are the two best premium database resources Sno-Isle has on this topic, but don't forget to look through some of their other databases as well for additional information on your author.
Magazine and Newspaper Articles:

Use ProQuest and eLibrary to locate magazine, newspaper, and web sites about your author. ProQuest has over 3,000 magazines and newspaper in its database, including academic journals. This is a good place to find current articles about your author.

Internet:

The English department has put together an excellent list of ideas and places to go on the Internet (To Google & Beyond) to locate information about your author. Please use this link as a starting point for your Internet searches on your author.

Creating Your Reference Page:

A large portion of your time in writing this paper will be creating your reference page using MLA. There are many web sites which can help you with this task (several are listed on the home page). Go to Preparing to Present and scroll down to the bottom of the page to locate MLA web sites.