

**Всемирная онлайн-информационная биографическая система
и ее новая составляющая — российский онлайн-биографический архив**

**World Biographical Information System Online — New Part — Russian
Biographical Archive Online**

**Всесвітня онлайн-інформаційна біографічна система
та її нова складова — російський онлайн-біографічний архів**

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K. G. Saur представляет WBIS Online — всемирную онлайн-информационную биографическую систему — наиболее полную и всеохватывающую онлайн-библиотеку биографий, использующую все возможности, которые открывает 21-й век для доступа к почти 10 млн. записей из около 8600 справочников по работам, написанным с XVI века на 40 языках и составляющим более 15000 томов.

With the World Biographical Information System Online (WBIS Online) K. G. Saur presents the most comprehensive and extensive biographical online library. Using all the possibilities afforded by the 21st century to provide access to approximately 10 million entries from over 8,600 reference works: works written since the 16th century in 40 languages and comprising more than 15,000 volumes.

K. G. Saur Verlag представляє WBIS Online — всесвітню онлайн-інформаційну біографічну систему — найбільш повну і всеохоплюючу онлайн-бібліотеку біографій, що використовує всі можливості, які відкриває 21 століття для доступу до майже 10 млн. записів з біля 8600 довідників за роботами, які написані від XVI століття на 40 мовах та складають понад 15000 томів

History takes shape in people's life stories. Ideas prevalent during their life times permeate their personal histories; developments in culture and politics, in science and technology, in society and social life are mirrored in their curriculum vitae. Thus, biographies and biographical information constitute an important foundation for historical and genealogical research, for both elementary and more advanced studies in all academic disciplines.

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A wealth of biographical information on more than 5 million people: men and women from all classes and professions, from all countries and regions of the earth, from the 4th millennium BC to the present — herein lies the uniqueness of this database.

In 1999, in the weekly newspaper «DIE ZEIT», Dieter E. Zimmer stated:

«The complete World Archive as a digital database — that would be the ne plus ultra»

DIE ZEIT

With **WBIS Online** this wish has now come true.

WBIS Online sets new standards for biographical research:

- The user can search the database at any time and in any place on screen — in the library, on campus, or at home.
- Access to the information is genuinely international with interfaces available in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.
- The user can select an appropriate search mode to match his or her demands and knowledge.
- Assisted by numerous search criteria, the user can carry out searches combining different questions and aspects.
- Functions and features of current online databases are available along with well-known characteristics of Thomson Gale databases, such as InfoMarks and Mark List.

The information is laid out clearly:

- Name
- Gender
- Year of birth/ death/ Year Cited
- Occupation and occupation classification
- Short title of original source
- Location of microfiche in Biographical Archive

The original biographical articles have been reproduced for the database and are presented as images. The biographical article displayed on screen is identical to the printed edition.

In terms of time and space, the scope of the biographies covered extends beyond anything previously known.

- No other library or database offers biographical information on millions of people from the 4th millennium BC until today.
- None covers the world so comprehensively: people from all continents of the earth, from Africa and America, from Asia, Australia and Europe can be found in WBIS Online.

Unique in its scale. In June 2005, the database contains:

- Biographies — data and biographical articles — on 2,5 million people, among them 80.000 from Russia
- Brief biographical details on a total of 4,2 million people
- 3,5 million original biographical articles, published from 1559 to the beginning of the 20th century
- Biographies of people who lived in and were influential in the following countries and regions of the earth: Russia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Latin America, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, North America, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain

WBIS Online is based on the digitization of the microfiche editions of K. G. Saur's Biographical Archives. Since 1982, both the geography and the timescale of the series of Biographical Archives has been continually extended. Initially, reference works from the 16th century to the beginning of the 20th century were filmed, with the intention of documenting biographical research worldwide. Since then, successive new series have been published, covering works published right up to the end of the 20th century, thereby supplementing the latest research on the persons included, whilst expanding the information on people from the 20th century.

- For the first stage of WBIS Online 8 Biographical Archives are already available in digitized form:
- Russian Biographical Archive (RBA)
- American Biographical Archive (ABA I+ II) Online
- Biographical Archive of the Benelux Countries (BAB I) Online
- British Biographical Archive (BBA I+II) Online
- French Biographical Archive (ABF I+II) Online
- German Biographical Archive (DBA I+II) Online
- Italian Biographical Archive (ABI I+II) Online
- Scandinavian Biographical Archive (SBA I) Online
- Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Biographical Archive (ABEPI I+II) Online

WBIS Online will be enlarged each year by about 1 million additional original biographical entries from a further 7 to 9 Biographical Archives.

Ease-of-use combined with the newest technology makes **WBIS Online** the best tool for biographical research. Each individual digitized biographical archive is unique in its scope. Faculty and students, researchers from all academic disciplines, everyone wanting to conduct biographical research for private or professional reasons, will appreciate the value of this database. Hence, it should not be missing from any library collection.

The digitized Archives Online are available separately or in combination with each other. Thus, a biographical database can be compiled according to individual needs.

Get to know WBIS Online — and millions of people!

Discover the biographical treasure — with the most modern technology

The Online database is based on the microfiche editions of the Biographical Archives, published by K. G. Saur since 1982. Each biographical archive covers a different language and cultural area. For the individual archives, the original texts of each biographical article from various reference works were taken, and facsimile reproductions were arranged alphabetically according to the person's name. In WBIS Online these articles are presented as exact copies of the original articles.

From alchemists to zoologists: the strength of the Biographical Archives lies in the variety of the biographies covered. Men and women from all centuries, all areas of society and professions are included, from science, politics, culture and business. Besides painters, jurists, physicians and sailors, it also encompasses journalists, clerics,

aristocrats and writers, to mention but a few. It thus portrays the population as they were in real life, with all their achievements and attainments, along with their curiosities and peculiarities.

In addition, there are often two or more entries for a person from different sources. The chronological arrangement of these entries demonstrates how the depiction of a person alters in the course of time, and shows the changes the evaluation of their achievements and their influence undergo. Statements about specific people can thus be considered in a historical context.

An online library with unique holdings

In centuries past thousands of biographical handbooks and reference works were published all over the world. No library has a complete collection of all this material. Access to the WBIS Online database thus enlarges the holdings of any library by thousands of biographical reference works — including numerous rarities. Many of the earlier writings are no longer available on loan from libraries today, on account of their poor condition. WBIS Online provides the user with access to all these works in a single database.

The sources used for the Biographical Archives are very varied. They encompass works from many different genres — biographical lexicons, history books, encyclopaedia, Who's Whos, almanacs, etc. — with all sorts of thematic objectives. The considerable scope of the biographical information results from the combination of sources with a variety of different emphases — from local to national and international, from special lexicons to general encyclopaedia. Convince yourself of the extent and diversity of the material in WBIS Online and take a glance at the source list on our web site at: www.saur.de/wbis-online/english/sourcelists/

Boundless search possibilities

The **WBIS Online** user can choose between five different search screens:

Basic Search	for a quick entry and uncomplicated search
Biographical Search	for simple searches using different, combinable criteria
Bibliographic Search	for searches in the sources database
Expert Mode	for complex biographical and bibliographic searches
Microfiche Search	for direct access to the biographical articles

Who is the person behind a particular name?

When and how did a person live, and what has been written about him or her?

WBIS Online makes it easy to answer such questions, even when the exact spelling of the person's name is unclear, or when several people with the same name are included. In these cases, a detailed search can be made using additional criteria.

With **WBIS Online** you will find answers in just seconds: first you receive a hit list, then, with a click of the mouse, you receive brief biographical information on the person being searched for, together with information on the source and archive. From the brief biographies, you can go directly to the complete article, presented as an image on screen.

Difficult and more complex inquiries can also be answered accurately with **WBIS Online**:

- Find all the writers, botanists, scholars of an era or a cultural area quickly and easily.
- Search through biographies in a specific field, such as art, music, philosophy, medicine, politics, literature, theology, military.
- Find out more about female painters of the 17th century,
- inventors of the 18th century, or
- persons celebrating their jubilees in the year 2005 (persons who were born or died in 1605, 1705, 1805 or 1905).
- Discover artists who were also scientists, or
- farmers who were also active in journalism.

Easy-to-use searches — for beginners and experts

The database satisfies all the wishes of both the experienced user, who can conduct complex searches via the expert search mode, and the user with little experience, gaining quick and easy access with the basic search mode.

You can use Boolean operators and truncation in search queries. Search terms can be entered directly or taken from the indices. The user can print selected search results or send them per E-mail. Search questions and results can be saved.

With its five-language user interface in German, English, French, Italian and Spanish, **WBIS Online** can be used internationally.

WBIS Online and its components

Right from the start, **WBIS Online** users have a wealth of information at their disposal: 3,8 million complete biographical articles with detailed information on 2,5 million people have already been digitized and included in the database. In all, brief biographies of 4,2 million people can be researched.

Here are the contents of the online archive available in first stage, in detail:

German Biographical Archive (DBA I) Online
Deutsches Biographisches Archiv Online
213,000 persons
265 sources in 743 volumes,
published from 1707 to 1913
480,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41735-7

French Biographical Archive
(ABF I) Online
Archives Biographiques Françaises
Online
143,000 persons
181 sources in 472 volumes,
published from 1647 to 1919
232,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41730-6

Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American Biographical Archive (ABEPI I) Online
Archivo Biográfico de España, Portugal e Iberoamérica Online
123,000 persons
306 sources in 595 volumes,
published from 1601 to 1924
200,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41732-2

British Biographical Archive
(BBA I) Online
168,000 persons
324 sources in 636 volumes,
published from 1601 to 1929
330,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41734-9

American Biographical Archive
(ABA I) Online
300,000 persons
367 sources in 629 volumes,
published from 1702 to 1956
500,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41729-2

Biographical Archive of the Benelux Countries (BAB I) Online
Biografisch Archief van de Benelux Online
Archives Biographiques des
Pays du Bénélux Online
65,000 persons
123 sources in 529 volumes,
published from 1581 to 1938
142,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41733-0

Italian Biographical Archive
(ABI I) Online
Archivio Biografico Italiano Online
137,000 persons
322 sources in 560 volumes,
published from 1646 to 1934
200,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41731-4

Scandinavian Biographical Archive
(SBA I) Online
155,000 persons
413 sources in 606 volumes,
published from 1621 to 1986
200,000 articles
ISBN 3-598-41736-5

This is the content of the releases in 2005:

Russian Biographical Archive
(RBA) Online
85,000 persons
162 sources in 271 volumes,
published from 1827 to 1995
120,000 articles

Italian Biographical Archive.
Series II (ABI II) Online
Archivio Biografico Italiano.
Nuova Serie Online
135,000 persons
131 sources in 246 volumes,
published from 1845 to 1987
260,000 articles

American Biographical Archive.

Series II (ABA II) Online

172,000 persons
135 sources in 138 volumes,
published from 1888 to 1974
215,000 articles

British Biographical Archive.

Series II (BBA II) Online

190,000 persons
269 sources in 321 volumes,
published from 1601 to 1974
200,000 articles

German Biographical Archive.

Series II (DBA II) Online

Deutsches Biographisches Archiv.
Neue Folge Online
280,000 persons
301 Sources, in 735 volumes,
published from 1844 to 1988
340,000 articles

Preview

WBIS Online will be extended each year. Step by step the database will include further countries, languages and cultural areas. Gradually, more recently published reference works will be covered.

The next stages of **WBIS Online** will be based on the digitization of further Biographical Archives.

2006:

An additional 660,000 people, 1 million biographical articles

**Italian Biographical Archive
to 1996 (ABI III) Online**

Archivio Biografico Italiano
sino al 1996 Online
ca. 120,000 persons
158 sources in 198 volumes,
published from 1950 to 1996
144,000 articles

**African Biographical Archive
(AfBA) Online**

88,000 persons
233 sources in 314 volumes,
published from 1807 to 1993
121,000 articles

**Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American
Biographical Archive.**

Series II (ABEPI II) Online

Archivo Biográfico de España, Portugal e
Iberoamérica. Nueva Serie Online
152,000 persons
333 sources in 961 volumes,
published from 1724 to 1963
204,000 articles

French Biographical Archive.

Series II (ABF II) Online

Archives Biographiques Françaises. Deuxième
Série Online
175,000 persons
118 sources in 255 volumes,
published from 1841 to 1990
223,000 articles

**Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American
Biographical Archive 1960-1995
(ABEPI III) Online**

Archivo Biográfico de España, Portugal e
Iberoamérica 1960-1995 Online
110,000 persons
227 sources in 411 volumes,
published since 1961
180,000 articles

**Australasian Biographical Archive
(ANZO-BA) Online**

95,000 persons
181 sources in 229 volumes,
published from 1866 to 1987
175,000 articles

Biographical Archive of the Benelux Countries. Series II (BAB II) Online

Biografisch Archief van de Benelux.

Deel 2 Online

70,000 persons

65 sources in 193 volumes,
published from 1920 to 1998

89,000 articles

Chinese Biographical Archive (CBA) Online

70,000 persons

89 sources in 130 volumes,
published from 1898 to 1994

114,000 articles

Jewish Biographical Archive (JBA) Online

52,000 persons

133 sources in 212 volumes,
published from 1781 to 1958

111,000 articles

Biographical Archive of the Classical World (BAA) Online

51,000 persons

87 sources in 195 volumes,
published from 1820 to 1989

72,000 articles

Subscribe to individual archives, customized combinations, or the complete system:

Russian Biographical Archive — Online

The great historical-biographical panorama of the Russian Biographical Archive (RBA) stretches from the earliest times, the rule of the Rjurikiden to the end of the dynasty of the Romanovs in 1917. In the Archive 125,000 biographical entries have been included on 80,000 individuals that have left their mark on the politics, economy, religion and culture of the Russian Empire through its varied history.

All Russian states are covered in the time frame of the Russian Empire as of 1917. Belarus, Ukraine, etc. The biographies were compiled from 162 Russian, English, German and French source works in 271 volumes, published between 1827 and 1995

Flexible subscription options:

Combine the WBIS Online components according to your needs

WBIS Online is a database which can be built with the greatest possible flexibility using individual components.

The Biographical Archives Online can be subscribed to separately or in customized combinations as desired. Each Biographical Archive Online is a unique and self-contained reference work in its own right.

In addition to annual subscription, it is also possible to purchase a digital archive version of the first eight archives. The data records of the respective archives will be provided on a data medium, thereby securing the long-term availability of the data records.

We will be glad to inform you of combination options and the whole range of prices for subscriptions and digital archive versions. Please contact us!

Get to know WBIS Online — and millions of people!

WBIS Online is a unique database — the most extensive and comprehensive biographical online library, offering biographical information and research material with modern access.

Its wealth of biographical information facilitates endless new search queries and provides both scholars and laymen, faculty and students, a place to read, use and re-evaluate millions of biographies from all over the world and from all centuries.

Whether biographer, genealogist or lexicographer, historian, ethnologist, scholar of comparative literature or researcher from any other discipline — WBIS Online offers an inexhaustible source of biographical, historical and cultural information to all. It makes this enormous treasure-trove of knowledge available in one place, quickly and easily.

Come and see for yourself: Register for free trial access!

At www.saur.de/wbis-online you can find further, detailed information on the individual online archives, including the sources listed, which can also be downloaded as PDF files. There you will also find instructions to help you navigate across the database, along with a series of search tips. We would like to invite you to a virtual tour of WBIS Online, in which the individual screens, depictions, functions and features are presented clearly. And remember, you can also register directly for a free trial there.