

1. Where did Hugh Hefner go to college? Did he get a degree? In what? Do you notice any inconsistencies in the information?

Hugh Hefner attended college at University of Illinois, where he obtained a BA in Psychology in 1949. It seems that he also took classes at Northwestern University and the Chicago Art Institute.

I recognized Hugh Hefner's name, and knew I was looking for an American celebrity and for degree information, so I started with *Marquis Who's Who* (even though I know it is considered a "vanity publication" and is not an authoritative source because as *Reference and Information Services: An Introduction* describes "the answers provided by the biographees may not undergo any editorial review or revision," (921) it would give me a place to start). *Marquis Who's Who* describes that Hugh Marston Hefner went to University of Illinois, where he obtained an undefined BS in 1949. For more complete information I went to Gale's *Contemporary Authors Online* (accessed through Biography in Context) describes "Education: University of Illinois, B.A. (psychology), 1949; also attended Northwestern University," which is supported by citations to multiple sources. Gale's *Newsmakers* supports these details, and also has citations. (Note: Hugh Marston Hefner has not been added to *American National Biography*, yet!) I did not think that Hugh Hefner's college degree would be mentioned on *Biography.com*, yet it was; It affirms that he obtained a BA from UI, and adds that he attended summer courses at the Chicago Art Institute (a previous name for The Art Institute of Chicago, not the Art Institute franchise). I would recommend that the patron confirm Northwestern and SAIC before citing that information, potentially by contacting their alumni offices, though if he only attended a course or two it might not be easy to confirm, nor too relevant to cite.

Works Referenced:

Jeanne Holba Puacz, "Biographical and Genealogical Sources" in *Reference and Information Services: An Introduction* 5th Edition (Libraries Unlimited, 2016), 907-952.

"Hugh Marshall Hefner," *Marquis Who's Who*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
<http://search.marquiswhoswho.com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/profile/100002408986>

"Hugh Hefner," *Biography.com*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
<https://www.biography.com/business-figure/hugh-hefner>

For this Reference question I was looking for a direct reference source that would have biographical information contemporary or recently deceased American celebrities, and that would include information about individuals' educational studies. *Marquis Who's Who* is a biographical directory that includes the basic information sought, and was sure to have this celebrity listed, so I started there. It did have an answer, but potentially not

the complete answer, so I followed my initial search by looking at more complete and authoritative resources (as cited in class and in our course textbook), which lead to more nuanced information.

2. Look up Ub Iwerks in Biography.com, Biography & Genealogy Master Index, American National Biography, and Biography Resource Center (Bio in Context). Compare the information you located; which source would you recommend to a patron? Why?

Biography.com had links to two articles about Walt Disney, whom Ub Iwerks worked with. By skimming these essay-length articles one is able to glean a little information about Ub Iwerks, but not much.

Biography & Genealogy Master Index is a directory that lists citations to 20 reference works (indexes, guidebooks, etc) where more info can be found. It is an “indirect” biographical reference source, and thus does not provide information beyond the list of sources or index of recommended works to consult.

American National Biography is a “biographical dictionary” that links to a biographical essay about Ub Iwerks that is rich in details and well-cited.

Biography in Context is a cumulative reference resource that provides access to links towards three biographical-dictionary articles (from *Encyclopedia of World Biography Online*, *Almanac of Famous People*, and *International Dictionary of Films and Filmmakers*—one very short, one more thorough, and one that gives a helpful list of all of his films), a link information about a screenplay that Ub Iwerks co-wrote with Walt Disney, and an article from the *New York Post*.

If my patron wanted a strong place to start to learn about someone that they were just starting to research (without being overwhelmed with options), I think that the *American National Biography* would provide an excellent place to start to broaden their knowledge and interests. From there I would probably recommend *Biography in Context*, which might help the patron then narrow their interest into a particular direction. From there a bibliography might be recommended from the offered citations, based on the patron’s specific interests and needs.

Works Referenced:

"Ub Iwerks," *Biography.com*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
<https://www.biography.com/search?query=Ub+Iwerks+>

"Iwerks, Ub," *Biography & Genealogy Master Index*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
https://find-gale-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/bgmi/quickSearch.do?quickSearchTerm=Iwerks%2C+Ub&isFuzzy=false&x=20&y=5&stw.contentSet=null_config&userGroupName=uiuc_uc&s

earchType=BasicSearchForm&prodId=BGMI&tabID=&searchId=&boolCnt=0

"Iwerks, Ub," *American National Biography*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
<https://doi-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/10.1093/anb/9780198606697.article.1701635>

"Iwerks, Ur," *Gale in Context: Biography*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
https://go-gale-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/ps/personSearch.do?authorLifeSpan=&method=doLinkDirectedSearch&searchType=PersonSearchForm&query=%28NP+%28Iwerks%2C+Ub%29%29&prodId=BIC&queryId=Q2&searchTerm=14568793+OR+14568791&userGroupName=uiuc_uc&fbt=NoFallbackTerm&inPS=true&entityAction=search&displaySubject=Iwerks%2C+Ub&searchQueryId=Q2&bname=Iwerks,%20Ub

All of these sources are authoritative reference sources, as discussed in class and in the course textbook. The cited articles may be presumed to be more authoritative.

3. What can you tell me about President Teddy Roosevelt's wife?

Which one? Theodore Roosevelt had two wives: Alice Hathaway Lee and Edith Kermit Carow.

I chose to start with the biographical dictionary *American National Biography* because I needed an authoritative source that would have information about the retrospective biographee's family, and this figure is part of American history and culture. I didn't know the name of President Teddy Roosevelt's wife so I started by looking up Theodore Roosevelt, which pulled up an essay where I learned that he was married twice: first to Alice Hathaway Lee, and then to Edith Kermit Carow. Both wives have essays attached that are reinforced by bibliographies. Both of these essays offer good starting points for research. What would you like to know about them?

Works Referenced:

"Roosevelt, Theodore," *American National Biography*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
<https://doi-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/10.1093/anb/9780198606697.article.0600569>

"Roosevelt, Alice Hathaway Lee," *American National Biography*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
<https://doi-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/10.1093/anb/9780198606697.article.0500909>

"Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow," *American National Biography*, Accessed September 13, 2019.
<https://doi-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/10.1093/anb/9780198606697.article.0500910>

As discussed in class, and in the course textbook, *American National Biography* is an authoritative source. Its articles are edited and cited.

4. Who was Iolani Luahine? How did she get her name?

Iolani Luahine was a Hawaiian hulu dancer born January 31, 1915. She was born “Harriet Lanihau Makekau.” Her first name “Iolani” was given to her through her grandmother’s sister after she recovered from a childhood illness; “Io” meaning “hawk of the heavens.”

This individual was a little more difficult to find in authoritative resources. I didn’t know previously when or where this individual was based. After searching *Biography.com* and Gale’s I thought to try more local newspapers and publications, which could be found in *Nexis Uni*’s database. I landed on a transcript of a news broadcast by WGBH which conveyed biographical details about this individual.

Boston’s public broadcasting station WGBH may not be recognized as an academic reference resource, and its authority may be questioned, but for less-known individuals local newspapers and television broadcasts are a recognized source of information for reference librarians to consult. (I also found reference to a *New York Times*’s obituary from December 13, 1978 through the Wikipedia page, which could be referenced as well.) I don’t have a problem with Wikipedia (as a past contributor to Wikipedia I personally know that they do have a review process and are careful about their content, that is more strict in the English-language version), so I would also refer the patron to *Wikipedia* if they wanted to know more, because there is a wealth of consolidated information there that is more accessible than the newspaper databases that are offered through UI-UC’s catalogue. I would be sure to show them where the information citations are and how to follow them through.

Works Referenced:

WGBH television transcript. *Global Broadcast Database* in Nexis Uni, Accessed September 14, 2019.
<https://advance-lexis-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/document/?pdmfid=1516831&crid=3679b2fa-fad4-4dcb-9ea0-8d2cbbd20d84&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fnews%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A4NRV-BC20-TW7J-320J-00000-00&pddocid=urn%3AcontentItem%3A4NRV-BC20-TW7J-320J-00000-00&pdcontentcomponentid=297753&pdteaserkey=sr8&pditab=allpods&ecomp=n7yk&earg=sr8&prid=47291fc1-2bcb-497e-99ed-3a2703a136ac>

“Iolani Luahine,” *Wikipedia*, Accessed September 14, 2019.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iolani_Luahine

* Preferred Resource

Although each of the surveyed resources have strengths for different patrons' needs, I was most impressed by the breadth and depth of coverage that Gale's *Biography in Context*

offered. By offering access to a range of different publications, Gale's offers resources that may be weighed against one another (and compared and contrasted) that is useful to gain a broader perspective of a biography and practical for efficient fact-checking. For a Reference Desk this seems like a very powerful access point that could work as an endpoint (for a general biographical sketch) or as a jumping-off point (to help direct more expansive needs).