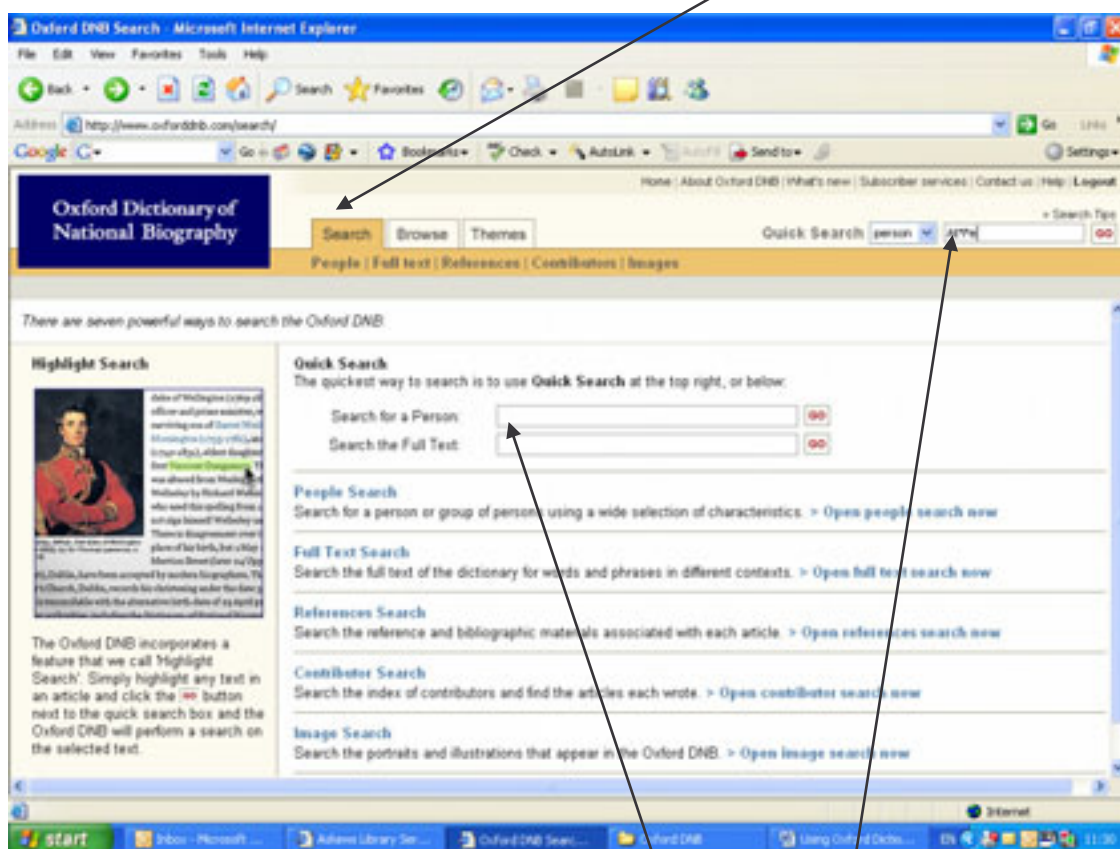


The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (DNB) is an authoritative collection of famous British people. It is available in all libraries and at home for library members.

This is the page that opens up when entering the DNB. The 'Search' tab is highlighted and individual sub-tabs are shown. The main body of text on this page lists the sub-tab headings and gives a brief abstract as to what they are.



Example: Looking for former Prime Minister Attlee

Quick Search: Enter 'Attlee' in the Search Box. Here or here.

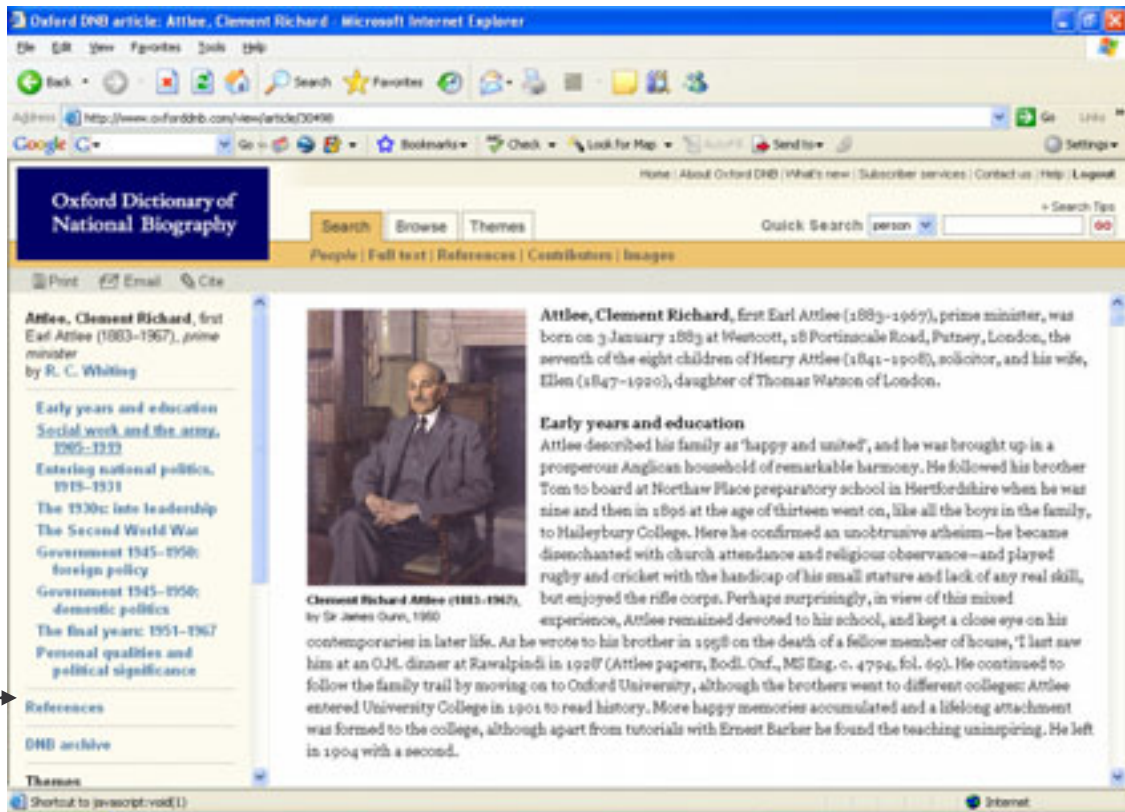
Note: If you are unsure of the spelling you could replace letters with * to indicate that you are unsure at this point if it contains another letter and which one. For example 'At*le*' returns names with possible options for the asterisk including Attlee.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography search results. The search term is 'Athlone'. The page shows 99 results, with the first 10 displayed in alphabetical order. The results list include:

- Albert Victor, Prince, duke of Clarence and Avondale (1864–1902), grandson of Queen Victoria [*earl of Athlone*]
- Alice, Princess [Princess Alice of Albany], countess of Athlone (1883–1901), granddaughter of Queen Victoria and diplomatic niece wife
- Athlone, Edward (d. 1594), physician
- Attlee, Clement Richard, first Earl Attlee (1883–1967), prime minister
- Cambridge, Alexander Augustus Frederick William Alfred George, earl of Athlone [formerly Prince Alexander of Teck] (1874–1957), army officer and governor-general of South Africa
- Gluckel, Frederik Chelissan van Reede-, second earl of Athlone (1668–1719), found in Gluckel, Godard van Reede-, first earl of Athlone (1644–1703), army officer
- Gluckel, Godard van Reede-, first earl of Athlone (1644–1703), army officer
- Murray [née Home Drummond], Anne, duchess of Atholl (1814–1897), courtier [duchess of Athole]
- Wilnot, Sir Charles, first Viscount Wilnot of Athlone (1570?–1644), army officer and administrator
- Wilnot, Henry, first earl of Rochester (bap. 1613, d. 1658), royalist army officer [Viscount Wilnot of Athlone]

The former Prime Minister, Clement Richard Attlee, is the fourth result on the list.

Former Prime Minister Attlee is the fourth on the list of results. Click on his name to bring up the article on him.



The main body of the article on Attlee fills most of the screen. On the left hand-side is a navigation bar. At the top it gives the author name of this article. This is followed by a list of the individual sections of the article to allow you to quickly navigate to a particular period of Attlee's life.

References will give you a list of bibliographical 'Sources' on Attlee followed by a list of archived materials from letters to film footage and where they are being held. 'Likenesses' tells where pictures/portraits of Attlee can be found and 'Wealth in Death' may be of interest to some of you (Attlee probate was £7,295 in 1968).

DNB Archive gives the original entry in the DNB as compared to this online version. Many articles have been revised for the online version although essentially the information is still the same.

Themes links to other articles within the DNB to which Attlee is linked. The first link for example takes you to a list of all our former PM's.

Other Online Resources gives links to other online resources.

People Search

This is a very useful feature if you are looking for people with a particular field of expertise and for a particular period of time.

For example homework is given to find other noteworthy females of Jenner's times. A quick search of Edward Jenner reveals that he was active in the fields of medicine and discovered the vaccine to smallpox. He lived from 1749-1823. Thus in the 'Fields of Interest' box select medicine from the drop down menu, select the female for the 'Sex' category and for 'Life Dates' enter a period of 100 years from 1750-1850. The tick boxes Active and Alive refer a person being alive during that period (birth to death) or active in their field (working life). If you look further down the list several more options are given such as place and date events or religious affiliation to help narrow down the search.

The screenshot shows the 'Oxford Dictionary of National Biography' People Search page in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. The search criteria are as follows:

- Name: (empty)
- Fields of Interest: Medicine
- Sex: Female
- Life Dates: Year 1750 to 1850, Alive
- Places, Dates, Life Events: Event Any, Year (empty), Day Any Date, Month Any Month
- Religious Affiliation: Faith Any
- Image: Presence of an illustration

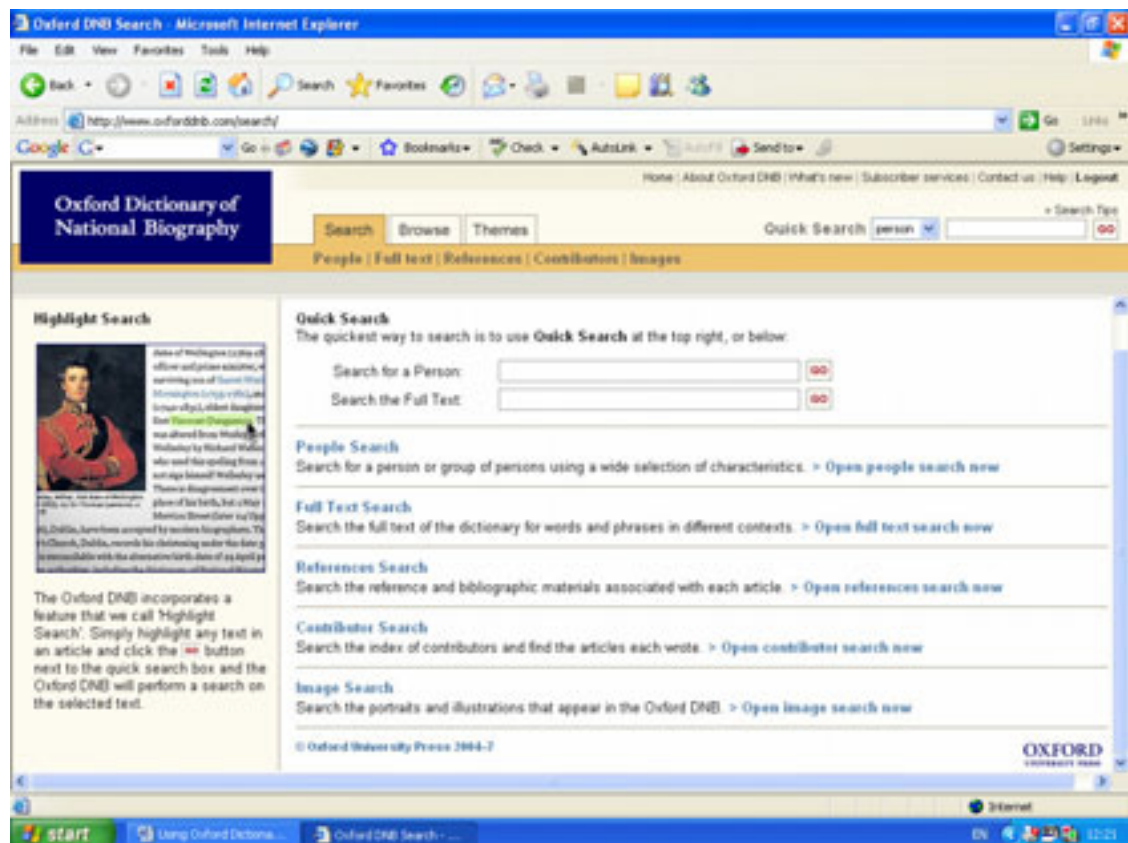
The search results are displayed in a table with 3 pages of results. The first page shows 3 results, all of which are females who lived during the specified time period.

The results list 3 pages of females in that field that *lived* during this time period! If the search had only included females *active* during the same period the list would be down to two pages.

If the search is further narrowed down by ticking the box 'Presence of an Illustration' the list consists of only 7 persons and includes Florence Nightingale.

Other search options in the Search Tab:

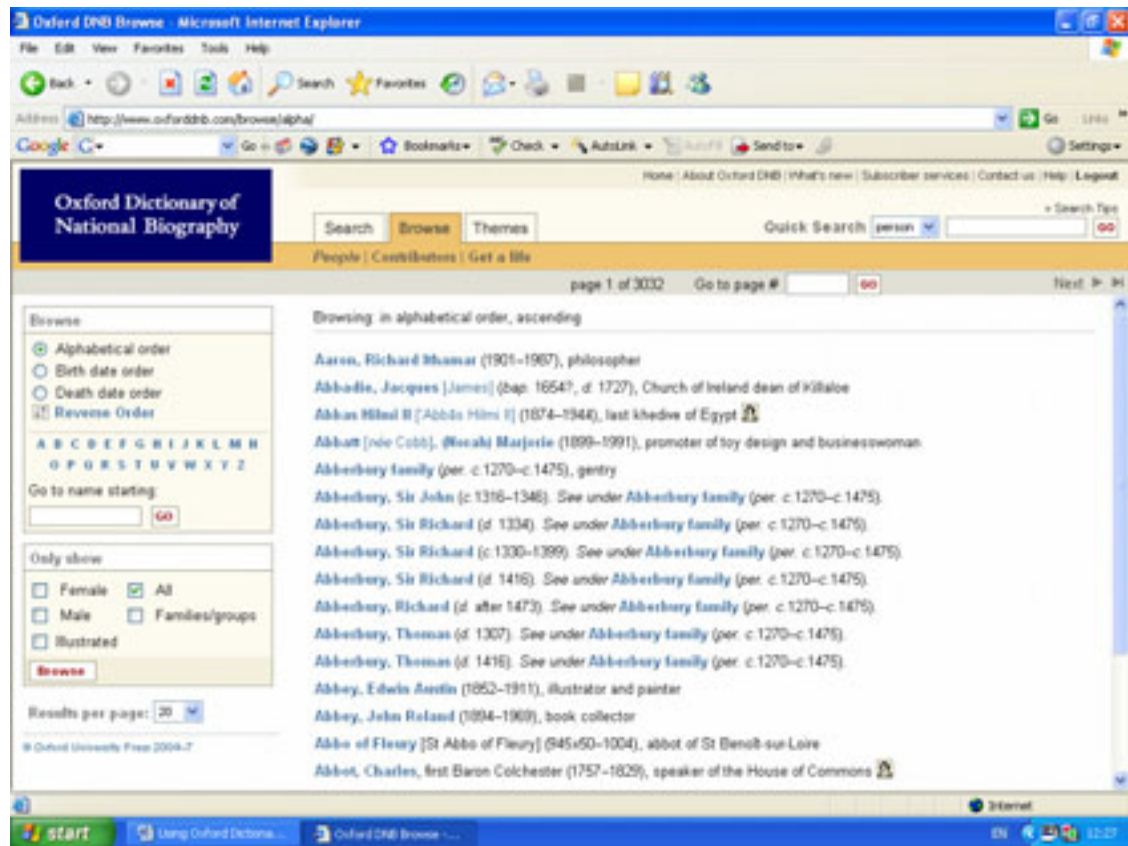
Back on the home screen, the first screen that opens up on entering the DNB, there are several other categories for searches:



The abstract to each type of search gives an indication of what they are.

Browse:

There are further tabs that you can use. For example, 'Browse' will list all persons contained within the DNB. It might be useful for quickly checking if someone is on the list and verifying the spelling.



You can change the list to birth date or death date order to quickly identify persons particular for a time period or narrow it down to just males or just females, only those who have illustrations or those who are part of a family of famous people.

Themes



Themes include reference lists and groups and topical essays. Some themes are given in the box on the left hand side; the complete list can be seen by clicking on 'show me all themes' in the first box on the left.

A more comprehensive guide on the DNB can be found by clicking on the Help tab at the top of the DNB screen.