

Introduction

- Classification of biographies
 - F 275, Biography
- Completing the call number
 - G 320, Biography
 - When to use the Biography Table
 - Applying the Biography Table
 - Procedures when the Biography Table is not used

In this unit, we will describe how to classify and assign complete call numbers to biographies. This module will focus on the general principles of the classification of biography and is based on CSM instruction sheet F 275, *Biography*. The next module will be devoted to classifying biographies in the history schedules.

The last modules are both based on instruction sheet G 320, *Biography*. First we will examine the instruction sheet to determine when to use the Biography Table, which is a table of general application. In the final modules in this unit, we will use the Biography Table to complete call numbers and also explain how to complete call numbers when the Biography Table cannot be used.

Definitions

- Resources about the personal life of one or more individuals
 - Including biographies and autobiographies

We probably all know the general definition of biography: a resource that discusses the personal life of one or more individuals. This includes autobiographies, which are written by the subject of the biography, and biographies, which are written by someone else.

Definitions

- Resources about the personal life of one or more individuals
 - Including biographies and autobiographies
- Any resource whose purpose is to relate a topic to one or more individuals
 - Activities, views, contributions relating to the topic
 - Speeches, correspondence, diaries, etc.

In LC classification, though, the definition is a bit broader and encompasses any resource whose purpose is to relate a topic to one or more individuals.

That is, a resource that discusses the views of a person about a particular field or topic can be considered biographical. So can resources that discuss their contributions or activities in that field.

In addition, speeches, correspondence, and diaries of a person may be classified with biography in some circumstances.

Definitions

- Collective biography
 - Resource that discusses the lives and/or contributions of two or more individuals
 - If each individual is given substantial treatment

A collective biography is a resource that discusses two or more individuals, as long as each individual is given substantial treatment.

If a resource is really about a single individual but mentions other people, it is not a collective biography.

Definitions

- Collective biography
 - Resource that discusses the lives and/or contributions of two or more individuals
 - If each individual is given substantial treatment
- Individual biography
 - A continuous narrative that discusses the life of a single individual
 - Including resources of the type “my life with...”
 - Or the contributions of the individual to a topic

It is an individual biography, which is a continuous narrative that discusses the life of a single individual, even though it may mention other people. Biographies of two closely related people are also considered to be individual biographies for classification purposes, especially when one of the people is famous. Such individual biographies may be described as, “My life with...” my famous husband or wife, or sister or brother, or my famous friend. In those cases, the more famous person’s life is the focus.

Definitions

- Single continuous narrative that discusses disparate people
 - Consider the intent of the author
 - Emphasis on one person: treat as individual biography
 - No single person emphasized: treat as collective biography

Some resources consist of a single continuous narrative that discusses the lives of disparate people. They need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the intent of the author is paramount.

If the author emphasizes one person, treat the resource as individual biography. If the author does not focus on one person, and the resource really is intended to be about all of the people that are discussed, consider it a collective biography.

General Rule

- Class biographies with the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated
 - In the biography number

President
Primary school teacher
Soccer player
Actor

We are to classify biographies – whether they are individual or collective – in the biography number for the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated.

This means that biographies of presidents are classed with the history of the country. The biography of a primary school teacher will be classed with education, a soccer player will be classed with soccer, and so on.

General Rule

- Class biographies with the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated

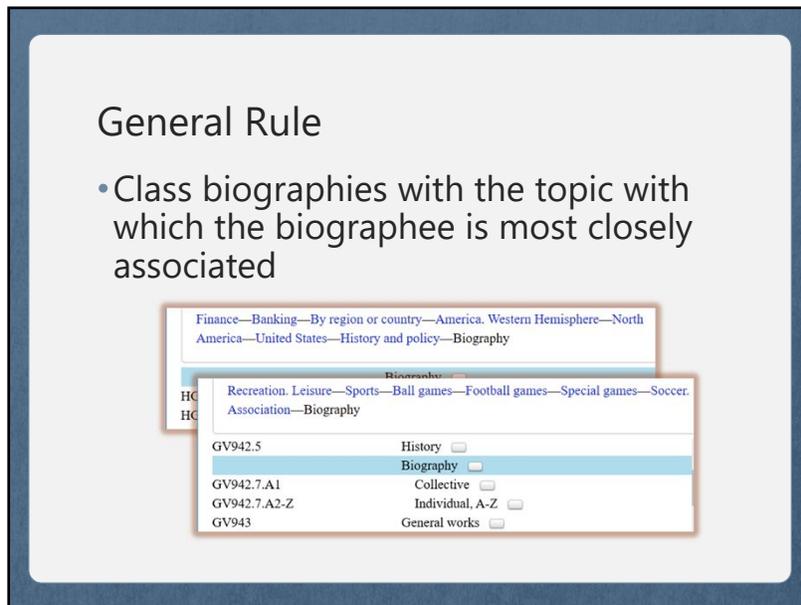
The screenshot shows a hierarchical classification path: Finance—Banking—By region or country—America, Western Hemisphere—North America—United States—History and policy—Biography. Below this path is a table with three rows and two columns. The first row is a header with 'Biography' and a dropdown arrow. The second row contains 'HG2463.A2' and 'Collective' with a dropdown arrow. The third row contains 'HG2463.A3-Z' and 'Individual, A-Z' with a dropdown arrow.

Finance—Banking—By region or country—America, Western Hemisphere—North America—United States—History and policy—Biography	
	Biography ▾
HG2463.A2	Collective ▾
HG2463.A3-Z	Individual, A-Z ▾

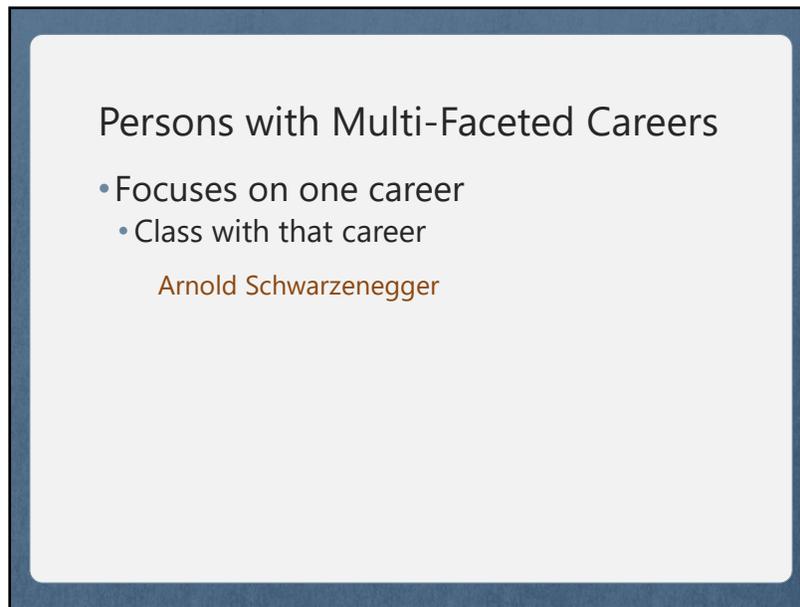
For example, HG2463, which is in the hierarchy for banking in the United States, is used for biographies of people who work in the American banking industry.

General Rule

- Class biographies with the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated



GV492.7 is in the soccer hierarchy, so it would be used for soccer players, coaches, team owners, and others who are involved in soccer – including soccer fans, when that is the purpose of the biography.



Persons with Multi-Faceted Careers

- Focuses on one career
 - Class with that career

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Some people have a wide variety of careers or interests, and biographies about them might focus on one aspect of their lives or be about their lives in general.

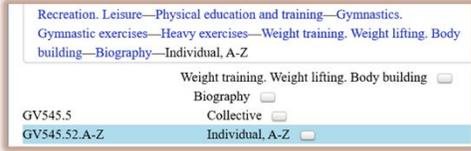
If a resource focuses on one career or interest, class it with that career or interest.

For example, Arnold Schwarzenegger has had several careers. He started as a bodybuilder, then became an actor, and then he was elected the governor of California, a state of the United States.

Persons with Multi-Faceted Careers

- Focuses on one career
- Class with that career

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Career as a bodybuilder



The screenshot shows a hierarchical classification structure. At the top level, 'Recreation, Leisure—Physical education and training—Gymnastics.' is expanded to show 'Gymnastic exercises—Heavy exercises—Weight training, Weight lifting, Body building—Biography—Individual, A-Z'. Under 'Weight training, Weight lifting, Body building', 'Biography' is selected. Under 'Biography', 'Collective' is selected. Under 'Collective', 'Individual, A-Z' is selected. The final selected path is highlighted in blue.

If the resource is specifically, or primarily, about his career as a bodybuilder, it would be classed in GV545.52.A-Z, in the weight training, weight lifting, and body building hierarchy.

Persons with Multi-Faceted Careers

- Focuses on one career
- Class with that career

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Career as a bodybuilder
Career as an actor

Drama—Dramatic representation. The theater—Special regions or countries—
America—North America—United States—Biography—Individual, A-Z

PN2287.A-Z	Individual, A-Z <input type="checkbox"/>
Subarrange each by Table P-PZ50 Including actors (Stage names), producers, directors, etc.	

If it is about his career as an actor, then it would be classified in PN2287.A-Z, under theater.

Persons with Multi-Faceted Careers

- Focuses on one career
- Class with that career

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Career as a bodybuilder
Career as an actor
Career as governor of California

United States local history—California—By period—1951—Biography—
Individual, A-Z

	Biography <input type="checkbox"/>
F866.3	Collective <input type="checkbox"/>
F866.4.A-Z	Individual, A-Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Subarrange each by Table F5

If it is about his time as governor of California, it will be classified with the biography numbers under the history of California since 1951.

Persons with Multi-Faceted Careers

- Discusses several careers
 - Class with the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated

If the intent of the biography is to cover several careers of the person, then the preference is to class it with the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated. If you are not familiar with the person's life, you should consult reference sources.

Persons with Multi-Faceted Careers

- Discusses several careers
 - Class with the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated

Arnold Schwarzenegger: Career in acting?

In the case of Arnold Schwarzenegger, most of us probably still think of him as an actor. Therefore, a biography that covers his time as a bodybuilder, actor, and governor would probably be classed with biographies of actors.

Persons with Multi-Faceted Careers

- Discusses several careers
 - Class with the topic with which the biographee is most closely associated
 - Arnold Schwarzenegger: Career in acting?
 - Class in CT if no single career is predominant in the life of the individual
 - Bill Gates?

However, sometimes it's impossible to say which career is most well known.

For example, is Bill Gates best known as the founder of Microsoft, or as a philanthropist who has given billions of dollars to solve global problems?

If the biography is about both aspects of his life and reference sources such as encyclopedias and collective biographies treat the aspects as equal, then class the biography in CT.

Biography Numbers

- Established under major topics
 - Also appear under subtopics in some schedules

Biography numbers are to be used to classify all biographies (except in the history schedules, which we will discuss in the next module). All of the schedules have biography numbers established under major topics, and some have biography numbers under subtopics, too.

For example, the QA schedule, Mathematics, has three biography numbers.

Biography Numbers

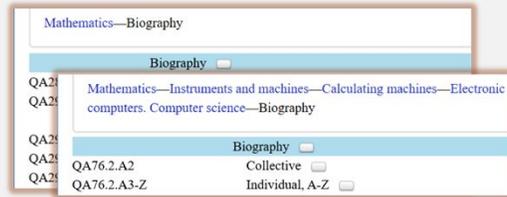
- Established under major topics
- Also appear under subtopics in some schedules

Mathematics—Biography	
	Biography <input type="checkbox"/>
QA28	Collective <input type="checkbox"/>
QA29.A-Z	Individual, A-Z <input type="checkbox"/>
	e.g.
QA29.G3	Gauss <input type="checkbox"/>
QA29.J2	Jacobi <input type="checkbox"/>
QA29.N2	Napier <input type="checkbox"/>

There is one under mathematics in general.

Biography Numbers

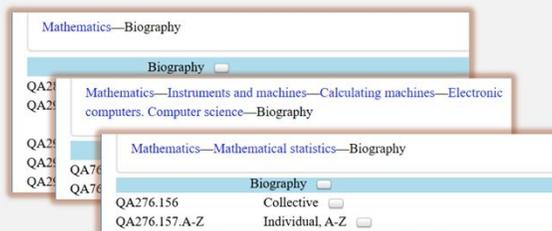
- Established under major topics
- Also appear under subtopics in some schedules



There is another under computer science.

Biography Numbers

- Established under major topics
- Also appear under subtopics in some schedules



And the third is in the mathematical statistics hierarchy.

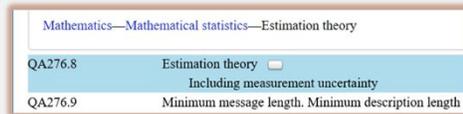
Biography Numbers

- Established under major topics
 - Also appear under subtopics in some schedules
 - Use the most specific biography number possible

We always use the most specific biography number possible.

Biography Numbers

- Established under major topics
 - Also appear under subtopics in some schedules
- Use the most specific biography number possible

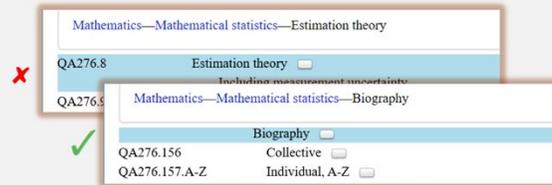


Mathematics—Mathematical statistics—Estimation theory	
QA276.8	Estimation theory <input type="checkbox"/>
	Including measurement uncertainty
QA276.9	Minimum message length. Minimum description length

Estimation theory is in the mathematical statistics hierarchy, and is classed in QA276.8. According to the general principles of classification, we are to classify resources according to topic instead of form, and we are to use the most specific number available. That would seem to argue for classing a biography of an expert on estimation theory in QA276.8.

Biography Numbers

- Established under major topics
 - Also appear under subtopics in some schedules
 - Use the most specific biography number possible



However, biography is an exception to the general principle. We should class the biography in the most specific *biography* number possible, which is QA276.157.A-Z.

Biography Numbers

- Established under major topics
 - Also appear under subtopics in some schedules
- Use the most specific biography number possible

The screenshot shows a hierarchical classification path: English literature—1961-2000—Individual authors—C—Cornwell, Bernard—Biography and criticism. Below this, a table lists subtopics with their corresponding call numbers and checkboxes. The 'Biography and criticism' subtopic is selected and highlighted in blue.

Call Number	Subtopic	Checkbox
PR6053.O75Z4581-.O75Z4589	Periodicals. Societies. Serials	<input type="checkbox"/>
PR6053.O75Z459	Dictionaries, indexes, etc. By date	<input type="checkbox"/>
PR6053.O75Z46	Autobiography, journals, memoirs. By date	<input type="checkbox"/>
PR6053.O75Z48	Letters (Collections). By date	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Including collections of letters to and from particular individuals	
PR6053.O75Z5-.O75Z999	General works	<input type="checkbox"/>

The QA schedule has only three biography numbers. On the other end of the spectrum, there are over 450 biography numbers printed in the PR and PS schedules, which are for literature in English. In addition, the tables used to subarrange literary works of individual authors include biography numbers. Therefore, there are thousands of places to class biography in the PR and PS schedules.

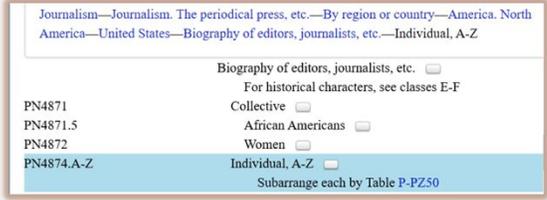
A biography of Bernard Cornwell, a 20th century British author, can be classified with Bernard Cornwell instead of at a more general level of hierarchy.

Why the difference? You may recall our saying at the very beginning of this training that each schedule has unique features that reflect the material being classified and the style of those creating, developing, and applying the schedules. The divergent ways that biography is classed in the schedules is one of those unique features.

Let's look at a few examples.

Example 1

A biography of Jim Lehrer
(an American journalist)



Journalism—Journalism. The periodical press, etc.—By region or country—America, North America—United States—Biography of editors, journalists, etc.—Individual, A-Z	
	Biography of editors, journalists, etc. <input type="checkbox"/>
	For historical characters, see classes E-F
PN4871	Collective <input type="checkbox"/>
PN4871.5	African Americans <input type="checkbox"/>
PN4872	Women <input type="checkbox"/>
PN4874.A-Z	Individual, A-Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Subarrange each by Table P-PZ50	

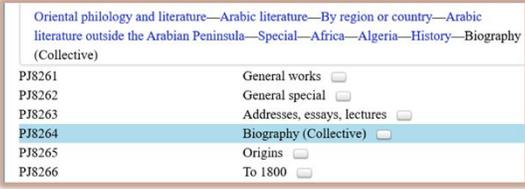
Jim Lehrer was a well-known television journalist in the United States.

A biography of Lehrer will therefore be classed with journalism, and there is an individual biography number: PN4874.A-Z.

The first cutter will be based on his name, and the call number will be completed by following the instructions in Table P-PZ50, as you can see on the screen.

Example 2

A collective biography of ten Algerian poets who write in Arabic



Oriental philology and literature—Arabic literature—By region or country—Arabic literature outside the Arabian Peninsula—Special—Africa—Algeria—History—Biography (Collective)

PJ8261	General works <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8262	General special <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8263	Addresses, essays, lectures <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8264	Biography (Collective) <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8265	Origins <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8266	To 1800 <input type="checkbox"/>

A collective biography of ten Algerian poets who write in Arabic would be classed in PJ8264.

To find the number, we have to know that the literature schedules are arranged by language; PJ is the schedule for Arabic language and literature, as well as other languages such as Hebrew and Coptic.

Example 2

A collective biography of ten Algerian poets who write in Arabic

The screenshot shows a hierarchical classification schedule. At the top, a path is highlighted: 'Oriental philology and literature—Arabic literature—By region or country—Arabic literature outside the Arabian Peninsula—Special—Africa—Algeria—History—Biography (Collective)'. Below this, a list of classification numbers and their corresponding categories is shown, with 'Biography (Collective)' highlighted in blue.

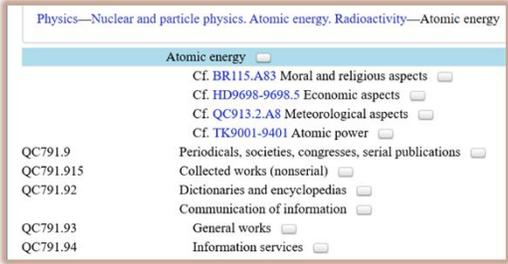
Classification Number	Category
PJ8261	General works <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8262	General special <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8263	Addresses, essays, lectures <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8264	Biography (Collective) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PJ8265	Origins <input type="checkbox"/>
PJ8266	To 1800 <input type="checkbox"/>

Within Arabic, there is a hierarchy for literature in specific places. It is just a matter of scanning the schedules to find Algeria, and then the collective biography number.

There is not an individual biography number because the literature schedules provide separate numbers for individual literary authors.

Example 3

A biography of Enrico Fermi
(a physicist; covers his work in nuclear energy)



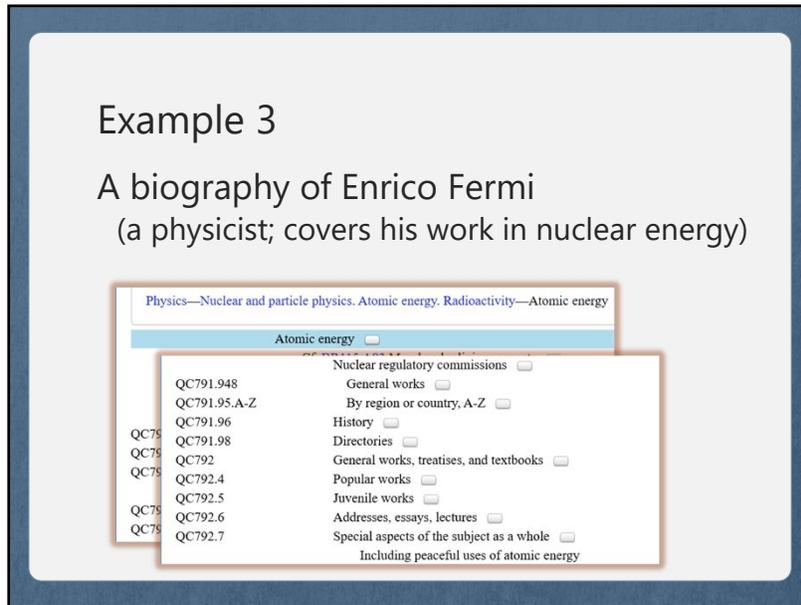
The screenshot shows a hierarchical classification structure. At the top is the heading "Physics—Nuclear and particle physics. Atomic energy. Radioactivity—Atomic energy". Below this is a blue bar labeled "Atomic energy" with a dropdown arrow. Underneath, several sub-classes are listed, each with a dropdown arrow: "Cf. BR115.A83 Moral and religious aspects", "Cf. HD9698-9698.5 Economic aspects", "Cf. QC913.2.A8 Meteorological aspects", and "Cf. TK9001-9401 Atomic power". To the left of these sub-classes, a list of call numbers is shown: "QC791.9", "QC791.915", "QC791.92", "QC791.93", and "QC791.94". To the right of the call numbers, further sub-classes are listed: "Periodicals, societies, congresses, serial publications", "Collected works (nonserial)", "Dictionaries and encyclopedias", "Communication of information", "General works", and "Information services".

Our third example is a biography of Enrico Fermi, a physicist. The biography focuses primarily on his work in nuclear power.

Nuclear energy classes in QC791.9-792.78, but it does not include a biography number, as you can see.

Example 3

A biography of Enrico Fermi
(a physicist; covers his work in nuclear energy)



[NO AUDIO]

Example 3

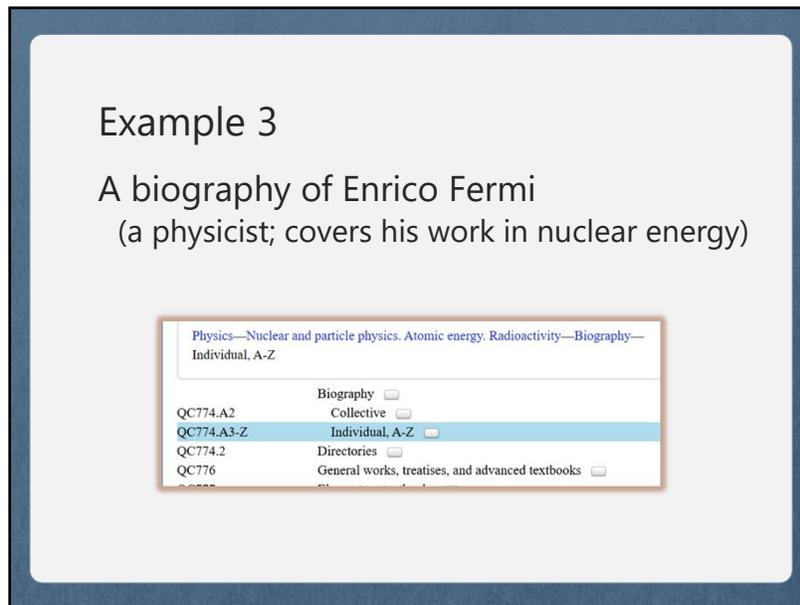
A biography of Enrico Fermi
(a physicist; covers his work in nuclear energy)

Physics—Nuclear and particle physics. Atomic energy. Radioactivity—Atomic energy

- QC791.8 QC792.72.A-Z8
- QC791.8 QC792.72.Z9
- QC791.8 QC792.74
- QC791.8 QC792.76.A-Z
- QC791.8 QC792.78.A-Z
- QC792.5
- QC792.6
- QC792.7

- Study and teaching. Research
- General works
- Catalogs of audiovisual materials
- By region or country
- United States
- General works
- By region or state, A-Z
- Other regions or countries, A-Z
- Juvenile works
- Addresses, essays, lectures
- Special aspects of the subject as a whole
- Including peaceful uses of atomic energy

We therefore have to move up a level to see if we can find a biography number there.



There is a biography number under “Nuclear and particle physics. Atomic energy. Radioactivity.” We assign this biography to QC774.A3-Z.

In this module, we covered the general principles of the classification of biography, and those principles apply everywhere but in the history schedules – D, E, and F. We will cover the rules for classifying biographies in the history schedules in the next module.

Exercises

•=====•
Click when you are ready to begin