Historical Adventists

1. The *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* is always the first step. It will give you a brief article about most of the major figures in Adventist history, including when they were born and died, and why they are notable. Note that the *Encyclopedia* only includes articles about people who were dead before it was written (1996 for the latest edition), so it will not tell you anything about Samuele Bacchiochi or the current General Conference president. The *Encyclopedia* is available in the Heritage Room or on the Library reference shelves at Her./Ref. BX 6154 S39 1996

2. The second step is to check the library catalog, http://library.lasierra.edu/, and do a subject search for that person. If we have a biography of them, or a book that mentions them in a major way, it will pop up. Remember to put the last name first.

SUBJECT: Miller, William

You should also do an author search to see if we have a book written by that person. Many early (and later) Adventists wrote a lot of things, and if you are trying to find out what a person thought and believed, what they said themselves is a pretty good place to start. Finally, a keyword search in the library catalog may bring up something useful.

3. The third step is to check the *Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index* (available online at http://www.andrews.edu/library/car/sdapiindex.html) which lists most of the major Adventist magazines (such as the *Review*) back to the early 1970s, and earlier in some cases.

   From the library home page, http://www.lasierra.edu/library
   Click on “Journal Articles & Databases”
   Click on “SDA Periodical Index” under Religion on the right-hand side

The *Seventh-day Adventist Obituary Index* may also list the person you are studying. Obituaries provide valuable information about a person’s life. The index is available here: http://www.andrews.edu/library/ASDAL/sdapiobits.html

These indexes will allow you to search for articles by or about some particular person, just like looking for books in the library catalog. The Index rarely has full text articles available. To find the article listed in the index, you will probably have to either go to the Heritage Room or go to the online Adventist Archives site at http://docs.adventistarchives.org/

4. Search adventistarchives.org
   Scroll to the bottom of the page and choose “online archives.” Next choose “periodicals.” Search for your person by using their name in quotes: “William Miller” or “W Miller” or “Mr. Miller” for example.

5. The Heritage Room may have a document file full of research about the person you are looking for. Ask the Heritage Room assistant at the Help Desk.

Most importantly, ask a librarian! We are here to help and may have other suggestions for researching your particular topic.

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