

Public Record Searches

Federal, state, and local agencies maintain public records in accordance with the law

Some of this information can be obtained by anyone requesting it; some is protected by various laws which prohibit disclosure to the public

Certain private records are maintained by credit reporting agencies, the disclosure of which is also protected by law

Why Public Records Must Be Searched

- Understand spending habits of suspects
- Better preparation for interviews & interrogations
- Great source of evidence
- Can build a financial profile
- Best source of information for off-book frauds



The Net Worth Calculation

- 1. Assets Liabilities = Net Worth
- 2. Net Worth Prior Year's Net Worth = Net Worth Increase
- 3. Net Worth Increase + Living Expenses = Income
- 4. Income Funds from Known Sources = Funds from Unknown Sources

Federal Sources of Information

- Department of Defense
- Department of Justice
- Bureau of Prisons
- Internal Revenue Service
- Secret Service
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Agencies Directory
- www.lib.lsu.edu.gov.fedgovall.html

State Sources of Information

- State Attorney General
- State Bureau of Prisons
- Secretary of State
- DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles)
- Department of Business Regulation

County and Local Records Sources of Information

- County Clerk
- Land Office & Tax Assessor's Office
- County Sheriff or Other Officers
- Local Courts
- Permit Department

Private Sources of Information

- Utilities
- Trash
- Credit Agencies
- Financial Records, But you need subpoena, search warrant, civil summons, civil discovery, or individual's signed consent

Online Databases

- These have caused a significant change in the nature of people searches
- Texas counties example

Information is Now at Your Fingertips

- Private Investigator Business--\$5 billion a year
 - Retired Government Agents
 - Former Prosecutors
 - Lawyers
 - Ex-Journalists
 - Ex-Accountants
- Concern Congress is considering outlawing obtaining banking and other confidential information by pretext.
- Everyone lives in a fishbowl
 - Information about us exists in numerous databases
 - Can be used out of context
- As the supply of information has increased, so has demand (blown away supply/ demand relationship)
 - Companies eyeing takeovers
 - Spouses snooping on spouses
 - Eyeing the competition (like the Cold War)
 - Backgrounds of anyone prospective marriage partners, etc.
 - Short sellers
- Largest PI firm...Kroll Associates
 - 1,000 investigators
 - All 50 states
 - Every continent
 - Opens 5,000 cases annually
 - \$300 million per year

Information is Now at Your Fingertips

- Available information
 - Social security number
 - Addresses
 - Height, weight, eye color
 - Property you own
 - Traffic tickets
 - Businesses involved in
 - Names, addresses, and phone numbers of neighbors
 - If you've been in the news
 - Credit report
 - Past arrest records
 - Medical records
 - Assets
 - Banking information

- Do-it-yourself detective services
 - Dig Dirt
 - Knowx.com
 - Lostpeople.com
 - Docusearch.com ("No More Secrets")
 - Unlisted telephone numbers:\$45
 - List of creditors: \$99
 - Bank account balance: \$45
 - Bank account activity: \$69



What kind of information is available on:

1. Voter Registration Records

At County (Office of County Clerk)

(Sons, daughter, spouse, etc. if they vote)

- •Name
- •Addresses
- •Past Addresses
- •Age
- •Date of Birth
- •Social Security Number
- •Signatures
- •Unlisted Tele. Numbers

2. Marriage License

At County Courthouse of legal residence at time of marriage

- •Full Legal Names
- •Dates of Birth
- •Social Security Number
- •Address at Time of Marriage
- •Parents' addresses (maybe)
- •Driver's License Number (U.S. Citizen)
- Passport Number(Foreign Nationals)
- •Prior Marriages
- •Witnesses (Best Friends)

3. Driver's License Records

(46 States provide)

- Driving History
- Current Address
- Traffic Violations
- Name
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Photographer

4. Birth Records

(Hard to get)(State's Dept. of Vital Statistics)(City of Birth, Hospital of Birth)

- Date of Birth
- Parents

5. Social Security Number

000- 00- 0000

Area Group Serial

Number Number Number

Area residing when number was issued

001-587 Issued

589-626 Issued

700-728 Issued

6. Business Information

Corporation-->chartered by State (Sec. of State)

Partnership--> State or County Joint Ventures--> Same Sole Proprietorships--> Same

On line with Prentice Hall legal and financial services

- •Confirms Legally Doing Business
- •Whether or Not Paid Taxes
- •Name of Partners, Principal Shareholders, Board Members
- •Additional Business Affiliations
- •Helpful to Trace Assets
- •Conflict of Interest
- •Dummy Companies
- •Changes in Financial Status

7. Permits

- •Fire Permits (hazardous chemicals)
- •Health Permits (pollutants)
- •Elevator Permits
- •Building Permits

- •Nature of Business
- •Location of Business
- •New Leases

8. UCCU Records

(County or State)
(Makes Public interest in pledged assets)
(County Clerk-Sec. of State)

On line with Information America, Dun and Bradstreet, P-H Legal & Financial Services

- •Collateral on items such as boats, appliances, business equipment and leased equipment
- •Nature of lending company; Bank vs. Financing Company
- •Where banks
- •Reveals need for money

9. Criminal Histories

(National Crime Information Center are only non-public ones)

(County or District Clerk)

(City Policy, County Sheriff, County Constable, Probation Officers, Bail Bondsmen, etc.)

- •Criminal Charges
- •Indictment Statement
- •Pretrial Information Report
- •Conviction Statement
- •Incarceration Information
- •Probation Information

10. Pretrial Information

(At same places as criminal Information)

- Personal History
- •Employment History
- •Physical Identifying Information
- •Prior Charges

11. Bail Bond Agencies

Tons of information plus property to secure bond.

12. Civil Suit

(almost everyone has been sued)

City, County, State, and Federal level

Municipal and Small Claims Court

District & Superior State Courts

Federal District Courts

- •Divorces and Property
- •Settlement Agreement
- •Personal Injury Lawsuits
- •Financial Claims and Litigation
- •Fraud Claims and Coconspirator
- •Bankruptcy

13. Bankruptcy

(Federal Court)

Online Information America \$ P-H Legal and Financial Services

- •Current Status of Bankruptcy Proofs
- •Creditors List
- •Debts
- Assets
- •Character
- •Determine How Assets Are Hidden

14. Real Estate Records

Deed to Trust to Finance Company

Deeds

Transfer Documents

15. Tax Records

- •Owned Assets
- •Indebtedness
- •Mortgage Holders
- •Trustees or Straw Borrowers
- •People Who Suspect Before or After Sale

- •Legal Description of Property
- •Current Assessed Value of Property
- •Taxpayer Current Status

16. Utility Records

(Gas, Electric, Garbage, Sewer)

- •Name of Person Billed
- •If Person Lives in Service Area
- •If Business Has Utilities

17. Wills and Probate

- •Parents' names
- •Name and Addresses of Heirs
- •Dispersal of Assets
- •Executor
- •Value of Inheritances

18. Military Service Records

(not confidential)

Defense Locator Service

- Address of Individual
- •Military Records

19. Others

Federal Aviation National Transportation Safety

20. Professional Association & Licensing Boards

Accountants: AICPA, state society

Attorneys: ABA, state society

Bankers: ABA, state banking comm.

Doctors: AMA, state agencies

Electricians

Plumbers

Contractors

Engineers

Nurses

Police

Firefighters

Insurance Agents

Bail Bondsmen

Real Estate

Security Guards

Stock Brokers

Investment Bankers

Teachers

Waitresses-food handlers' permit

Travel Agents

- •Industry Guidelines
- •Membership
- Specialization
- •Current Business Address
- •History of Business Complaints
- •Grievances, charges
- •Investigation
- Professional Credentials



General Information Sources

- www.google.com
- www.alltheweb.com
- www.ask.com
- www.altavista.com/web/adv
- www.icerocket.com (blog searches, etc.)
- www.archive.org/web/web.php (internet archives)
- www.highbeam.com (library databases) (fee)

"Deep Web" Sites

- www.ixquick.com
- www.copernic.com
- www.surfwax.com
- www.vivisimo.com
- www.incywincy.com
- www.brightplanet.com (fee)

US Public Records

- www.autotrackxp.com
- www.accurint.com
- www.lexisnexis.com
- www.irbsearch.com
- www.merlindata.com
- www.brbpub.com
- Local county governments

US Court Records

- www.lexis.com (full text court opinions)
- www.westlaw.com
- www.law.com
- www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov
- www.autotrackXP.com (limited records)

Media Records

- www.nexis.com
- www.dialog.com
- www.factiva.com
- news.google.com Google News (free)
 - Only provides last three months of articles!

Business Records

- www.dnb.com
- www.accurintbusiness.com
- www.nexis.com
- www.corporateinformation.com
- www.10kwizard.com
- www.hoovers.com (fee and free)
- www.sec.gov ("Edgar" fee and free)
- www.companieshouse.gov.uk (UK)
- www.company-documents.com (Int'l records)

Maps and Satellite Photos

- http://earth.google.com
- www.google.com/maps (street view)
- http://maps.live.com (bird's eye)
- www.globexplorer.com