# ONLINE DATABASE QUERIES

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### 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

- Assets Liabilities = Net Worth
   Net Worth Prior Year's Net Worth = Net Worth Increase
   Net Worth Increase + Living Expenses = Income
   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 INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE?

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

• Date of Birth

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

• Parents

5. Social Security Number

000-00-0000AreaGroupSerialNumberNumberNumber

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 BusinessLocation of BusinessNew 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 banksReveals 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 PropertyCurrent Assessed Value

•Taxpayer Current Status

#### 16. Utility Records

(Gas, Electric, Garbage, Sewer) Name of Person BilledIf Person Lives in Service AreaIf 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 IndividualMilitary 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

# SPECIFIC ONLINE RESOURCES

### **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