

## People and background resources

### ReferenceUSA (via CUNY J-School databases)

<http://journalism.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://www.referenceusa.com>

Custom searches of numerous fields allow for most flexible searching of addresses and telephone numbers.

### Infobel

<http://www.infobel.com/en/world/>

### Numberway

<http://www.numberway.com/>

Telephone directories around the world.

### New York State Unified Court System

<http://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/webcivil/ecourtsMain>

WebCivil Local contains information on both active and disposed local civil court cases in New York City. WebCivil Supreme contains information on both active and disposed Civil Supreme Court cases in all 62 counties of New York State. WebCrims enables you to view pending criminal cases in local and superior courts in 13 counties and summons cases for all of New York City.

### Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Locator

[http://www.bop.gov/inmate\\_locator/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/inmate_locator/index.jsp)

Use the Inmate Locator tool to locate a Federal inmate incarcerated since 1982.

### State prison and county jail inmate locators

[http://www.ancestorhunt.com/prison\\_search.htm](http://www.ancestorhunt.com/prison_search.htm)

<http://www.ancestorhunt.com/county-jail-inmates-search.htm>

Links to state and local inmate locators. Many via Vinelink.com.

### National Sex Offender Public Registry

<http://www.nsopr.gov/>

Search participating state Web site public information for the presence or location of offenders, who, in most cases, have been convicted of sexually-violent offenses against adults and children and certain sexual contact and other crimes against minors.

### FBI State Sex Offender Registry Web Sites

<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/cac/registry.htm>

Links to state sex offender registries.

### LegalDockets attorneys

<http://www.legaldockets.com/attorneys/>

### Martindale

<http://www.martindale.com/>

Get contacts and credentials for lawyers and firms.

### **AMA DoctorFinder**

<http://webapps.ama-assn.org/doctorfinder/html/patient.html>

Professional information about virtually every licensed physician in the U.S. — including more than 690,000 doctors of medicine, osteopathy and osteopathic medicine.

### **New York State license verification searches**

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/opsearches.htm>

### **New York State professional discipline actions**

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/raresearch.htm>

### **New York State professional misconduct and physician discipline**

<http://w3.health.state.ny.us/opmc/factions.nsf/physiciansearch?openform>

Check on doctors and other licensed professionals in New York State.

### **Guidestar**

<http://www.guidestar.org/>

Form 990s list top salaries at non-profits, including schools. *Register for free.*

### **Executive PayWatch Database**

<http://www.aflcio.org/corporatewatch/paywatch/ceou/database.cfm>

CEO compensation indexed by company. Compiled by AFL-CIO from SEC data.

### **Public employee salary databases**

<http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=710061>

<http://wikifolia.pbwiki.com/State+Salary+Database>

<http://www.pibuzz.com/government-pay>

<http://www.sctimes.com/article/99999999/DOCS/105250001>

Directories of online public payroll databases owned by a variety of entities, including newspapers, state agencies and think tanks. Most databases have state data, some federal, and some go down to the city level.

### **New York City Civil List**

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/govpub/labor1.shtml>

Annual report of all New York City employees listed by name, title, agency and salary.

### **Legistorm Congressional Staff Salaries**

<http://www.legistorm.com/salaries.html>

Data from official records of the House and Senate. House data for the period covering October 1, 2001 to March 31, 2008 and Senate data from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2008. Also includes trips, financial disclosures and foreign gifts. *Register for free.*

### **Federal Election Commission Disclosure Database**

<http://www.fec.gov/disclosure.shtml>

### **Open Secrets**

<http://www.opensecrets.org/elections/>

Look up donors or recipients of political contributions (federal).

**Follow the Money**

<http://www.followthemoney.org/>

Look up donors or recipients of political contributions (all 50 states).

**New York State Board of Elections campaign finance disclosure reports**

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/DisclosureReports.html>

**Project Sunlight New York**

<http://www.sunlightny.com/snl1/faces/app/legislatorsearch.jspx>

**New York City Campaign Finance Board database**

<http://www.nycfcfb.info/public/resources/summaries.aspx>

Look up donors or recipients of political contributions (New York State and NYC).

**New York City Lobbyist Search**

<http://home2.nyc.gov/lobbyistsearch/>

Detailed information about lobbyists registered in New York City and their clients.

**New York City ACRIS**

<http://a836-acris.nyc.gov/Scripts/Coverpage.dll/index>

Search New York City property records and view document images back to 1966.

**Property Shark**

<http://www.propertyshark.com/mason/>

Get the description of a property, its most recent sales price, an approximation of its value, its owners' names and addresses, its title history, code violations, permits, photographs, maps, and much more. *Register for free.*

**United States Vital Records Information**

<http://www.vitalrec.com/>

**Free Public Record Sites**

<http://www.publicrecordsources.com/>

**Public Record Finder**

<http://www.publicrecordfinder.com/>

**Virtual Gumshoe**

<https://www.virtualgumshoe.com/resources/>

Links to public and vital records resources, many of which are free.

**Social Security Death Index**

<http://ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Find birth and death dates for the deceased.

**FAA Airmen Certification Inquiry**

<http://amsrvs.registry.faa.gov/airmeninquiry/>

**Landings.com pilot database**

<http://www.landings.com/landings/pages/search/certs-pilot.html>

Find pilot certifications.

### **Whois domain lookup tools**

<http://www.betterwhois.com/>  
<http://www.domaintools.com/>

Find web site owner contacts.

### **Whozat?**

<http://whozat.com/search>

Search multiple social networking sites for people and member-supplied background.

### **LinkedIn**

<http://www.linkedin.com/>

### **Classmates.com**

<http://www.classmates.com/>

### **Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/>

### **MySpace**

<http://www.myspace.com/>

Most popular social networking sites. LinkedIn is oriented toward career networking. Classmates.com prioritizes school connections. The others are general interest.

*Last but not least, don't forget about student and staff directories on college web sites! Go to the main page of a school's site. Some supply more information than others.*

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## ***Experts...***

### **Associations Unlimited (via CUNY J-School databases)**

<http://galenet.galegroup.com/journalism.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/servlet/AU?locID=new45278>

Get information on approximately 460,000 international and U.S. national, regional, state, and local nonprofit membership organizations in all fields, including IRS data on U.S. 501(c) nonprofit organizations. Updated quarterly.

### **Gateway to Associations**

<http://www.asaecenter.org/Directories/AssociationSearch.cfm>

Search for an association by name, interest area or geographic location.

### **Directory of Experts**

<http://www.expertclick.com/>

Companion web site for the Yearbook of Experts. *Journalists register free* and can receive a complimentary copy of the printed publication.

### **ProfNet**

<https://profnet.prnewswire.com/>

An online community of nearly 14,000 professional communicators created to connect reporters easily and quickly with expert sources at no charge. *Register for free.*

Again, don't forget about college web sites when seeking experts. Many schools have experts pages, including CUNY (see <http://www.journalism.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/experts-sguide1.pdf>). There are print resources in our Research Center that can help you too, such as the Encyclopedia of Associations and the New York City Green Book (see <http://www.journalism.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/people-sguide1.pdf>).

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## **“Famous” people...**

### **LexisNexis Academic (via CUNY Library Services)**

<http://central.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://www.lexisnexus.com/us/lnacademic>

Click on the “People” tab to search a variety of biography-related resources.

### **Biography Reference Bank (via CUNY Library Services)**

<http://central.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/hww/jumstart.jhtml?prod=BIORB>

Biographical information on approximately half a million people, from antiquity to the present, along with thousands of images and millions of magazine citations.

### **Gale Biography Resource Center (via NYPL)**

<http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC?q=nypl>

Biographical information on more than 335,000 people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines. *Requires NYPL library card.*

### **Marquis Who's Who (via CUNY J-School databases)**

<http://journalism.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.marquiswhoswho.com/executeable/login.aspx?opt=E>

Brief profiles on over 1.4 million individuals from all fields of endeavor including: government, business, science and technology, the arts, entertainment, and sports.

### **Presidents of the United States**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/>

Official White House biographies from Washington to Obama.

### **Biographies of Current Members of the Supreme Court**

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/about/biographiescurrent.pdf>

Includes personal and career details. (See <http://www.oyez.org/justices/> for past justices.)

### **Biographical Directory of the United States Congress**

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

Biographical information on U.S. Senators and Representatives from 1774 to the present.

### **Legislative, Executive and Judicial Salaries**

<http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/RL33245.pdf>

Salaries from 2004-2008. See table beginning on page 7 of the document.

**National Governors Association Bio Book**

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/BIOBOOK.pdf>

Biographies on current governors.

**Oxford Music Online (via CUNY Library Services)**

<http://central.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com>

Comprises the full text of *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, 2nd edition* (2001), *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera* (1992), and *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz, 2nd edition* (2001). Also includes *The Oxford Companion to Music* (2002), and *The Oxford Dictionary of Music, Second Edition, Revised* (2006).

**AllMusic Guide**

<http://www.allmusic.com/>

Musician biographies and discographies. More “pop” oriented than Grove Music.

**Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee list**

<http://www.rockhall.com/inductees/inductee-list/>

Biographical information on each inductee.

**Internet Movie Database**

<http://www.imdb.com/>

Credits and biographical information for actors, directors and other movie and TV personnel.

**Sports Reference**

<http://www.sports-reference.com/>

**Database Sports**

<http://www.databasesports.com/>

Includes vitals and statistics for professional athletes in the major sports and Olympics.

**Sports Salaries Databases**

<http://www.usatoday.com/sports/salaries/>

Year-by-year listings of salaries for professional baseball, football, basketball and hockey players. The data, compiled annually by USA TODAY sports reporters and editors, is based on information obtained from documents, agents and staff research.

**Forbes Lists**

<http://www.forbes.com/400richest/>

<http://www.forbes.com/celebrities/>

<http://www.forbes.com/ceos/>

<http://www.forbes.com/billionaires/>

Includes annual rankings of the richest Americans, the most powerful celebrities, top earning CEOs and the world’s billionaires, with net worth and/or income.