

Backgrounding 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 select New York State jurisdictions. 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

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/county-jail-inmates-search.htm>

http://str82u.net/county_jail_inmate_search.htm

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

National Sex Offender Public Website

<http://www.nsopw.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 814,000 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/rasearch.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.

FINRA BrokerCheck

<http://brokercheck.finra.org/>

From Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Provides information about individual brokers who are currently FINRA-registered or have been registered with FINRA within the last two years.

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/>

CEO compensation indexed by company or highest paid. Compiled by AFL-CIO.

Public employee salary databases

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

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

<http://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 available from October 1, 2000 to June 30, 2009 and Senate data from October 1, 2000 to March 31, 2000.

Federal Election Commission Disclosure Database

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

Open Secrets

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

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>

New York City Campaign Finance Board Searchable Database

<http://www.nycffb.info/searchabledb/>

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://www.nyc.gov/html/dof/html/jump/acris.shtml>

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.

Birth Details

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

Can I Vote?

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

Use the first site to find dates of birth and the second to confirm them.

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 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/>

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/>

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

National Student Clearinghouse

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

Verify degrees. *Fee-based service.*

For current students (and staff), try directories on college web sites. Some supply more information than others.

“Famous” people...**LexisNexis Academic (via CUNY Library Services)**

<http://central.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://www.lexisnexis.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/jumplist.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/executable/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/courts/> 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.

Legistorm Congressional Financial Disclosures

http://www.legistorm.com/financial_disclosure.html

Open Secrets Congressional Net Worth and Financial Disclosures

<http://www.opensecrets.org/pfds/overview.php>

House of Representatives Financial Disclosure Reports Database

http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-search.html

Access annual financial disclosures for members of Congress.

Legislative, Executive and Judicial Salaries

<http://wikileaks.org/leak/crs/RL33245.pdf>

CRS report listing salaries from 2004-2009. See table on page 8 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.

NFL players arrests/citations

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/sports/nfl/arrests.html>

Chronological list since 2000 from the San Diego Union-Tribune.

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.