Backgrounding resources

ReferenceUSA (via CUNY J-School databases)
Custom searches of numerous fields allow for most flexible searching of addresses and telephone numbers.

Infobel

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.com/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/scams-safety/registry/registry
Links to state sex offender registries.

LegalDockets attorneys
http://www.legaldockets.com/attorneys/

Martindale
Get contacts and credentials for lawyers and firms.
AMA DoctorFinder
https://extapps.ama-assn.org/doctorfinder/recaptcha.jsp
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 Enforcement Actions
http://www.op.nysed.gov/opd/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 listed by company, industry, state or highest paid. From AFL-CIO.

Public employee salary databases
http://seethroughny.net/payrolls/
http://pibuzz.com/government-pay/
Online public payroll databases provided 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
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, available from October 1, 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.ny.gov/DisclosureReports.html

New York City Campaign Finance Board Searchable Database  
http://www.nyccfb.info/searchabledb/  
Look up donors or recipients of political contributions (New York State and NYC).

New York City Lobbyist Search  
http://home.nyc.gov/lobbyistsearch/  
Detailed information about lobbyists registered in New York City and their clients.

New York City ACRIS  
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://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi/  
Find birth and death dates for the deceased.
Birth Database  
http://www.birthdatabase.com/  
Can I Vote?  
http://www.canivote.org/  
State Voter Registration Verification Websites  
Use the birth sites to find dates of birth and the voter sites to confirm them.

FAA Airmen Certification Inquiry  
https://amsrvs.registry.faa.gov/airmeninquiry/  
Landings.com Pilot Database  
Find pilot certifications.

Whois domain lookup tools  
http://www.betterwhois.com/  
http://www.domaintools.com/  
Find web site owner contacts.

Facebook  
http://www.facebook.com/  
LinkedIn  
http://www.linkedin.com/  
Twitter  
http://twitter.com/  
Classmates  
http://www.classmates.com/  
MySpace  
http://www.myspace.com/  
Popular social networking sites. LinkedIn is oriented toward career networking. Classmates 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 J-School databases)
Use “Research People” section to search a variety of biography-related resources.

Biography Reference Bank (via CUNY J-School databases)
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 in Context (via NYPL)
Biographical information on more than 500,000 people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines. Requires NYPL library card.

Marquis Who’s Who (via CUNY J-School databases)
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 Justices of the Supreme Court
http://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx
Includes personal and career details. (See http://www.oyez.org/courts/robt6 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
Access annual financial disclosures for members of Congress.
Legislative, Executive and Judicial Salaries
http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=0E%2C*P%3CS%3F%23%40%20%20%0A
CRS report listing salaries since 2004. See Table I in the document.

National Governors Association Bio Book
http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/BIOBOOK.PDF
Biographies on current governors.

Oxford Music Online (via CUNY J-School databases)

AllMusic
http://www.allmusic.com/

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductee List
http://rockhall.com/inductees/alphabetical/
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.databasessports.com/
Includes vitals and statistics for professional athletes in the major sports and Olympics.

NFL players arrests/citations
http://www.signonsandiego.com/nfl/arrests-database/
Chronological list since 2000 from the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Sports Salaries Databases
http://content.usatoday.com/sportsdata/baseball/mlb/salaries/team/
Year-by-year listings of salaries for professional baseball, football, basketball, hockey and soccer players. The data, compiled by USA TODAY sports reporters and editors, is based on information obtained from various sources depending on the sport.
Forbes Lists
http://www.forbes.com/wealth/forbes-400
http://www.forbes.com/wealth/celebrities
http://www.forbes.com/ceos/
http://www.forbes.com/wealth/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.

JS 2/20/12