

Table of Contents

The Read Me Page 1

1. Public Record Fundamentals and Online Evaluation Techniques 3

Part One - A Primer; The “Types” of Data You Will Find Online; The Sources of Public Records; Searching Private Sources, Searching Government Sources; Record Indexing and the Importance of Identifiers; About Record Fees and Charges;

Part Two - How to Evaluate the Worthiness of Online Record Content; The Competitive Edge; The Three Keys to Evaluation; Analyze the Search Mechanics; Analyze the Viewable Data; Analyze the Disclaimer; Putting it Altogether

2. Using Search Engines For Locating Public Information 13

The Reliance on Search Engines; Getting the Most Out of Google; Other Useful Google Tools; Other Worthy Search Engines; Using eBay.com; Craigslist Searching; SearchTempest.com & Claz.org; Bing.com; Zoominfo.com; Wayback Machine on Archive.org; Summary

3. Researching Social Networks 27

The Quest for Public Exposure; Facebook; Pinterest; Instagram; Myspace; Blog.com; LinkedIn; Twitter; Flickr; Using Search Engines to Find Social Network Users and Information; Pipl; Yoname; Lococitato; Other Recommended Search Engines; Using Search Engines to Find Content; Icerocket; Technorati; SocialMention; Kurrently; Bing.com/Social; Summary

4. Resources and Search Tips by Topic 45

Archives; Aviation Records; Banks & Financial Institutions; Business Entity Records; Copyrights; Court Records (includes civil, criminal, etc. records); Court Records of Native Americans; Court Records on Statewide Judicial Systems; Criminal Records at State Repositories; Elections: Candidates, PACs, Lobbyists, and Voters; Environmental Information; Federal Agencies; Federal Sanctions & Watch Lists; Genealogy Resources; GIS and Mapping; Incarceration Records; Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Records; Media Resources; Military Records; Missing Persons; Most Wanted Lists; Motor Vehicle Records (includes drivers, vehicles, vessels, accident reports, etc.); Occupations & Licensing Boards; Patents; Privacy and Privacy Rights Resources; Recalls, Products and Safety; Recorded Documents, Judgments, and Liens (includes UCC filings); Securities and Securities Dealers; Sexual Offender Registries; Tax Assessor and Collector Records; Telephone Numbers; Trademarks & Service Marks; Unclaimed Funds; Vital Records (includes SSA Death Index and Obituaries); Voter Registration; Workers’ Compensation; World Wide Web

5. Online Public Record Database Vendors 99

Step 1: Recognize the Types of Vendors; Step 2: Recognize Difference Between Consumer and Professional Sites; Web Data Extraction & Screen Scraping Technology; Web Data Extraction (a.k.a. screen scraping) and Online Public Records Article by John Kloos; Vendors and Privacy Concerns; Four Questions to Ask; The Advantages Online Public Record Vendors Provide; The Instant Web-Based Background Checks; Where to Find a Vendor; Resource List of Selected Vendors

6. State and Local Government Online Sources 119

51 state chapters with profiles of these online providers: major state agencies, state and local courts, assessors and recorders

7. Searching Federal Court Records 627

Federal Court Structure; How Federal Trial Court Case Records are Organized; Assignment of Cases and Computerization; Court Locations, Contact Information, and Web Pages; Record Searching - Electronic Access to Federal Court Records; Federal Court Record Searching Hints; When Record Search Results Do Not Include Identifiers; Obtaining Closed Case Files and the Federal Records Centers

About the Authors 634