

Business Research, Public Records, People Sleuthing, & Social Media

Tawnya Plumb
Head of Electronic & Digital Services
University of Wyoming, College of Law
George W. Hopper Law Library
tplumb@uwyo.edu | 307-766-5733

Business Research

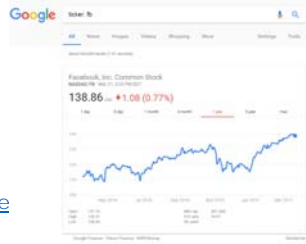
Locating Company & Product Information

After a keyword search in Google, try...

- Hoovers <http://www.hoovers.com> or <http://wyoalumni.uwyo.edu>
- \$AIHIT <https://www.aihitdata.com/>
- ThomasNet <http://www.thomasnet.com/>
- Alibaba <http://www.alibaba.com/>

Company News & Stock Quotes

- Google
<http://news.google.com/>
- Google Finance
<http://www.google.com/finance>
- Yahoo Finance
<http://finance.yahoo.com/>



Annual Reports & SEC Filings

- AnnualReports.com <http://annualreports.com/>
- EDGAR <http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>
- SEDAR (Canada) <http://www.sedar.com/>

Other Business Sites

- Better Business Bureau <http://www.bbb.org>
- InvestorWords <http://www.investorwords.com/>

Term of the Day
supply curve
 A graph showing the hypothetical supply of a product or service that would be available at different price points. The supply curve usually slopes upward, since higher prices give... [Read more](#)

- Business.com Who Owns What? (media)
<http://www.cjr.org/tools/owners/>



Corporate Records, Registered Agents, & Business Names


- National Associations of Secretaries of State <http://www.nass.org/>
- Wyoming Secretary of State <http://soswy.state.wy.us/Business/Default.aspx>

Business Research in Subscription Databases

Bloomberg Law <https://www.bloomberglaw.com>

- ❖ Improved access to EDGAR
- ❖ Rumors, Leads, & Insights
- ❖ Federal litigation
- ❖ Our library sponsors public Bloomberg terminals in Laramie & Casper

Public Records



Ethical Considerations

- Refer to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 USC 1681) when handling credit reports
 - Permission required?
 - Lawyer as debt-collector?
 - Pre-employment background checks?
- Driver's Privacy Protection Act (18 U.S.C. § 2721 *et seq.*)
- Financial Modernization Act of 1999(15 U.S.C. 6801 to 6809)
- FERPA (student records) & HIPAA (medical records)

Professional Licenses

- BRB Public Records Portal <http://www.brbpub.com/freeresources/pubrecsitesOccWyoming.aspx>
- Wyoming Secretary of State Rules & Regulations <https://rules.wyo.gov/>

Locating Attorneys & Judges

- Martindale-Hubbell <http://www.martindale.com/>
- Wyoming State Bar <http://wyomingbar.org/>
- Federal Judges Biographical Database <http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/judges.html>
- Wyoming Judicial Branch <http://courts.state.wy.us/>

Criminal Records

- Federal Bureau of Prisons <https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>
- VINELink (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) <https://www.vinelink.com>
- Prison Search – WY city and county warrants http://www.ancestorhunt.com/prison_search.htm
- \$ Colorado Bureau of Investigation Records Check <https://www.cbirecordscheck.com/>

Sexual Offenders

- United States Department of Justice <http://www.nsopr.gov/>
- Wyoming Attorney General <http://wysors.dci.wyo.gov/sor/>

Vital Statistics

- Ancestry Library Edition <http://gowyld.net/>
 - ❖ birthdate, location
 - ❖ date of death, location
 - ❖ Social Security number if deceased
 - ❖ last known address and phone number
 - ❖ next of kin
- Family Tree Now <http://www.familytreenow.com/>

Real and Personal Property

- Tax assessor offices
<https://maps.laramiecounty.com/mapserver>
- Zillow <http://www.zillow.com/>
- Portico
<http://indorgs.virginia.edu/portico/personalproperty.html>
- Patent or trademark ownership
<http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-adv.htm>
- Copyright ownership <http://www.copyright.gov/records/>

Politics

- Individual voter registrations
- FEC Database
<http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/norindsea.shtml>

Bankruptcies


- U.S. Bankruptcy Voice Case Information Systems
<http://www.spiesonline.net/vcis.shtml>
- A List of Pacer Courts
<http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/links.pl#BKCTS>
- EDGAR Company Search
<http://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html>

Public Records Research in Subscription Databases

- Bloomberg Law <https://www.bloomberglaw.com>
bankruptcies (via Dockets)
state judgements and liens
- Lexis <https://lexisnexis.com/> (varies by county)

death records	marriage & divorce records
bankruptcies	licenses
voter registration	criminal records
assets	judgements and liens
real property	foreclosures

People Sleuthing



Social Media

ABA Formal Opinion 466 - Lawyer Reviewing Jurors' Internet Presence

- ABA's Standing Committee on Ethics & Professional Responsibility, (April 24, 2014)
http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/professional_responsibility/formal_opinion_466_final_04_23_14.authcheckdam.pdf
- "a lawyer may passively review a juror's public presence on the Internet, but may not communicate with a juror. Requesting access to a private area on a juror's ESM is communication within this framework."

ABA Formal Opinion 466, continued

- "The fact that a juror or a potential juror may become aware that the lawyer is reviewing his Internet presence when an ESM network setting notifies the juror of such review does not constitute a communication from the lawyer in violation of Rule 3.5(b)."
- "If a lawyer discovers criminal or fraudulent conduct by a juror related to the proceeding, the lawyer must take reasonable remedial measures including, if necessary, disclosure to the tribunal."

Do attorneys have a duty to research jurors' internet presence?

- ABA "does not take a position on whether the standard of care for competent lawyer performance requires using Internet research to locate information about jurors that is relevant to the jury selection process..."

Source: ABA Formal Opinion 466

Do attorneys have a duty to research jurors' internet presence? (continued)

- "We are also mindful of the recent addition of Comment [8] to Model Rule 1.1. This comment explains that a lawyer 'should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology.' "
- Johnson v. McCullough, 306 S.W.3d 551 (Mo. 2010)
- N. H. Bar Ass'n, Op. 2012-13/05
- Ass'n of the Bar of the City of N. Y. Comm. on Prof'l Ethics, Formal Op. 2012-2

“Ten Tips for Avoiding Ethics Lapses When Using Social Media”

- Social Media Profiles and Posts May Constitute Legal Advertising
- Avoid Making False or Misleading Statements
- Avoid Making Prohibited Solicitations
- Do Not Disclose Privileged or Confidential Information
- Do Not Assume You Can “Friend” Judges
- Avoid Communications with Represented Parties
- Be Cautious When Communicating with Unrepresented Third Parties
- Beware of Inadvertently Creating Attorney-Client Relationships
- Beware of Potential Unauthorized Practice Violations
- Tread Cautiously with Testimonials, Endorsements, and Ratings

http://www.americanbar.org/publications/blt/2014/01/03_harvey.html

ABA Formal Opinion 462 - Judge's Use of Electronic Social Networking Media

- ABA’s Standing Committee on Ethics & Professional Responsibility, (February 21, 2013)
http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/professional_responsibility/formal_opinion_462.authcheckdam.pdf
- “A judge may participate in electronic social networking, but as with all social relationships and contacts, a judge must comply with relevant provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct and avoid any conduct that would undermine the judge’s independence, integrity, or impartiality, or create an appearance of impropriety.”

People Finding 101

- Skipease <http://www.skipease.com/>
- Stalkscan (via Facebook Graph Search) <https://stalkscan.com/>
- LinkedIn <http://www.linkedin.com/>
- Twitter <http://twitter.com/>

Finding Email Addresses

Try a Google search and then ...

- Social networking sites
- Naming conventions...
 - tawnya.plumb@anycompany.com
 - tplumb@anyschool.edu
 - tawnyaplumb@gmail.com

Phone Numbers

- Fone Finder <http://www.fonefinder.net/>
- Virtual Gumshoe Member Tools http://www.virtualgumshoe.com/investigate_now/
- \$ Should you pay a subscription service? No guarantee.

Social Security Numbers

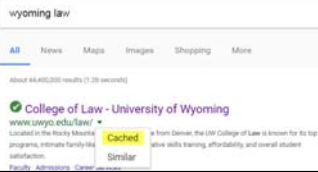
- Rob's Search Enginez http://searchenginez.com/socsec_usa.html
- Social Security Death Index <http://gowyld.net>
- SSN Validator <https://www.ssnvalidator.com/pages/search.aspx>

Military Involvement

- DMDC Military Verification Database <https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/>
- POW/MIA Databases and Documents <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pow/powhome.html>


Retrieving Deleted Web Content

- Internet Archive Wayback Machine <http://archive.org/web/>
- Refer to cached pages in Google, Yahoo, and others



To keep your sleuthing skills current, follow <http://pibuzz.com>





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4:00 - 5:00 PM

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