

BE AN ONLINE DETECTIVE!

Steven Jablonski, Skokie Public Library

PART I: ONLINE PUBLIC RECORDS

Property Records, Home Sales, and Images

- Cook County Property Tax Portal (www.cookcountypropertyinfo.com)
Search by address to find photo of property, owner's name, property tax info, and more
- Cook County Recorder of Deeds (www.cookrecorder.com)
Search by name to see property owned by a person
- Zillow.com (www.zillow.com)
- Redfin (www.redfin.com)
Search for purchase prices and estimated market values for homes

Crime Maps and Reports

- CriminalSearches (www.criminalsearches.com/neighborhood)
Search for criminals living or who once lived in a location
- Spotcrime.com (www.spotcrime.com),
- CrimeReports.com (www.crimereports.com)
- Chicago Crime Map
(gis.chicagopolice.org/CLEARMap/startPage.htm)
Create maps of recent crimes in select locations
- Skokie Crime Reports
(www.skokie.org/publicsafetybulletin.cfm)
- Evanston Crime Reports
(www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/police/reports/daily-crime-reports)

Malpractice, Mugshots, and Sex Offenders

- Illinois Physician Profile Search
(www.idfpr.com/applications/professionprofile)
Search for info on doctors including malpractice actions
- Mugshots.com (www.mugshots.com)
Publishes select arrest records and mugshots
- Illinois Sex Offender Information (www.isp.state.il.us/sor/sor.cfm)
Search for sex offenders by name or location

Recent Vital Records

- Cook County Clerk's Office Vital Records
(www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords)
See how you can request recent vital records
- VitalChek (www.vitalchek.com)
Expedites vital records requests for a fee
- Vitalrec (www.vitalrec.com)
Good finding aid for out-of-state and foreign vital records

Old Vital Records

- FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org)
Good free source for Cook County vital records 50+ years old
- Cook County Genealogy Online (www.cookcountygenealogy.com)
Search 8 million older vital records for free and pay for what you want
- Ancestry (databases.skokieilibrary.info)
Search for older birth, death, marriage, and Census information

Other Interesting Sites

- BGA Payroll Database
(www.bettergov.org/investigations/payroll_database.aspx)
- Teacher Salary Database
(www.familytaxpayers.org/salary.php)
See salaries and pensions for many public employees in Illinois
- The Smoking Gun (www.thesmokinggun.com)
View public records on celebrity mishaps

PART II: FINDING PEOPLE

Death Indexes and SSNs

- Social Security Death Index at Ancestry (databases.skokieilibrary.info)
Family Search SSDI (familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535)
Search here to see if a person is dead
- DeathIndexes.com (www.deathindexes.com)
Provides links to hundreds of online death indexes
- MelissaDATA Death Check
(www.melissadata.com/lookups/deathcheck.asp)
Look up deaths within the last 24 months

- Unofficial Social Security Number Verification (www.ssnvalidator.com)
See if a SSN is valid, when it was issued, and in what state

Phone and Email Directories

- ReferenceUSA (databases.skokieliibrary.info)
Search for people on multiple public record and social networking sites at once
- GetHuman (www.gethuman.com)
Find the best way to contact a big company
- Hoover's (databases.skokieliibrary.info)
Find company executives and headquarters contact info
- Email Hunter (hunter.io)
- Voila Norbert (www.voilanorbert.com)
- Anymail Finder (www.anymailfinder.com)
Find company email addresses for employees

Reverse Look-Ups

- Phone Validator (www.phonevalidator.com)
- WhitePages.com (www.whitepages.com)
Indicates whether a phone number is from a cell phone or landline, its geographic area, and provider
- MyCallBot (www.mycallbot.com)
Look up unidentified phone numbers from telemarketers and other pests
- Melissa DATA Look-Ups (www.melissadata.com/lookups)
Do many different kinds of reverse look-ups from this page
- Spy Dialer (www.spydialer.com)
Listen to voice mail answering message attached to cell phone number

Phone Number for Free Directory Assistance

Free 411: 1-800-373-3411 or 1-800-FREE411

Online People Finders

- WhitePages.com (www.whitepages.com)
Good source for current phone numbers and addresses

- Family Tree Now (www.familytreenow.com)
- Zabasearch (www.zabasearch.com)
Search for current and old related people, addresses, phone numbers, and ages from public record databases

Fee Sites with Free Info

- Intelius (www.intelius.com)
- USSearch (www.ussearch.com)
Search for people's ages, previous cities lived in, and lists of relatives
- Check Illinois (consumer.public-record.com)
See if a person is mentioned in many types of Illinois public records
- LexisNexis Person Reports (www.lexisnexis.com/privacy/for-consumers/request-personal-information.aspx)
Request a free report on yourself only

Meta Search Sites

- Black Book Online People Profiler (www.blackbookonline.info/people-profiler.aspx)
- Pipl (www.pipl.com)
- PeekYou (www.peakyou.com)
Search for people on multiple public record and social networking sites at once

Special Internet Databases

- Checkdomain.com (www.checkdomain.com)
See who a website is registered to
- Internet Archive (www.archive.org)
Look at vanished websites or older versions of current ones

PART III: WHERE ELSE CAN I FIND ONLINE PUBLIC RECORDS?

Links to Other Online Public Record Sites

- Black Book Online (www.blackbookonline.info)
- BRB's Free Resource Center (brbpub.com/free-public-records)
Browse for links to thousands of additional public record sites nationwide