Public Records Resources Online:
How to Find Everything There Is to Know About "Mr. X"

Summary of public records on Mr. X ...

• Smartlinx Reports on Lexis.com [http://www.lexis.com/].
• CLEAR (formerly Choicepoint/AutoTrackXP) [http://clear.thomsonreuters.com]
• Accurint [http://www.accurint.com]
• Westlaw PUBRECS-XX (Where XX is the two-letter abbreviation) and PEOPLE-ALL.

His social security number is ...

• SSN Validator [http://www.ssnvalidator.com/] and SSN Watch [http://privacy.cs.cmu.edu/dataprivacy/projects/ssnwatch/].
• Selective Service Online Verification [https://www.sss.gov/RegVer/wfVerification.aspx]

He was born / died ...

• Death Indexes Online [http://www.deathindexes.com/].
• Westlaw Death Records (DEATH-ALL) and Obituaries (OBITPAGE). Also state files for KY, MA, MI, MN, MT, and NC. (DECEASED-XX).
• Lexis Smartlinx and Death Records.
• BirthDatabase.com [http://www.birthdatabase.com/]

He was married / divorced ...

• Lexis Marriage License Records for selected states.
• Westlaw Marriage Records for CO, CT, FL, IN, KS, ME, MN, NV, OH, OK, TX, WI (MARRIAGE-XX)
• Lexis Divorce Records for selected states. Also try Courtlink Dockets Search.
• Westlaw Divorce Records for AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IL, KS, LA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, NY, NV, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI. (DIVORCE-XX). Also try DOCK-ALL and ADVERSE-ALL.
• Marriage Records sites: CA [http://www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/ca/_vitals/camarrin.htm], KY [http://ukcc.uky.edu/%7Evitalrec/].
ME http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/research/vitalrec.html,
TX http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/marrieddivorce/default.shtm,
WV http://www.wvculture.org/rrr/,
Western States http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm,
GenWed http://www.genwed.com,
RootsWeb http://userdb.rootsweb.com/marriages/,

• Divorce Records sites:
  KY http://ukcc.uky.edu/%7Evitalrec/,
  TX http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/marrieddivorce/default.shtm,
  RootsWeb http://userdb.rootsweb.com/divorces/,

• VitalChek http://www.vitalchek.com/ and
  VitalRec http://www.vitalrec.com/ (some content $).

He lives / lived ...


• Westlaw Public Records tab - People Finder databases.
  Lexis People Finder and Military Personnel Finder (updated through 05/01).

He owns / is licensed to drive ...

• Westlaw Public Records tab - Asset databases.
  Lexis SmartLinx Location Summary Reports, Real Property Records, Motor Vehicle Registrations, Boat Registrations, Aircraft Registrations, Stock Ownership, Drivers Licenses, and FAA Pilots.
  DMV Offices http://www.aamva.org/KnowledgeCenter/ResearchCtr/Resources/
  National Insurance Crime Bureau VINCheck https://www.nicb.org/theft_and_fraud_awareness/vincheck
  Search Systems - http://www.searchsystems.net/ - has foreign public records sources
He is a licensed ...  

- Professional Licensure Information by State [internal guide] and Researching Expert Witnesses Online [internal guide]. Also try the Professional License Verifier http://verifyprolicense.com/.
- Westlaw Professional Licenses (LICENSE-ALL), Medical (MEDLICENSE-ALL), Attorneys (ATTLICENSE-ALL), Accountants (ACCTLICENSE-ALL), DEA Records (DEA), FAA Records (FAA), Hunting and Fishing Licenses (HUNTFISH-ALL), Concealed Weapons Licenses (selected states - CCW-ALL).
- DEA Office of Diversion Control – Cases Against Doctors http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/crim_admin_actions/
- Foreign Registered Agents Search http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fara/links/search.html

His corporate affiliations ...  

- Guide to Corporation Records by State [internal guide]
- Westlaw Executive Affiliations (EA-ALL).
- Lexis Duns Market Identifiers, SEC Filings, and Executive Directories.

Information about his companies / charities ...  

- Lexis Smartlinx Business Reports, Company Analyzer, Experian Reports, SEC Filings, Bankruptcy Filings, UCC Filings, Judgments and Liens, Civil and Criminal Filings, Guidestar, and OSHA Inspection Reports.
- Westlaw Corporate Filings (CORP-ALL), Fictitious Names (FBN-ALL), Corporate Litigation Prep (LITPREP-ALL), Name Availability (NA-ALL), Business Finders (BUSFIND-ALL), SEC Filings (EDGAR), Adverse Filings (ADVERSE-ALL), Bankruptcy Filings (BKR-ALL), FCC Telecommunications Company Database http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/cib/form499/499a.cfm
- Thomas Global Register http://www.tgrnet.com/
- Customs Rulings Database http://rulings.customs.gov/
- Insurance Company Search https://eapps.naic.org/cis/
- OFAC List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sdn/, BIS Denied Persons http://www.bis.doc.gov/ComplianceAndEnforcement/ListsToCheck.htm, World Bank Listing of

- FINRA BrokerCheck [http://www.finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/index.htm]
- Stock Transfer Agent Database [http://www.stocktransfer.com/].
- Pension and Benefit Data [http://www.freerisa.com/] (free registration required).
- Patents & Trademarks [http://patents.uspto.gov/].
- AFL-CIO Job Quality Database [http://www.workingamerica.org/jobtracker/]
- NASCO State Charity Agencies List [http://www.nasconet.org/agencies].

His court records and filings ...

- Guide to Court Resources [internal guide]
- Pacer U.S. Party / Case Index [http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov/].
- Article on Criminal Background checks [http://www.virtualchase.com/articles/criminal_checks_national.html]

His Web site / E-mail address ...

- My Email Address Is [http://my.email.address.is/] and Ultimate E-mail Directory [http://www.theultimates.com/email/].
- Use Google [http://www.google.com] and search for: "email * @companydomain.com" or "email ** companydomain.com" to find someone’s e-mail address. (Try e-mail also).

He went to college ...

- Web U.S. Universities, by State Database [http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state/].

Information about him in the News ...

• Lexis All News, All Languages Database
• Westlaw AllNewsPlus Database
• Newsbank http://infoweb.newsbank.com/
• Proquest Historical Newspapers http://proquest.umi.com/login
• Google News Archive http://news.google.com/archive
• OnlineNewspapers.com http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/

His voter registration & campaign contributions ...

• Westlaw Voter Registrations (VOTERS-ALL) and Political Donors (POLITICAL-DONORS)
• Lexis Voter Registrations
• Campaign Finance Information Center http://www.campaignfinance.org/states/index.html and Campaign Finance Site http://www.campaignfinancesite.org/
• FEC Databases http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/disclosure_data_search.shtml
• Follow the Money http://www.followthemoney.org/
• Project Vote Smart http://www.vote-smart.org/, and PoliticalMoneyLine http://www.tray.com/
• State Voter Registration Verification Web Sites http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html

Information about him on the Web ...

General Sources

The AAD System gives you "online access to a selection of nearly 50 million historic electronic records created by more than 20 federal agencies on a wide range of topics."

Published by a New York attorney, the blog features information on asset searching, fraud investigation, and legal strategies for recovering hidden assets.

**Black Book Online** [http://www.blackbookonline.info/](http://www.blackbookonline.info/)
From the Publishers of *The Investigator's Little Black Book*, provides a number of categories of public records resources including locator information, criminal history, death records, reverse lookups, and several others.

**Craig D. Ball** [http://www.craigball.com/hotlinks.html](http://www.craigball.com/hotlinks.html)
Craig Ball is a trial lawyer from Texas who is known throughout the country for his cyber sleuthing presentations. He maintains an extensive set of links on his Web site to many helpful resources for digging up dirt on people and companies.

Private investigation links, resources, and search tools by subject.

Global-Locate, by Integrity, provides accurate address, phone and identification details on citizens of 207 nations. Available only to qualifying businesses and law enforcement.

The Journalist's Toolbox is a directory geared towards reporters and editors. This section of the site includes a valuable set of links and strategies for locating online public records.

**Portico** [http://indorgs.virginia.edu/portico/](http://indorgs.virginia.edu/portico/)
This University of Virginia site gives links to Web sites containing publicly available information, compiled for the use of the advancement community. Categories include: Tools/Directorys, Biographical, Occupations, Personal Property, Salaries, Stocks, Business, Media, Non-Profits, and International. Resources vary, depending on the state. Most lead to official county Web sites.

**Public Record Finder** [http://www.publicrecordfinder.com/](http://www.publicrecordfinder.com/)
This directory and search engine links to more than 6,000 free public record sites around the world. Access by record type or state, or search by keyword.

BRB Publications, Inc., home of the "Public Record Research Library," offers this list of nearly 400 state, county, city and federal (court) URLs where you can access public record information for free, especially bankruptcy filings, company records, and real estate information.

This site provides links to criminal, civil court, marriage, divorce, jail, inmate, sex offender, real, and personal property records as well as recorded documents and many other free public records sources.

**Public Records USA** [http://www.factfind.com/public.htm](http://www.factfind.com/public.htm)
From the Investigative Research Center, find links to public and open source records including aviation information, corporate databases, federal licensing, financial information, intellectual property, maritime, medical, telecommunications, vital records, federal agencies, and general/reference information for public records access.
Reverse Lookup Directories
http://dir.yahoo.com/Reference/Phone_Numbers_and_Addresses/Reverse_Lookup_Directories/
This Yahoo! Directory page contains links to a number of reverse lookup tools that allow you to find people and businesses by entering an area code and phone number.

Search Systems http://www.searchsystems.net/
Created and maintained by Pacific Information Resources, this useful metasite has links to over 5,300 searchable public records databases (pay databases are listed with a green $ icon).

State Legal Resource Center [internal guide]
Created by the Justice Libraries' staff, the State Legal Resource Center provides links to state and local government sites, public records resources, laws, regulations, online databases, municipal codes, general legal resources, and more. Also includes Westlaw and Lexis search boxes.

Tapping Officials' Secrets http://www.rcfp.org/cgi-local/tapping/index.cgi
Published by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, this site is a compendium of information on every state's open records and open meetings laws. Each state's section is arranged according to a standard outline, making it easy to compare laws in various states.

Virtual Gumshoe http://www.virtualgumshoe.com/
The site indexes and categorizes Web-based resources for public records research. Find sites for obtaining criminal records and information, registries of missing persons, state motor vehicle department sites, freedom of information act guidelines for various agencies, and more.

Ask your librarian to do searches in databases that you can't access!

Last Updated May 11, 2010 Jennifer L. McMahan