

## ON-LINE COMPANY RESEARCH TOOLS

### **Australian Securities & Investments Commission**

Provides Australian companies' data.

<http://www.asic.gov.au>

### **Belgium**

This is the Belgian website with basic company information:

[http://www.mineco.fgov.be/redir\\_new.asp?loc=/enterprises/crossroads\\_bank/home\\_fr.htm](http://www.mineco.fgov.be/redir_new.asp?loc=/enterprises/crossroads_bank/home_fr.htm)

Another website providing images of company documents

<http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/tsv/tsvf.htm>

In Dutch and French.

### **Brazilian Stock Exchange** (only in Portuguese)

<http://www.somativos.com.br/empresas/empresas.htm>

### **Bulgaria**

[www.apis.bg](http://www.apis.bg)

[www.daxy.com](http://www.daxy.com)

<http://www.apis.bg/en/index.php..>

<http://www.is-bg.net/frames.php>.

[http://www.ciela.net/home\\_e.asp](http://www.ciela.net/home_e.asp)

### **Czech Republic**

[www.imfo.mfcr.cz/ares/ares\\_fr.html.cz](http://www.imfo.mfcr.cz/ares/ares_fr.html.cz)

Terms: Obchodni jmeno – Company; Obec - Town (community), Ulice - Street, C. domu - number of the house, IC - Registration number of the company

## Denmark

[www.biq.dk](http://www.biq.dk)

This is only in Danish, and it's a paid for database, but it's possible to get one weeks free membership – without any obligations. You can search for all Danish companies - for all individuals attached to them, and you can get data back in time (like: Person XX was earlier a member of these company boards...) You can search for companies or individuals on the same address and so on. To register, go to this page:

<http://www.biq.dk/user/register/>

-and when you have written your email, password, first name (fornavn), Last name (Efternavn) you click on "Bestil prøveabonnement" (Order trial-subscription).

You'll shortly get a mail, and that's that. It's really useful. And you won't have to cancel your subscription. It just dies after a week.

The Danish Commerce and Company Agency has a limited open database

<http://www.publi-com.dk/index2.htm>

where you will find basic information such as name (and company aliases), address, company registration number and the date for last published account. To gain access to the whole database, you will have to pay the agency a certain fee to obtain information on e.g. accounts, board members, and host/mother companies.

## Finland

For Finland, you can browse companies at the official trade registry's site:

<http://www.ytj.fi/english/default.asp?path=605>

The search page:

[http://www.ytj.fi/english/Yrit\\_sel2.asp?kielikoodi=3&path=605](http://www.ytj.fi/english/Yrit_sel2.asp?kielikoodi=3&path=605)

(don't forget to specify the "company form", for example for Nokia it should be "public limited company"). This database does not give you financial records. For those, you need to turn to commercial providers, either Suomen Asiakastieto, which has an English language service (online payment with Visa possible) at:

<http://www.asiakastieto.fi/en/index.shtml> or

TietoEnator's ePortti, which is only in Finnish:

<https://eportti.tietopalvelut.com/>

## France

In France the best site is

[www.euridile.fr](http://www.euridile.fr)

recently reorganized as a portal (in French only) on a lot of company info.  
Some is paid for but you can get a lot of data free.

## **Hungary**

English: <http://www.adatbazis.com/default.asp?lang=en>

German: <http://www.adatbazis.com/default.asp?lang=de>

## **The Netherlands**

The Dutch trade register is available online with an English language interface on:

<http://www.handelsregister.nl/sectie/sectie.asp?sectieID=102>

Most of the information has to be paid for.

## **New Zealand**

[www.companies.govt.nz](http://www.companies.govt.nz)

It is mostly free and only in English.

## **Norway**

<http://www.brreg.no/english/>

## **Romania**

[http://recom.onrc.ro/accesare\\_.htm](http://recom.onrc.ro/accesare_.htm)

Basic information is free of charge.

## **Serbia**

[http://www.pks.co.yu/pksen/servlet/XMLProcessor?i\\_sys=pksen&i\\_xml=a5000&i\\_xsl=s5000](http://www.pks.co.yu/pksen/servlet/XMLProcessor?i_sys=pksen&i_xml=a5000&i_xsl=s5000)

## **South Africa**

In South Africa company records may be officially obtained via the Registrar of Companies which falls under the Dept of Trade and Industry.

Their website is:

[www.cipro.gov.za](http://www.cipro.gov.za)

Privately, records can be scrutinised electronically

(although not always as updated) via  
[www.legalcity.co.za](http://www.legalcity.co.za)

(you will be required to pay a certain amount which would give you access to South African records, also deeds (property in some cases).

Another suggestion from South Africa would be the local Lexis-Nexis affiliate  
[www.DeedSearch.co.za](http://www.DeedSearch.co.za)

which gives access to local property deeds & mortgages, the SA company registrar, criminal records, vehicle registration info, drivers' license databases, credit reference info, birth & death certificates, educational qualifications, employment records, & a range of other public databases.

## **Switzerland**

<https://www.shab.ch/shabforms/servlet/forms/SearchView?lg=EN&TYPE=HR>

The Swiss Commercial Register offers free company data for the last two years. Data older than these is paid for.

There is an easier way to cross check quickly and freely our company registries at  
[www.zefix.admin.ch](http://www.zefix.admin.ch)

This website is updated by the ministry of police and justice in English, French, German and Italian. You can research by canton or cities, or name of companies. There are the usual indications by company names, holders, shareholders, capital, etc...If you need more details on companies, you may order a full extract of the registry, stamped, from the cantons and there is a contact address.

## **The United Kingdom**

<http://www.companieshouse.co.uk/>

## **The United States**

The first place in the States I would go is the US Securities and Exchange Commission's online database, Edgar at

<http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>

Publicly traded corporations must file regular, detailed reports that include data on finances, stock, lawsuits, and more. The 10K reports are particularly useful, although they can be long and confusing documents.

[www.edgaronline.com](http://www.edgaronline.com)

It allows you to search for people in SEC documents (much easier than going through each company filing at SEC's EDGAR database) if you want to track down a specific individual. EdgarOnline also allows you to choose how you want to view

the SEC filings, i.e. the original filing, word file, pdf, excel (which makes incorporating the numbers in a database so much easier).

<http://www.nass.org>

It is the National Association of Secretaries of State, which links to the data for all 50 states. Do a search, and it will ask you which state i.e. New York, California, etc. You will be directed to the search page for the state you select, and you can search by entity name, registered agent, or corporate ID number. It is a free service to use. Some states are easier to use than others, and some have better info than others, because in the US, each state has its own laws for corporations concerning registration with the secretary of state and filling data with the SoS office. Hope this helps. Another hint: Arkansas and Delaware have some interesting companies, often with many eastern European connections.

## **Ukraine**

[www.smida.gov.ua](http://www.smida.gov.ua)

Available in Ukrainian language only, but an English speaking journalist in Ukraine named Roman Olearchyk will be glad to help when time is available or could recommend others who could help do the search ([romchuk@gmail.com](mailto:romchuk@gmail.com))

## **OTHER DATABASES**

The European Business Register

<http://www.ebr.org/>

You have to pay (varies from country to country), but you'll get access to 14 countries.

Also, don't forget about the world's stock exchanges which can provide valuable data on listed companies. This is a yahoo compiled directory of stock exchanges:

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Business\\_and\\_Economy/Business\\_to\\_Business/Financial\\_Services/Exchanges/Stock\\_Exchanges/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Business_to_Business/Financial_Services/Exchanges/Stock_Exchanges/)

## **LEXIS-NEXIS**

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/uk/business>

### **TIPS FOR USING LEXIS-NEXIS**

Not all the information about companies is grouped under the tag COMPANIES! For example you won't be able to get data on companies listed in the Netherlands from this section. You'll have to do the following:

1. On the main page click on Sources

2. Click on Company & Financial
3. Click on Company Profiles & Directories
4. Click on By Country & Region
5. Click on Europe
6. Click the Add button next to Dutch Company Information and next to Dutch Company Information, Managers and Directors

7. Give the source a name like DUTCH

8. Now you're ready to go. Your source is saved under Power Search.

In the same way, by accessing SOURCES you can have access to other databases like court records, databases which are not listed on the main lexis-nexis pages.

When searching for UK based companies be aware of the fact that a general search under "All UK companies" will not provide shareholders data. To get this you must go to ICC Directory of Shareholders.

## **OTHER USEFUL ON-LINE TOOLS USEFUL SOFTWARE:**

DC++ is a computer program that connects computers all around the world and facilitates data exchanges. Can be useful when investigating cyber-crime.

<http://dcplusplus.sourceforge.net/>

## **IP and WEB ADDRESS CHECK:**

The following websites can be used in order to find out who owns a website and for tracking down IPs

<http://allwhois.com/>

<http://www.ripe.net/whois>

<http://remote.12dt.com/rns/>

<http://allwhois.com/>

## **DECLASSIFIED INFORMATION CIA**

[www.foia.cia.gov](http://www.foia.cia.gov)

The CIA has established this site to provide the public with an overview of access to CIA information, including electronic access to previously released documents.

## **ON-LINE TRANSLATION**

These web-sites might come in handy when we need to read documents in foreign languages

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/tr>

<http://www.freetranslation.com/>

The following one is helpful with translations from Arabic:

[tarjim.ajeel.com/ajeel/default.asp?lang=1](http://tarjim.ajeel.com/ajeel/default.asp?lang=1)

## **US GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS**

<http://vsearch2.eps.gov/servlet/SearchServlet>

Military and Civil contracts which are awarded by the US Government are searchable by using this web site

## **TERRORISM, FINANCIAL FRAUD, WANTED CRIMINALS**

<http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac>

<http://www.ustreas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sdn/>

<http://chaos.fedworld.gov/bxa/prohib.html>

## **SEARCH ENGINES**

[www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com)

[www.gigablast.com](http://www.gigablast.com)

[www.ixquick.com](http://www.ixquick.com)

[www.teoma.com](http://www.teoma.com)

[www.alltheweb.com](http://www.alltheweb.com)

[www.hotbot.com](http://www.hotbot.com)

[www.a9.com](http://www.a9.com)

[www.live.com](http://www.live.com)

<http://searchenginewatch.com>

The latter provides data and ratings on search engines

## **THE INTERNET AS AN ARCHIVE**

<http://www.waybackmachine.org/>

This is a very important tool when it comes to checking web sites which are not on-line anymore or to check previous stages of a web site. It stores web sites in different stages of their development.

## **ENCRYPTION SOFTWARE**

<http://www.pgpi.org/cgi/download.cgi?filename=PGPFW703.zip>

PGP, Pretty Good Privacy, encrypts files and documents on your hard-disk and can be used for e-mail communications as well.

<http://www.scramdisk.clara.net/>

Encrypts your hard-drives

## **OTHER DATABASES AND USEFUL WEBSITES**

<http://wnc.dialog.com/>

Database which contains collections of articles (from media outlets not covered by Lexis-Nexis) translated into English. Articles from all over the world (mainly on intelligence, companies, criminal stuff) are searchable here. Requires subscription.

The [Foreign Broadcast Information Service](#) of the Central Intelligence Agency exemplifies national intelligence at its best, informing both senior policy makers and the nation as a whole with its daily collection, translation, and publication of thousands of foreign media reports. (Portions of the FBIS product are available to the public by subscription to [World News Connection](#).)

## **NOT-FOR-PROFITS/FOUNDATIONS**

[www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)

Data about NGO's established in the US. Provides comprehensive financial data. Requires registration. Free.

[www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil)

A Pentagon searchable contracts database. Data about companies involved in Pentagon contracts all over the world. Reporters can search for companies involved abroad.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Human Rights Watch is the largest human rights organization. It conducts investigations into human rights abuses all over the world.

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

[www.oneworld.net](http://www.oneworld.net)

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

[www.freedominfo.org](http://www.freedominfo.org)

This website points out to Freedom of Information laws all around the globe