



How do I find ...

Your guide to
finding documents and data
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Finding information online

- Be sure to verify that it comes from an official source such as a .gov site. Be sure to cite your sources of information.
- You may be getting only summaries of the information, not the information itself.
 - Day-care center and nursing home inspections summarize findings online. Paper records have the detail. Same with OSCN in many counties.
- If you have the time, it's always best to pull the actual paper records.
- Give people a chance to comment on what you've found.



City records

- Payrolls – get them every year in electronic format
- Disciplinary actions
- Tort claims
- Spending:
 - Budgets
 - Contracts
 - Purchase orders



City records

- Contracts – Who are the city's biggest contractors? Did the big project go over budget? Check amount of change orders.
- Code enforcement records
- Audits – Check www.harvester.gov for federal audits involving your city.
- Crime data from your PD – Calls for service, police reports, dash cam video



City records

- Municipal citations, charges – DUIs, speeding tickets. Look for favoritism
- Fire dept. calls
- Ambulance runs – on time?
- Water – Look at reports from DEQ, EPA involving your city's water and sewer systems.
- City jail – inspections, blotter



County records

- Criminal:
 - OSCN: www.OSCN.net
 - ODCR: www.odcr.com
- Property records in your county and surrounding counties – tax assessor
- UCC filings (at county clerk offices)
- Payrolls, spending, tort claims, contracts etc.



County records

- Agendas and minutes of county meetings
- Jail: Inspection reports, incidents, deaths
- Arrests and crime logs from the sheriff
- Juvenile bureau: Law allows you to request certain juvenile records.



State records

- DOC offender lookup
 - <http://www.ok.gov/doc/Offenders/index.html>
- Tracking inmates:
 - www.vinelink.com
- State audits: Check regularly for entities in your area.
 - <http://www.sai.ok.gov/>



State records

- AG opinions – searchable by key word.
 - <http://www.oag.state.ok.us/oagweb.nsf/opinions.html>
- Corporate holdings
 - Secretary of State, Search by entity name, service agent or name of person. www.sos.ok.gov
 - Also call the Oklahoma Tax Commission and ask for Paula Ross: 405-521-3637



State records

- DHS: Shelters, homes in your area.
 - How many kids and for how long?
 - Incident reports at facilities in your area
 - Ryan Luke Act request
- Commission on Children and Youth
 - <http://www.okkids.org/>
- Health facilities:
 - Nursing homes
 - Hospitals



State records

- Health facilities
 - Hospice companies
 - Home health companies
 - <http://www.medicare.gov/>
- Doctors: Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision
 - <http://www.okmedicalboard.org/>



State records

- Restaurant inspections – state health dept.
 - <http://www.phin.state.ok.us/Inspections>
- Bars: <http://www.ok.gov/able/>
 - Click on liquor / tobacco complaints
- State spending in your area
 - <https://data.ok.gov/>
 - Links to Open Books, Documents.ok.gov



State records

- Transportation – ODOT can give data, updates on road projects in your area.
- Bad bridges:
 - <https://data.ok.gov/> has downloadable bridge data.
 - Federal Highway Administration has data online
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/nbi.cfm>



Federal records

- Environment

- National Response Center (oil and chemical spills) <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/foia.html>
- EPA Region 6: www.epa.gov/region6
- Toxics Release Inventory
 - <http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>



Federal records

- Federal inmate locator:
 - <http://www.bop.gov/iloc2/LocateInmate.jsp>
- PACER
 - <http://www.pacer.gov/>
- Campaign contributions:
 - Opensecrets.org
- Filing a FOIA
 - Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press www.ifoia.org



People

- Google (advanced searches and email alerts)
- Facebook
- Twitter
- AutoTrak (Lexis-Nexis)
- www.Veromi.net
- Death certificates and Social Security death index
- Who is John Doe: <http://bit.ly/9g8JTg>



Misc.

- Wayback machine
 - <http://archive.org/web/>
- Aviation
 - www.landings.com
 - www.flightaware.com
 - <http://report.myairplane.com/>
- Workplace safety
 - OSHA.gov



Misc.

- Financial information on non profits
 - www.guidestar.org
 - Look for the 990 forms
- Day-care center inspections
 - <http://childcarefind.okdhs.org/childcarefind>
 - But paper reports provide far more detail. Link at the bottom of the page gives contact info for DHS.



Misc

- Social media
 - Old Twitter posts searchable by sender, recipient, key word etc.
 - <https://twitter.com/search-advanced>
 - Search social media mentions of a key word and measure influence
 - www.topsy.com