

PUBLIC RECORDS

PEOPLE SEARCH ENGINE

- ✓ People search engines are similar to typical search engines; people search engines **index online content but focus on people's personal details** and store the results in huge databases to return information upon request.
- ✓ Different parameters are used to search for people on these sites such as **target e-mail address, phone number, social username, and full name**.
- ✓ Some websites offer additional search parameters such as relative names, mailing address, date of birth, known aliases, ages, and even photographs using a reverse image search technique.
- ✓ The databases used by people search engines to locate information are diverse. For instance, many people search engines **search within the deep web** to extract information from source databases that typical search engines cannot reach; these include **birth and death databases**, public records (such as criminal and tax records), and other overlooked sources (such as information stored in proprietary databases).
- ✓ People search engines also index results from social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn, making them a convenient solution to return comprehensive result sets.
- ✓ Online investigators (such as law enforcement and intelligence services) need people search engines to acquire accurate information about their targets.
- ✓ For example, employers can conduct background checks on their prospective employees, and individuals can look up the amount of personal information that is revealed about themselves online.

- ✓ TruthFinder (<https://www.truthfinder.com>) is one of the most popular people search engines; it is a public search record that gives instant access to a wide set of personal information about anyone living in the United States.
- ✓ TruthFinder has a huge database of social media profiles, address history, contact information, public records (federal, country, and state data sources), and other commercial sources.
- ✓ TruthFinder scans the deep web of Internet resources to fetch results from places that conventional search engines cannot operate; it also searches the dark web for exposed personal information, providing a great service for anyone who may suspect that their personal details have been sold on the dark web (it offers a free dark web monitoring service for its registered members).
- ✓ Pipl Pipl (<https://pipl.com>) is another popular people search engine that covers the entire world.
 - ✓ It search for people using their e-mail address, phone number, or social username.
 - ✓ Pipl collaborates with other people search engine services to return comprehensive results.
 - ✓ These services can be accessed by clicking the sponsored links that appear on your search result page.
 - ✓ The current associates are Peoplelooker.com, Archives.com, and Spokeo.com. These services charge fees for giving deeper details about the person of interest.
- ✓ Spokeo (<https://www.spokeo.com>): This is a commercial people search engine that gives detailed reports about any target.
- ✓ TruePeopleSearch (<https://www.truepeoplesearch.com>): You can search by target name, reverse phone, and reverse address. The service is free and shows the contact information (phone and e-mail) in addition to current and previous addresses.

PUBLIC RECORDS

- ✓ Public records consist of information that has been—mostly—produced by government entities and is meant to be non-confidential.
- ✓ Every person on Earth has a set of public records.
- ✓ For example, the most important— mandatory—public records of every human is their birth and death records!
- ✓ Different countries handle public records differently, as public records will contain **personally identifiable information** (PII) about people, and exposing such details to the public is subject to law.
- ✓ Government records come in different types such as text, photographs, and maps, and they are stored in paper and electronic formats as well such as CD/DVDs, tapes, and computer databases.
- ✓ Aside from laws regulating access to public records, what you need to know is that many online services offer access to such data for free or in exchange for a small fee.

EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC RECORDS

- ✓ Birth records
- ✓ Death records
- ✓ Marriage records
- ✓ Divorce records
- ✓ Address records
- ✓ Criminal records
- ✓ Court/litigation records
- ✓ Voting records

- ✓ Driver license records
- ✓ Education history
- ✓ Property records
- ✓ Tax/financial records
- ✓ Weapon permits
- ✓ Traffic violations
- ✓ Bankruptcy records
- ✓ Sex offender records
- ✓ Professional licenses
- ✓ E-mail records
- ✓ Telephone records
- ✓ Census records

- ✓ There are online **public records** that can prove useful in some cases:-
 - ✓ Search Systems (<http://publicrecords.searchsystems.net>): This is a public records search engine; it includes links to premium databases (and requires payment).
 - ✓ Unites States patent records (<https://www.uspto.gov>): This lists patent records.
 - ✓ Google Advanced Patent Search (https://www.google.com/advanced_patent_search): Search for patents here.
 - ✓ Federal Election Commission (<https://classic.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/norindsea.shtml>): This lists individual contributions made by individuals, Native American tribes, partnerships, sole proprietorships, limited liability companies (LLCs), and contributions by candidates to all political committees.
 - ✓ Follow That Money (<https://www.followthemoney.org>): This lists how money is spent in federal elections.
 - ✓ Political Money Line (www.politicalmoneyline.com): This tracks money spent in politics.
 - ✓ EHDP (<https://www.ehdp.com/vitalnet/datasets.htm>): This contains lots of health data sets of the United States.
 - ✓ Data.GOV.UK (<https://data.gov.uk/data/search>): This is a huge collection of U.K. government data.
 - ✓ Stats (www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats.aspx): This is a New Zealand data government data set.

VITAL RECORDS

- ✓ A major portal for **locating vital records** within the United States is Vitalrec (www.vitalrec.com).
- ✓ This site tells you how to obtain vital records (**birth certificates, death records, and marriage license information**) from each state and territory in the United States.
- ✓ All you need to do is to select the person of interest's state and then browse the available vital records links for that area.
- ✓ This should be your first place to search for vital records in the United States.
- ✓ Vitalrec.com does not store any information in its database; it just offers links directly to each state's page, and it mentions **where and how to get state's vital records**.
- ✓ The **international section** (www.vitalrec.com/links2.html) gives details on where to find such information in other countries.