

Researching a Company

The following resources will help you find information about companies. This is useful if you are preparing for an interview, or would like to create a list of potential employers to send resumes.

Local Companies:

[Book of Lists](#) - Top businesses in the Chicago area, published by *Crain's Chicago Business*.

[Book of Lists: McHenry County](#) - Information on top businesses in McHenry County.

[Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce](#) - Click on "Business Directory" on this website for a members list with contact information.

[Illinois Manufacturers Directory](#) - Lists manufacturing businesses throughout the state; includes contact information, officers' names and titles, the number of employees, and annual sales.

[Illinois Services Directory](#) - Lists service businesses throughout the state with contact information, lists of officers, number of employees, nature of business, sales figures, etc.

[McHenry County EDC Manufacturing Directory](#) - This website provides information on county manufacturers, including email addresses.

[People in Need Forum Resource Directory](#) - Lists nonprofit social service organizations in McHenry County (also available online, click [here](#)).

National Companies:

[Encyclopedia of Associations](#) - Lists nonprofit associations in the U.S. by subject, including trade and professional organizations.

[Hoover's Handbook of American Business](#) - Directory of major U.S. companies with a description, contact information, brief historical data and financial information. Other Hoover's volumes available are on [World Business](#), [Emerging Companies](#) and [Private Companies](#).

[LexisNexis Corporate Affiliations](#) - Directory of major U.S. public and private corporations with information on ownership (e.g., parent companies and subsidiaries).

[D & B Million Dollar Directory](#) - Contact information, officers' names, profit statistics, etc., for major companies nationwide, both public and private.

[ThomasNet](#) - Formerly the *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers*. Check this website for U.S. manufacturers - search by type of industrial product, company name or brand.

Other Directories:

In addition, depending on the type of company you are researching, the Library may have specialized directories, e.g., directories of hospitals, banks, schools, etc.

Library Subscription Databases:

*[DemographicsNow: Business and People Edition](#) - Get detailed demographic and consumer buying information to help with business planning and marketing.

*[ReferenceUSA](#) - A nationwide yellow pages database with information on 14 million U.S. businesses. Searchable by type of business (e.g., yellow page heading), geographical area (city, county, state), or by size of company (number of employees or annual sales). Provides contact information for each company, names of owners/officers, etc.

(*These are subscription databases available in the library or 24/7 to CLPL cardholders. To connect from home, have your Crystal Lake Library card barcode number ready.)

Other Online Resources:

[Vault](#) - Gives insider information on various employers.

[Better Business Bureau](#) - Check out a business or charity.

State of Illinois [Corporation/LLC Search/Certificate of Good Standing](#) - Look up an Illinois corporation. Also find corporation information from [Secretaries of State](#) offices for all 50 states.

[LinkedIn](#) - This professional networking site is a source for contacts to find out more about companies.

Find Information about a Company from Its Website

Check sections such as "About Us" or "Who We Are," etc. to find information about companies from their own websites. You may find information such as company histories, mission statements, names and contact information for key personnel. You also can find out about products and services and new developments (try looking for "News" or "Press Releases"). (Note: on commercial websites, e.g., for a store such as Target, the company information is often buried at the bottom, since the website is focused on selling products.)

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