

RENSSELAER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION



Introduction to electronic public records and research

Recorded presentation

COURSE MATERIALS

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Introduction to electronic public records and research

By Michael J. Derevlany

Forward

We live in an age of unprecedented availability of information. However, even with the cornucopia of data readily available to everyone locating specific information needed for any one given situation can still be a challenge at times. Knowing where to look is part of the solution. This presentation is meant to provide some insight into locating some of the factual information needed by attorneys.

There are websites that offer completely open and free access, websites that require a paid subscription, and websites that fall into both categories depending on the type and depth of information being sought. This presentation is focused primarily on open-access websites but since there is overlap between all of these categories both the paid and “hybrid” sites will be included to a lesser degree.

There are links provided and details about the information available via those links, including lists of the categories covered. Since some of the variety of material found at these can be extensive those lists of available data are included at the end of these materials.

Real Property and related filings

County clerk offices in New York State are the repository of many forms of documents that need to be filed as public records. For many attorneys the first document that may come to mind is a deed to real property. In addition to deeds there are many other documents handled by county clerks, including the other non-deed documents that involve real property along with other documents unrelated to real property. County clerks are also clerks of the court system and because of this court records that are not otherwise available electronically (such as for old cases that predate e-filing) are often available via county clerk websites. In some circumstances the website may not provide direct electronic access to the materials but only provide a way to place an order for those older court records.

Land records have been indexed electronically for decades and copies of the filed documents have been available to some degree for almost as long. Most counties in New York have some form of internet access to their records, though it isn't always free or complete; in

some cases, the public access is to the records index only, not to the recorded document itself. Many counties contract with a service provider, SearchIQS, and use their internet access as a source of revenue. New York City has its own system, the Automated City Register Information System or ACRIS, which is thorough and freely accessible.

Usefulness: In addition to title searches this can be helpful when looking to collect moneys owed from an individual or entity. A search for assets of those individuals or entities owing moneys will normally include locating real property of those individuals and entities. In some instance an individual's location maybe be unknown and locating real property owned by an individual can also help locate that individual.

The information obtained from county clerk records may also be useful for confirming information from other sources like subscription databases.

A list of counties and the sites are included as an appendix, with an accompanying chart indicating whether or not there is a paywall and if so whether some guest searching/guest log-in is allowed and the limits of that guest access. Please note that websites are subject to constant change and the list provided should be used as a guideline.

Obtaining certified copies of documents from county clerks will involve a fee. In some cases they can be ordered through the county website but in other instances a written request for the document may be necessary.

Other real property related information

As noted above a deed to real property can be found by searching the records of a county clerk. While the deed will indicate ownership by a given party that deed may not be helpful in evaluating the current worth of the real property. For that it may be necessary to refer to assessment and property tax records. Like deeds and other related records these are generally accessible through a variety of websites. And like county clerk websites, some of them may require a login and/or paid subscription for access.

The electronic access to property assessment and tax records is not consistent throughout the state. In some instances they are available through the county but in others they may be accessible through a local municipal site. Due to statutory requirements there should be a high degree of uniformity in the information maintained in these databases. The current assessed value would certainly be a common data element. The latest property tax payments are also usually available, though not necessarily from the same website.

Entity Research (Business, Corporations, LLCs, etc.)

Finding information about commercial and non-profit entities is generally easy and straightforward. Many of them have websites that can be easily located with a simple Google (or other search engine) search. The quality and the type of information found on an entity's site may not be in-depth or even very helpful. It is likely that the information needed can be found on various government sites.

The formation of New York State corporations, both business and not for profit, are done in part by filing certain documents with the New York State Department of State ("DOS"). While the filed documents are generally not available from the DOS website basic information about the entity is. DOS maintains an extensive and publicly available database of entities that have filed with that department, including foreign corporations that have registered in New York. Entities that are inactive are also listed.

Usefulness: the ability to find the correct full name for a particular entity and whether or not it is active (i.e., still authorized to do business). For companies required to provide annual or other periodic reports the information found in those reports reflect the financial stability of the entity and can be useful for analyzing whether or not it would be wise to enter into a contract with that entity or the likelihood of collecting from amounts the entity owes.

New York entities:

<https://apps.dos.ny.gov/publicInquiry/>

Additional information about publicly traded companies

Information on publicly traded companies can be found at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) website. Generally the bulk of useful information will be found in the SEC's EDGAR database.

Usefulness: publicly traded companies provide the bulk of goods and services and so are often involved matters that result in legal action. The financial and other background information available from the SEC or other places may be helpful in evaluating a potential case against such an entity. Publicly traded companies provide goods and services and the financial status of the entitle provider may factor in the purchase decision by your clients or your firm.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

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

SEC's EDGAR database

<https://www.sec.gov/edgar/search-and-access>

<https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html>

The following description can be found at the "About EDGAR" page:

"What is EDGAR?

EDGAR, the Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval system, is the primary system for companies and others submitting documents under the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, and the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Containing millions of company and individual filings, EDGAR benefits investors, corporations, and the U.S. economy overall by increasing the efficiency, transparency, and fairness of the securities markets. The system processes about 3,000 filings per day, serves up 3,000 terabytes of data to the public annually, and accommodates 40,000 new filers per year on average."

Information on non-profits registered in NY - the OAG Charities Bureau Registry

The Charities Bureau of the Office of the Attorney General maintains a registry of non-profit organizations. The registry is extensive but does not cover all such organizations, only those organizations registered with the Office of the Attorney General. Some organizations, such as religious organizations, are exempt from registering with the office and may not appear in the registry. There is a good deal of information available for those entities found in the registry, including a fair amount of detail on the organizations themselves as well as some of the financial data of the entities. Most of that information can be found on the form 990 required to be filed by the non-profit.

Charities Bureau Registry

https://www.charitiesnys.com/RegistrySearch/search_charities.jsp

Usefulness: Not unlike publicly traded companies nonprofit organizations often provide services and sometimes goods as well. For example, many health care providers are registered

as non-profit entities. Your client's (or your firm's) decision to deal with the nonprofit may be affected by the information found in these filings. Information regarding the organizational structure would also be of use in any legal action against the nonprofit.

Professional Licenses

In New York there are two primary licensing authorities that are responsible for the bulk of licenses, the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of State. Virtually every profession or trade (except attorneys) which requires a license within the state is regulated by one of these two agencies. Attorneys are licensed through the Office of Court Administration, the administrative arm of the state court system.

The Education Department has a separate division, the Office of the Professions, which licenses physicians and other medical personnel as well as accountants, engineers, and surveyors, among others. One complicating issue is the fact that some trades and professions have specialties or subspecialties, as you will note on the lists provided in the appendix. For example, if you are trying to confirm that an individual working in respiratory care is licensed as a respiratory therapist but there is no entry, you may need to check under the category of respiratory therapy technician.

New York State Education Department can be found at: <http://www.nysed.gov>

License search: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/opsearches.htm>

New York State Department of State can be found at: <http://www.dos.ny.gov>

License search: https://appext20.dos.ny.gov/lcns_public/chk_load

New York State Courts: <http://www.nycourts.gov>

In addition to these sites there are other public sites, such as the internet presence for a print (or formerly print) directory, that provide information or links to information about licensed professionals. For attorneys (for example), there is the Martindale-Hubell directory available at: <https://www.martindale.com>. Martindale-Hubell not only covers the entire United States but may often provide more information than is available on website of the applicable licensing entity, which in New York is the court system. The downside is that unlike a licensing entity a directory such as Martindale-Hubell may not be completely inclusive and there may be

individuals who simply aren't listed there.

Background check information: criminal records and related

Traditionally New York criminal records have not been readily obtainable via electronic means by the general public. However, that has not necessarily been the case in other states. In fact, many states sell their criminal records to data aggregators who then makes them available, usually on a paid access website. The amount and type of information may vary depending on the site and whether you are a paying customer or a free browser. The site Public Records Sources has a criminal records search for many states. There are also sites specifically for sex offenders. Last, don't forget to search court sites and sites with court decisions. You may want to check the court sites for matters currently pending; the published decisions may reveal information not available even in an individual's criminal record history.

There is an indirect way to get some information about individual's possible criminal record without directly obtaining a copy of the record by checking if the individual has been an inmate in a correctional facility in New York. The website of New York State Department of Corrections provides an inmate search. Some counties provide a similar option for jail facilities in those counties. On the federal level, the Department of Justice through the Bureau of Prisons has a similar function. Other states may provide similar access.

Usefulness: This can often be a resource to locate witnesses or for gathering background information on witnesses.

New York State Department of Corrections inmate search

<http://nysdoccslookup.doccs.ny.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons site

<http://www.bop.gov>

Vital Statistics: Birth, Death, and other Records

Some (but not all) of this information is freely available through the internet, subject to much the same provisions and restrictions as when the only access to these records was on paper. Those restrictions and provisions are generally in place to protect an individual's privacy, and

due to that, in certain cases you may be only have electronic limited access or only provide a way to electronically place an order for the information. In addition to the various government sites and privately run portals, there are genealogy sites that have this information as well.

Usefulness: This would be primarily useful in confirming information provided by an individual. It may be helpful in some instances to locate an individual. It may also be useful for confirming information from other sources like subscription databases.

Vital records sites:

https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/

<http://www.vitalchek.com>

<http://marriagedatabase.com/newyork/marriage-records.htm>

Sample Genealogy Site:

http://www.genealogy.com/index_n.html

Court cases in New York

The Unified Court System provides three different ways to search for cases, each with its own limitations. The first (and oldest) electronic access point is via eCourts. The second and generally more useful is NYSCEF, or the New York State Courts Electronic Filing. The third one, specifically for Surrogate's Court, is more recent.

eCourts (<https://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/webcivil/ecourtsMain>) was first readily available in the early 2000s. Although its coverage has broadened since that time it remains basically and primarily an indexing system of a subset of current and past court cases in the courts of record of the state other than Surrogate's Court. This subset is substantial but it is still a subset. In addition to the Surrogate's Court the town and village courts, which are not courts of records, are also excluded. Family Court is included but to a limited extent due to the sensitive nature of the cases handled by that court.

Here are the descriptions from the eCourts site:

"WebCivil Local contains cases from all the local Civil Courts in New York State (61 City Courts, the District Courts in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and the New York City Civil Courts). You may search for cases by Index Number, Party Name, Attorney/Firm Name or

Judge, and produce calendars for a specific Attorney/Firm or by Judge or Part. For a complete list of all the courts click here."

"WebCivil Supreme contains information on both Active and Disposed Civil Supreme Court cases in all 62 counties of New York State. You may search for cases by Index Number, Party Name, Attorney/Firm Name or Justice, and produce calendars for a specific Attorney/Firm or by Justice or Part. Sign up for our eTrack case tracking service and receive email updates and appearance reminders for cases you wish to follow."

"WebCriminal provides information on pending criminal cases with future appearance dates for selected New York State Courts of criminal jurisdiction. You may search for cases by Case Number or Party Name and produce calendars by Court and Part or Judge. For a list of available Courts please refer to the WebCriminal FAQ."

"WebFamily provides information on active Family Court cases in all 62 counties of New York State and Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court cases in those counties with IDV Courts. You may search for cases by File or Docket Number, generate a list of all pending cases for an Attorney or Firm or produce calendars by County and Judge."

NYSCEF (<https://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/nyscef/HomePage>), the New York State Courts Electronic Filing, may be newer than eCourts but has origins dating back just as far. As noted in the most recent eFiling report the program was created to bring the benefits of digital technology to litigants, the bar, the courts, judges, the County Clerks, other governmental and private groups, and the public. The system was initially experimental and subject to a number of arbitrary limits. The system reached a formal stage in 2015 and has been expanded ever since.

Here is the description from the NYSCEF site:

"NYS Courts Electronic Filing (NYSCEF)"

"NYSCEF is a program that permits the filing of legal papers by electronic means with the County Clerk or appropriate court and offers electronic service of papers in those cases."

Differences between eCourts and NYSCEF

Since eCourts and NYSCEF were set up for different purposes it may not be a surprise to some to learn that there can be differences between the information presented in eCourts and the information presented in NYSCEF. While generally small, the differences are sometimes in the information itself and not just in the way the information is presented. For example, there may be a difference in dates between the two systems. There is also a difference in the coverage. To be thorough it may be necessary to check both systems.

As a transactional site NYSCEF also requires login credentials to file documents. eCourts is informationally only, not transactional, and therefore has no login currently (one

section, WebCriminal, used to require registration and login prior to use). NYSCEF does have a “search as guest” option, which does not require any credentials.

The third way to look at cases is through WebSurrogate, available at <https://websurrogates.nycourts.gov/>. This is specific to Surrogate’s Court and as initially implemented was not truly statewide as it did not include all counties. The announcement for it on February 28, 2022 noted that these 47 counties were included in the initial implementation. Additional counties have added since that time.

Since Surrogate’s Courts deal with a fair amount of sensitive information not all of the documents filed can be viewed, however those documents will usually be included on the list of filed materials. Please note that there are differences among the counties regarding which filings are publicly available and which are not.

New York State Library

This is a gem of a resource for researching factual information. In addition to the physical holdings of the Library, housed largely in the Cultural Education Center at 222 Madison Avenue in Albany, there is an extensive set of electronic databases that can be accessed through the library. Databases are available on-site using the NYS Library's computers available on the 7th floor and remotely to registered borrowers with a New York State Library P card. The main site can be found at: <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/>.

The New York State Library Borrower's Card

Individuals qualifying for one of several user categories may apply for a NYSL Borrower's Card or a New York State Resident Borrower's Card. A NYSL Borrower's Card or NYS Resident Borrower's Card allows individuals to borrow books and other materials, as well as access online journals, online newspapers and other online resources 24/7 from work or home.

NYSL Borrower's Card applications are available online but individuals can also request a New York State Library Borrower's Card application or a New York State Resident Borrower's Card application in person, over the phone, or via email.

All other individuals can borrow circulating materials from the New York State Library via Interlibrary Loan through their local public, school, special or college/university library. Members of the public can also use the Library's collections on-site.

The borrower categories are:

- Attorneys who are NYS residents

- Municipal Historians appointed by NYS local governmental bodies
- New York State Government Employees
- New York State Residents
- Physicians who are NYS residents
- Retired New York State Government Employees

Attorneys who are New York State residents and are admitted to practice in New York State are eligible to receive a NYS Library Attorney Borrower's Card. These borrower's cards begin with a "P" number. With this card attorneys can borrow materials from the State Library's 20 million item collection, request materials in person, by telephone (518-473-5676), fax (518-474-5279), email (nyslcirc@nysed.gov), or through Excelsior, the NYSL online catalog; pick up materials on-site at the circulation desk or request that items be mailed to your office; and remotely access, from work or home, the Library's collection of online databases and millions of magazine, journal and newspaper articles available in over 20,000 full-text online journals and newspapers.

Attorneys must complete a NYSL Attorney Borrower's Card application and present personal photo-identification that includes their home address (such as a current NYS driver license or current photo-identification issued by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles) AND verify their status as an attorney by presenting one of the following: Attorney Registration Number, listing as an attorney in a current legal directory, or NYS Bar card. Photocopies or scans are acceptable when mailing, faxing or e-mailing the proof of status. NYSL Attorney Borrower's cards must be renewed every two years.

A NYSL Attorney Borrower's Card can also be issued to a law firm. The NYSL Attorney Borrower's Card for a law firm card must be signed by one of the principals of the firm and someone in the office must be designated as the office contact. (The office contact could be a librarian, paralegal, office manager, etc.)

New York State Government Employees

New York State Government (State Agency, Legislative and Judicial) employees are eligible to receive a NYS Library State Government Employee Borrower's Card. These borrower's cards begin with a "P" number. With this card state government employees can borrow materials from the State Library's 20 million item collection, request materials in person, over the telephone (518-474-5355), via fax (518-474-5279), via email at nyslcirc@nysed.gov or

through Excelsior, the NYSL online catalog; pick up materials on-site at the Circulation Desk or request that items be sent to your office; remotely access, from work or home, the Library's collection of online databases and millions of magazine, journal and newspaper articles available in over 20,000 full-text online journals and newspapers; and submit Interlibrary Loan requests for items not owned by the State Library in person at the Reference Desk, over the phone (518-474-5355), via email or online via ILLiad.

NYS government employees must complete a NYSL State Government Employee Borrower's Card application and must verify their status as a NY state government employee by presenting one of the following: current NY State Government (State Agency, Legislative or Judicial) photo-identification card that includes an expiration date, recent NY State Government paycheck stub and current State Agency, Legislative or Judicial photo-identification card, or recent NY State Government paycheck and current NYS driver license, or current photo-identification card issued by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles. The card must be renewed every two years.

Overview of Available Resources

Resources are categorized on the site as Electronic Resources, Digital Collections, Guide to Searching the Catalog, NOVELny Collection, E-Journals and E-Books, and Internet Bibliographies

Under Electronic Resources (<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/elecres.htm>) can be found the following: catalog search (searching for books and other materials held by the New York State Library, including Manuscripts and Special Collections, and the New York State Archives; Historical Documents Inventory (collections held at other NYS institutions).

The Digital Collections category contains a surprising amount of state documents that have been digitized.

The Guide to Searching the Catalog is just that, a guide to practical use of the catalog with presumably helpful tips.

The NOVELny Collection is an online library of hundreds of magazines, newspapers, maps, charts, research and reference books that are available to every New Yorker, free of charge. Open access to this collection is available to everyone residing in New York State, or via a NY ID or library card.

The E-Journals and E-Books contains the library's collection of full-text eJournals and eBooks. This can be searched by title, ISSN/ISBN, or browse by subject. This collection is available for the public to access onsite using the Library's computers available on the seventh floor of the Cultural Education Center building. Remote access is available to registered borrowers with a valid Borrower Card (beginning with "P") and PIN.

The Internet Bibliographies includes a list of web sites selected and annotated by Library staff and organized by topic.

Open NY

Last but not least is Open NY, sometimes referred to as Open Data NY, the state's collection of databases that are readily accessible from one spot, <https://data.ny.gov/>. This is the front door to a very large set of the data held by the state. A list of information included would be too long to include. A browsable catalog of sorts can be found at: <https://data.ny.gov/browse>. Topics include lottery winners, solid waste management facilities, fish stocking records, farmers' markets, active liquor authority licenses, and the National Register of Historic Places, among others. The available datasets can generally be download in their entirety. If you attempt to download an entire dataset please be aware that some of them are quite large.

APPENDIX MATERIALS:
LISTS AND EXAMPLES

The following can be found the New York State Office of the Professions

(<http://www.op.nysed.gov/opsearches.htm>):

Accountant, Certified Public	Nurse, Practical
Accountant, Public	Nurse Practitioner - All Specialties
Acupuncture	Nurse Practitioner - Adult Health
Architect	Nurse Practitioner - College Health
Athletic Trainer	Nurse Practitioner - Community Health
Audiologist	Nurse Practitioner - Family Health
Certified Dental Assistant	Nurse Practitioner - Gerontology
Certified Dietitian/Nutritionist	Nurse Practitioner - Neonatology
Certified Public Accountant	Nurse Practitioner - Obstetrics and Gynecology
Certified Shorthand Reporter	Nurse Practitioner - Oncology
Chiropractor	Nurse Practitioner - Pediatrics
CPA	Nurse Practitioner - Perinatology
Creative Arts Therapist	Nurse Practitioner - Psychiatry
Dental Assistant, Certified	Nurse Practitioner - School Health
Dental Hygienist	Nurse Practitioner - Women's Health
Dental Hygienist, 3-year limited license	Nurse Practitioner - Acute Care
Dental Hygienist, Dental Hygiene Anesthesia	Nurse Practitioner - Palliative Care
Dentist	Nurse Practitioner - Holistic Nursing
Dentist, 3-year limited license	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Dentist, Dental Enteral Conscious Sedation	Occupational Therapist
Dentist, Dental General Anesthesia	Ophthalmic Dispenser
Dentist, Dental Parenteral Conscious Sedation	Optometrist
Dietitian/Nutritionist, Certified	Pharmacist
Doctor (Physician)	Pharmacist, 3-year limited license
Doctor, 3-year limited license	Physical Therapist
Engineer	Physical Therapist Assistant
Interior Designer	Physician Assistant
Land Surveyor	Physician
Landscape Architect	Physician, 3-year limited license
LCSW	Podiatrist
Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Professional Engineer
Licensed Master Social Worker	Psychoanalyst
Licensed Practical Nurse	Psychologist
LMSW	Public Accountant
Marriage & Family Therapist	Registered Physician Assistant
Massage Therapist	Registered Specialist Assistant
Medical Physicist, diagnostic radiology	Registered Professional Nurse
Medical Physicist, medical health	Respiratory Therapist
Medical Physicist, medical nuclear	Respiratory Therapy Technician
Medical Physicist, therapeutic radiology	Social Worker (LCSW)
Medicine (physician, including MDs & DOs)	Social Worker (LMSW)
Medicine, 3-year limited license	Specialist Assistant
Mental Health Counselor	Speech-Language Pathologist
Midwife	Veterinarian
Nurse, LPN	Veterinarian, 3-year limited license
Nurse, RN	Veterinary Technician

Veterinary Technician, 3-year limited

The following license categories can be found at the NYS Department Of State

http://appsext5.dos.state.ny.us/lcns_public/chk_load

Alarm Installer	Hearing Aid Dispenser Business
Apartment Information Vendor	Notary Public
Apartment Sharing Agent	Private Investigator
Appearance Enhancement	Real Estate Appraiser
Armored Car Carrier	Real Estate Associate Broker
Armored Car Guard	Real Estate Branch Office
Athlete Agents	Real Estate Broker
Bail Enforcement Agent	Real Estate Salesperson
Barber	Security Guard
Bedding	Telemarketer Business
Central Dispatch Facility	Watch, Guard, & Patrol Agency
Hearing Aid Dispenser	

County clerk sites

Albany

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nyalb/Login.aspx>

Allegany

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYALL/Login.aspx>

Bronx

<https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/>

Broome

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nybro/Login.aspx>

Cattaraugus - no internet access to records

Cayuga

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYCAY/Login.aspx>

Chautauqua

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYCHA/Login.aspx>

Chemung

<https://www.landex.com/webstore/jsp/cart/DocumentSearch.jsp>

Chenango

<https://cotthosting.com/nychenango/User/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fnychenango>

Clinton

<https://cotthosting.com/NYClintonExternal/User/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fnyclintonexternal>

Columbia

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nycol/Login.aspx>

Cortland

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYCOR/Login.aspx>

Delaware

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nydel/Login.aspx>

Dutchess

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/CountyClerkDocumentSearch/Search.aspx>

Erie

<https://ecclerk.erie.gov/BrowserView/default.aspx>

Essex

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYESS/Login.aspx>

Franklin

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYFRA/Login.aspx>

Fulton

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYFUL/Login.aspx>

Genesee

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nygen/Login.aspx>

Greene

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nygre/Login.aspx>

Hamilton - no internet access to records

Herkimer

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYHER/Login.aspx>

Jefferson

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nyjef/Login.aspx>

Kings

<https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/>

Lewis

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYLEW/Login.aspx>

Livingston

<https://countyfusion1.kofiletech.us/countyweb/login.do?countyname=Livingston>

Madison

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYMAD/Login.aspx>

Monroe

<https://countyfusion9.kofiletech.us/countyweb/loginDisplay.action?countyname=MonroeNY>

Montgomery

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYMONT/Login.aspx>

Nassau

<https://i2f.uslandrecords.com/NY/Nassau/D/Default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

New York

<https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/>

Niagara

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nynia/Login.aspx>

Oneida

<https://www.searchiqs.com/nyone/Login.aspx>

Onondaga

<https://cotthosting.com/NYOnondagaExternal/User/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fNYOnondagaExternal>

Ontario

<https://countyfusion1.kofiletech.us/countyweb/loginDisplay.action?countyname=Ontario>

Orange

<https://searchiqs.com/nyora/>

Orleans

<https://www.nylandrecords.com/nylr/NylrApp/index.jsp>

Oswego - no internet access to records

Otsego

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYOTS/Login.aspx>

Putnam

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYPUT/Login.aspx>

Queens

<https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/>

Rensselaer

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYREN/Login.aspx>

Richmond

<https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/>

Rockland

<https://cotthosting.com/NYRocklandExternal/User/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fNYRocklandExternal>

Saratoga

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYSAR/Login.aspx>

Schenectady

<https://www.landex.com/webstore/jsp/cart/DocumentSearch.jsp>

Schoharie

<https://www2.schohariecounty-ny.gov/CountyClerkSearch/>

Schuyler

<https://cotthosting.com/nyportal/User/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fnyportal>

Seneca

<https://www.nylandrecords.com/nylr/NylrApp/index.jsp>

St Lawrence

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYSTL/Login.aspx>

Steuben

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYSTE/Login.aspx>

Suffolk

<https://kiosk.suffolkcountyny.gov/KioskWeb/Notifications.aspx>

Sullivan

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYSUL/Login.aspx>

Tioga

<https://clerk.tiogacountyny.gov/Esearch/User/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fsearch>

Tompkins

<https://countyfusion3.kofiletech.us/countyweb/loginDisplay.action?countyname=Tompkins>

Ulster

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYULS/Login.aspx>

Warren

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYWAR/Login.aspx>

Washington

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYWAS/Login.aspx>

Wayne

<https://wcnycc.co.wayne.ny.us/recorder/web/>

Westchester

<https://wro.westchesterclerk.com/Login/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Wyoming

<http://hosted.uslandrecords.com/cgibin/homepage?County=8008>

Yates

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYYAT/Login.aspx>

County Clerk Site Limits

County	Paywall?	Guest Log?	Guest Limits:	Comments:
Albany	partial	Y	view only	
Allegany	Y	N		
Bronx	N	n/a		
Broome	Y	Y		
Cattaraugus	n/a	n/a		
Cayuga	Y	Y	index only	
Chautauqua	Y	N		
Chemung	Y	Y	index only	
Chenango	Y	Y	index only	
Clinton	Y	N		

Columbia	Y	Y		
Cortland	partial	Y		
Delaware	partial	Y	view only	
Dutchess	partial	Y		
Erie	Y	Y	index only	
Essex	Y	Y	view only	
Franklin	Y	N		
Fulton	Y	N		
Genesee	Y	N		
Greene	Y	Y	view only	
Hamilton	n/a	n/a		
Herkimer	Y	Y	view only	
Jefferson	Y	N		
Kings	N	n/a		
Lewis	Y	N		
Livingston	Y	N		
Madison	Y	Y	view only	
Monroe	Y	Y		
Montgomery	Y	Y	view only	
Nassau	partial	Y	view only	
New York	N	n/a		
Niagara	Y	N		
Oneida	Y	Y	view only	
Onondaga	Y	Y	index only	
Ontario	Y	Y	index only	document images not available
Orange	Y	N		
Orleans	Y	n/a	index only	search is available without login
Oswego	n/a	n/a		
Otsego	Y	N		
Putnam	Y	Y	view only	
Queens	N	n/a		
Rensselaer	Y	N		
Richmond	N	n/a		
Rockland	Y	Y	view only	
Saratoga	Y	N		
Schenectady	Y	n/a	index only	search is available without login
Schoharie	N	n/a		
Schuyler	Y	Y	index only	
Seneca	Y	Y	index only	
St Lawrence	Y	N		
Steuben	Y	N		
Suffolk	unclear	unclear		appears to be not operational
Sullivan	Y	N		
Tioga	Y	Y	index only	
Tompkins	Y	Y		
Ulster	Y	Y	view only	
Warren	Y	Y	view only	

Washington	Y	N		
Wayne	N	n/a	index only	
Westchester	Y	n/a	index only	search is available without login
Wyoming	Y	N		
Yates	Y	N		

A guest log-in allows some degree of access without a subscription, the limits are typically view only (no printing/saving) or index only (no viewing of documents).

New York State Library Databases

ABI/INFORM Collection (P card borrower login credentials required)

The database features thousands of full-text journals, dissertations, working papers, key business and economics periodicals such as the Economist, country-and industry-focused reports, and downloadable data. Its international coverage gives researchers a complete picture of companies and business trends around the world. Includes content from ABI/INFORM Trade and Industry, ABI/INFORM Global, ABI/INFORM Dateline and ABI/INFORM Archive.

Academic OneFile

Periodicals covering a broad range of material: arts, business, education, general reference, health, law, literature, medicine, sciences, social sciences, technology, and other subjects.

Accessible Archives (P card borrower login credentials required)

Primary source material from 18th and 19th centuries, including coverage of the Colonial Period, The French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, African-American History, and the Industrial Revolution. Users may search across all of the databases simultaneously or search only selected databases. The six databases are: Godey's Ladys Book 1830-1880; The Pennsylvania Gazette from 1728-1800; The Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective Nov. 1860 - April 1865; African American Newspapers: The 19th Century; The Pennsylvania Newspaper Record: Delaware County 1819-1870; and The Pennsylvania Genealogical Catalogue: Chester County 1809-1870.

African American Newspapers: The 19th Century (P card borrower login credentials required)

The database consists of six newspapers: The Freedom's Journal, The Colored American, The North Star, Frederick Douglass Paper, The National Era, Provincial Freeman, and The Christian Recorder. Dates covered are 1827-1902.

America's Newspapers: New York (P card borrower login credentials required)

Full text coverage of a wide range of New York State newspapers from Albany, Batavia, Binghamton, Buffalo, Lewisboro, Long Island, New York City, Plattsburgh, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Suffolk county, Syracuse, Troy, Utica, Watertown, and Westchester county. Titles include the Buffalo News, Daily Gazette (Schenectady), Long Island Advance, Times Union (Albany), New York Post, Observer-Dispatch (Utica), Post Standard (Syracuse), Post-Star (Glens Falls), Press-Republican (Plattsburgh), Saratogian, Watertown Daily Times, and more. Dates of coverage vary with the newspaper.

Ancestry (Library Edition) on-site access only

Ancestry contains family and local histories, family trees, directories, periodical and newspaper articles on genealogy, immigration and naturalization records, birth marriage and death records, and federal census records. While not every state or country is represented for every publication, the majority of the United States as well as many foreign countries are included.

AnthroSource (P card borrower login credentials required)

AnthroSource contains a retrospective archive of peer-reviewed journals, newsletters, and bulletins published by the American Anthropological Association - over 100 years of published scholarly research across approximately 31 publications.

Biological Abstracts (P card borrower login credentials required)

Biological Abstracts®, produced by Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Scientific), is a complete collection of bibliographic references covering life science and biomedical research literature published from more than 4,000 journals internationally. This database contains over 14 million archival records from as far back as 1926, with more than 370,000 citations added each year.

BioOne Complete (P card borrower login credentials required)

BioOne is full-text bioscience research journal database created by a collaboration between scientific societies, libraries, academe and the private sector. Most of BioOne's titles are published by small societies and non-commercial publishers and contain information on the biological, ecological and environmental sciences.

Britannica Academic

Includes Encyclopedia Britannica plus Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, magazines and periodicals, and many other research tools. Britannica School (K-12 edition) and Britannica Escolar (Spanish version) are also available.

Business Insights: Essentials

Includes company profiles, brand information, company histories, financial reports, periodical articles, and links to relevant Web sites.

Charleston Advisor - on-site access only

The Charleston Advisor (TCA) contains in-depth, critical reviews of web products and online databases for librarians and other information professionals. TCA's five-star rating system scores each product based on four elements: content, searchability (user interface), price and contract options/features.

Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective (P card borrower login credentials required)

This database contains the full text of major articles from the New York Herald, Charleston Mercury and the Richmond Enquirer, published between November 1, 1860 and April 15, 1865. It includes descriptive news articles, eye-witness accounts and official reports of battles and events, editorials, advertisements and biographies.

CollegeSource - on-site access only

A resource for national and international college catalogs.

eBook Collection on EBSCO (P card borrower login credentials required)

Our collection contains 3,772 eBooks. Formerly netLibrary.

Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) Free resource, no login credentials necessary.

This internet-based digital library of education research and information is sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education. ERIC provides access to bibliographic records (citations, abstracts, and other data) for items indexed from 1966 to the present. Links to full text articles when available or contact your library to request a specific article. ERIC provides full text access to most ERIC documents, which includes federal and state reports as well as other research reports.

Fastcase (P card borrower login credentials required)

A comprehensive national law library that includes searching, sorting, and visualization tools.

FirstSearch (P card borrower login credentials required)

FirstSearch - The OCLC Online Union Catalog contains 40 million records describing items owned by libraries around the world. Each record contains library holdings and bibliographic information. Those who do not have a NYSL P card can access WorldCat.

Foundation Directory Online - on-site access only

Updated continually, Foundation Directory Online provides current details available on U.S. funders and their grants. Over 92,000 U.S. foundations and corporate donors, 1.3 million recent grants, and more than 400,000 key decision makers are provided. Includes links to searchable 990s as well.

Foundation Grants to Individuals Online - on-site access only

Foundation Grants to Individuals Online is an online database of foundation and public charity programs that fund students, artists, researchers, and other individual grantseekers. This unique online database is the only one devoted exclusively to the needs of individuals. Use it for online access to accurate, up-to-date information on financial support for individuals including scholarships, fellowships, professorships, research support and program development. This database is updated quarterly.

General OneFile

This database contains news and periodical articles on many topics: business, computers, current events, economics, education, environmental issues, health care, hobbies, humanities, law, literature and art, politics, science, social science, sports, technology, and many more.

Godey's Ladys Book (P card borrower login credentials required)

In addition to extensive fashion descriptions and plates, the early issues included biographical sketches, articles about mineralogy, handcrafts, female costume, the dance, equestrienne procedures, health and hygiene, recipes and remedies, etc. Full text of sheet music is included, as well as works by authors such as Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Heritage Quest (P card borrower login credentials required)

ProQuest's Genealogy and Local History Collection of 25,000+ family and local history books; and the US censuses for the entire U.S. 1790-1940. It also includes Private Relief Actions, Memorials, and Petitions from the Serial Set. The documents in the collection are from the years 1789-1969. Additional files on obituaries, wills, immigration and military services are included.

In Context: Opposing Viewpoints

Contains a range of perspectives on many important issues, with over 13,000 pro/con viewpoints. Includes a variety of resource types: reference, news, primary sources, multimedia and more.

JSTOR - Arts and Sciences Collection (P card borrower login credentials required)

The Arts and Sciences collections I, II, III and IV contain more than 240 titles in over forty disciplines. Topics include anthropology, archaeology, architecture, art, business education, geography, history, language and literature, law, mathematics, music, performing Arts, philosophy, political science, psychology, public policy, religion, sociology and more. Most issues appear three to five years after publication.

JSTOR - Sciences (P card borrower login credentials required)

Contains full text from extensive back files of scholarly journals related to biological sciences, including ecology and botany, and health and general sciences, including nursing and epidemiology. Starting dates vary, but some go back to the 19th century. Most issues appear 3-5 years after publication.

Kids InfoBits

Contains over 100 age-appropriate magazines for grades K-5. Also includes Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary, maps, flags, seals, charts and graphs.

Legislative Retrieval Service (LRS) Free resource, no login credentials necessary.

LRS provides free public access to legislative session information from 1995-present including bill text, status, summaries, memos, calendars, agendas, and current consolidated laws. Search for legislation by bill number, chapter number, or keyword. The NYS Library subscribes to a version of this, available on-site only, that includes the Legislative Digest daily sheets and the NYCRR. Ask a reference librarian for information about how to access this.

Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA) (P card borrower login credentials required)

Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA) indexes more than 600 periodicals, plus books, research reports and proceedings. Subject coverage includes librarianship, classification, cataloging, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more. Coverage in the database extends back as far as the mid-1960s.

MEDLINE (via PubMed) Free resource, no login credentials necessary.

PubMed® is a database interface that provides free access to MEDLINE, the U.S. National Library of Medicine's bibliographic database containing citations and abstracts for biomedical and health journals around the world. It's used by health care professionals, nurses, clinicians and researchers engaged in clinical care, public health and health policy development. Links to full text articles when available or contact your library for information about how to request a specific article.

National Technical Reports Library (NTRL) Free resource, no login credentials necessary.

Free access to a searchable online database of approximately three million publications from the National Technical Information Service.

New York Times - Full-text access to The New York Times from 1985 - present.

New York Times - Historical (P card borrower login credentials required)

A digital archive for The New York Times, the newspaper of record for the United States, is currently available, from its first issue in 1851 through 2017. Users can search and view article images and full page images, page through issues, and search by a variety of methods.

Newsbank (P card borrower login credentials required)

Online service that includes access to the following databases: America's Newspapers: New York and America's Historical Newspapers (New York only).

OneFile: Health and Medicine

Database contains the full-text of medical, nursing and allied health journals, plus a wide variety

of consumer health sources.

OneFile: News

This full text newspaper database has seven New York Newspapers, including the New York Times from 1985 on, and over fifty national and international newspapers.

Pennsylvania Gazette (1728-1800) (P card borrower login credentials required)

The Pennsylvania Gazette (1728-1800) - Considered The New York Times of the 18th century, the Gazette provides the reader with a first hand view of colonial America, the American Revolution and the New Republic, and offers important social, political and cultural perspectives of each of the periods. It includes editorials, letters, and the full text of important documents such as the U.S. Constitution.

Pennsylvania Genealogical Catalogue: Chester County 1809-1870 (P card borrower login credentials required)

This database is primarily a listing of marriages, deaths and obituaries from the Village Record, published in West Chester, PA.

Pennsylvania Newspaper Record: Delaware County 1819-1870 (P card borrower login credentials required)

Consisting of five Delaware County newspapers, this database contains the full text transcriptions of articles, advertisements, and vital statistics, providing insight into technology, business activity and culture in a down-river milling and manufacturing area.

PLOS (Public Library of Science) Free resource, no login credentials necessary.

PLOS is a nonprofit Open Access publisher, innovator and advocacy organization with a mission to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a transformation in research communication. PLOS publications cover the areas of medicine/health sciences, biology/life sciences, research analysis/science policy, computer/information science, and earth/environmental sciences.

ProQuest (P card borrower login credentials required)

Provides access to ABI/INFORM databases and ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

Reference Solutions (P card borrower login credentials required)

The Reference Solutions database contains, in module format, detailed information on more than 70 million U.S. businesses, 295 Million U.S. residents, 855,000 U.S. health care providers, 2.2 million Canadian businesses, and 11 million Canadian households.

Sanborn Maps (P card borrower login credentials required)

Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970 provides access to large-scale maps (50 feet to an inch) of towns and cities in the United States. The State Library subscribes to the New York subset of these maps.

Westlaw Patron Access - on-site access only

An online legal research service designed especially for patron use in government, law, and public libraries. It provides access to cases and legal documents from both federal and state sources. Limited to three concurrent sessions.

WorldCat - Free resource, no login credentials necessary.

WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. This internet-based catalog lists the holdings of participating libraries

Private Websites (Claiming to Provide) Access To Public Records

There are a number of non-government sites that claim quick and easy access to public records, primarily by providing links to the appropriate government sites. One of the better known is the Public Records Sources site, which covers the entire United States. The information available through this site varies by state, as does the quality and depth of that information. The SearchIQS site is also useful.

The Public Records site

The New York page for the Public Records site can be found at:

<https://www.brbpub.com/new-york-public-records/>

The home page claims to have links “to government agencies that provide free online access” to the following:

Business Entities, Sex Offender Registry, Incarceration Records, UCC, Civil case data from all 62 county Supreme Courts, State Archives, Unclaimed Property, Civil Courts Commercial Division Decisions, Title/Lien Status Check, State Tax Warrant Notice System, State Child Support Enforcement Warrant Notice System, Open (Active) Family Court Cases all 62 counties, DOC Inmate, Offender (and most counties), Civil cases from over 60 City and County District Courts, Registered Sales Tax Vendor, Workers Compensation - Employer Coverage, Campaign Finance Reports, Campaign Ethics Reports, Pending Criminal Cases/13 Counties, Vehicle Insurance Status, Comprehensive Search Portal with Numerous Data Sets, New York Online Searches, New York Court Records”

Provider SearchIQS: New York counties available (<https://www.searchiqs.com/>):

Albany	Greene	Putnam
Allegany	Hamilton	Rensselaer
Broome	Herkimer	Saratoga
Cayuga	Jefferson	Steuben
Chautauqua	Lewis	St. Lawrence
Columbia	Madison	Sullivan
Cortland	Montgomery	Ulster
Delaware	Niagara	Warren
Essex	Oneida	Washington
Franklin	Orange	Yates
Fulton	Oswego	
Genesee	Otsego	

SearchIQS also covers these states: Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey (one county only), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island