

Resources and Tools for Question 5:

How can we effectively use internet searches?

Free internet search engines can be useful resources for obtaining basic information and for preliminary searches. Some provide phone numbers, dates of birth, locations and other information for given names. Others are useful for "reverse searches" when the searcher has a phone number or address but not the name of a possible relative.

Searchers report some success using generic search engines like Google, mamma, msn, and yahoo. Samples of more targeted sites are described below.

Website	Contents	Uses/Recommendations
www.411.com	White pages, yellow pages, email look up, reverse phone and address directories	
www.anywho.com	White pages, yellow pages, reverse phone directory	
www.blackbookonline.info	Federal and state-by-state databases, social security number validation, reverse phone and address look up, links to other search engines	Links to many fee-based search engines and services
www.dmdc.osd.mil	Defense Manpower Data Center	Recommended for locating military personnel
www.governmentrecords.com	Nationwide voter records	\$25 for a search of all states, \$11 for a single state search
www.obitlinkspage.com	State-by-state directories of newspaper obituaries and resources	Next of kin and places of past residence often listed
www.myspace.com	Locations and personal information about known individuals	Recommended for communicating with people serving in the military, runaway youth, and youth who are AWOL from placement
www.whitepages.com	Reverse phone look up	
www.ZabaSearch.com	Name look up by state	Recommended as preliminary tool for unusual names only

Fee-Based Search Services

Three popular online search services used by agencies are:

- www accurint.com
- www intelius.com
- www ussearch.com

Relative searches for child welfare agencies are a growing market for search services. Agencies can take advantage of their bargaining position to promote useful and timely results.