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.

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

**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.