

Who Should Use This Book

The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet is meant to be a guide to free and low cost resources for any one who needs to conduct investigative and legal research on the Internet. The book starts off at the "beginning" laying out Web browser functions some Web users might be less familiar with. It then lays the groundwork of how search engines locate and retrieve the information we're searching for before it moves on to discuss more sophisticated search techniques and then how to apply those techniques to other Web sites to locate the information we're looking for.

Because the vast majority of sites discussed in this book are freely available on the Internet, many of these resources could be located through Web searches – if you had the time to conduct those searches, sift through all of the results, and test out the sites until you had culled down the millions of potential sites to a list of the most credible, relevant, and useful. That's where the authors of this book come into play: we've done the test searching and sifting for you so now you can learn about the most credible, relevant, and useful sites and how to quickly master them.

How to Use This Book

The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet is a reference book; it is not meant to be read cover to cover. We have tried to organize this book the way researchers think – by keeping like topics together. There are a number of concepts and search strategies that are applicable to numerous types of research we discuss in different chapters. Therefore, some strategies appear in more than one place in the book to keep the back and forth page flipping to a minimum.

Throughout the book we have adopted a number of conventions to distinguish different types of information.

- Web site names are **boldfaced** to make them stand out on the page when you're scanning for them.
- We italicize certain words to make them stand out from the site descriptions, including:
 - Text that appears on Web pages such as the labels on pull-down menus or search fields (e.g., *Search* or *Last Name*)
 - The word that describes an unlabeled icon or button
 - The *search terms, keywords, or phrases* that we enter into search boxes in our sample searches
- Because many of the Web site addresses for the sites discussed in the book are so long, we have used a URL shortening service to make them easier to type into your Web browser. So, while you'll see many URLs that look like this – <http://linkon.in/9uihD4> – they really do point to the Web site described and will then display the actual URL.

We've made locating all of the Web sites in the book easy by creating a full index of more than 2,300 entries. Sites are indexed by site name (e.g., Google.com), type of site (e.g., Search Engine: Google), and type of information they contain (e.g., Bankruptcy Dockets: PACER).

Additions, Deletions, and Revisions in the 14th Edition Revised 2018

For those of you who own prior editions of *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet*, you will notice that we have deleted all legal research chapters that were unrelated to investigative research (e.g., statutes, ordinances, etc.). This means we retained information about case law databases (but only free ones) and dockets (free and low cost). We used the deleted chapters as the basis for the first edition of *Internet Legal Research on a Budget* in 2014 (American Bar Association Law Practice Division). The second edition of that book is coming soon.

The four things we can count on when it's time to revise *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet* are:

- many of the sites in the book have changed some features or functions
- there are a number of new useful Web sites to add
- some Web sites no longer exist
- almost all screen shots of the sites need to be replaced

The 14th edition revised 2018 is no exception. The following list highlights some of the new information covered in this edition:

Archived Web Pages

- **Archive.org:** Deleted the URL for the keyword search beta feature because you can now link to it from the homepage.
- Added a 2017 case about the Patent and Trademark Appeals Board accepting pages printed from **Archive.org's Wayback Machine** as authentic evidence of prior art. *Johns Manville v. Knaf Insulation*, IPR2015-01453, paper 49 (PTAB Jan. 11, 2017)

Articles by or About Judges and Attorneys

- **Washington and Lee Law School's Current Law Journal Content (CLJC)** site is no longer online.
- **Google Scholar Articles:** Although we discuss using **Google Scholar** for case law, we added a reminder to use it to search for articles (in both law and non-law journals) and to use it to set up free *Alerts* if you want to follow a particular judge or attorney.
- The **ABA Journal's Blawg Directory's** keyword search is no longer confusing because its search box is now labeled *Search the Blawg Directory* instead of *Search ABAJournal.com*.

Attorney Directories

- **Avvo:** This directory can now be searched by entering an attorney name or law firm name into the left-hand search box (instead of just by practice area). **Avvo** joined the **Martindale Legal Marketing Network** in 2018 as part of **Internet Brands**.
- **FindLaw's Find a Lawyer** directory: We've noted a better URL to use (<https://lawyers.findlaw.com>) and described how to search the re-designed directory.
- **Justia's Find a Lawyer** directory: We expanded the description to explain ratings.
- **Martindale.com:** We expanded our discussion of how to search this directory and added new illustrations. We deleted the *Advanced Search* menu illustration because it no longer exists.
- **Superlawyers.com:** Added an "s" to the URL's *http*, to indicate the site's shift to a secure connection - so it looks like this: <https://attorneys.superlawyers.com>.

Bar Associations

- **ABA Division for Bar Services:** To locate links to state or local bar associations, see the **ABA Division for Bar Services** site (<http://bit.ly/findabar>). Deleted the **FindLaw** list because it is no longer on their site.

Briefs (U.S. Supreme Court)

- As of November 2017, the **Supreme Court of the United States'** official site (<https://www.supremecourt.gov/>) finally began hosting its merit and amicus briefs. We explain how to find briefs because the site doesn't provide a separate link to the briefs for easy access.
- The **ABA Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases** site (<http://bit.ly/abasuptcbriefs>) has stopped offering briefs now that they are available on the Court's site. They offer briefs from 2004 through November 2017.

Case Law

- **Google Scholar Cases:** Replaced all **Google Scholar** pages and illustrations to reflect the re-design of the site (especially how to find the new Menu and its hidden links to the *Advanced Search* (and other links)).
- **govinfo.gov** (this site does not capitalize the "g" in *govinfo*): Search or browse federal cases back to 2004 (and many other federal resources). In December 2018, **govinfo.gov** will replace its predecessor site, the **Federal Digital System (FDsys)**.

Deaths: See Vital Records

Dockets

- **PACER:** We revised the entire **PACER** section, expanding it from eleven pages to seventeen, and added all new illustrations because after 29 years of very few updates to **PACER**, major changes were made, effective December 9, 2017. Besides changing the "look and feel" of **PACER**, most of the major changes were made to the *Case Locator*, with new searching and sorting features.
- **RECAP Archive:** We revised most of **RECAP Archive's** descriptions, expanding our discussion from six pages to nine pages; this includes adding all new illustrations after **CourtListener** made enhancements in 2017, and in 2018, reintroduced *Alerts* and changed the "look and feel" of the docket sheet (with some new options for displaying the list of case documents).
- **Justia's Federal Dockets** database: We expanded the description and added new illustrations.
- **Supreme Court of the United States' Docket** database: The official site has made some changes, so we expanded the description from two pages to six to provide more keyword search examples and more search tips. The *Docket* database now includes *Briefs* (see the *Briefs* entry for details).

Driver License Numbers—See Investigative Databases (Fee-based): TLOxp.com

Duckduckgo.com

- **Duckduckgo:** We added a reminder that if you limit your **Duckduckgo** "bang" search to **Google**, be sure you are logged out of your **Google** account to remain anonymous.

Experts

- **Google Scholar:** Although we discuss using **Google Scholar** for case law, we added a reminder to use it to search for articles by and about experts and to use it to set up free *Alerts* if you want to follow a particular expert or topic. We also expanded the discussion and how to find the hidden *Advanced Search* link.

Google .com

- **Google Apps Launcher:** **Google** has removed the *Even More* link from the bottom of the Apps list, so to link to most products, you must use this direct URL
<https://www.google.com/intl/en/about/products>
- **Google “Instant” Search Results:** **Google** no longer displays “Instant” Search Results. The list of predictive keyword suggestions is still displayed.
- **Google News Database** (<https://news.google.com/>): We explained the recent re-design and added illustrations. The keyword search results page now offers *Follow*, *Share*, and *Save* buttons on the right-hand column. Since mid-2017, it is no longer possible to re-sort results by date at this *News* database, but there is a work-around, which we explain.
- **Google Reverse Image Search:** Reverse Image Search results now also include a Best Guess for this image, which is a keyword that attempts to describe the image.
- **Google Scholar Articles:** See **Articles by or About Judges and Attorneys** and see **Experts**
- **Google Scholar Cases:** See **Cases**
- **Using Google As a Phone Directory or Address Directory:** We have added more search examples for this strategy.

Investigative Databases (Fee-based): TLOxp.com

- **TLOxp.com’s Subscription Change:** On August 22, 2018, **TLOxp**, a fee-based investigative database, sent us an email that effective Aug. 23., 2018, “The last four digits of Social Security numbers will be masked. Driver license numbers will be masked.” No explanation was given until we called and were informed that home-based subscribers were the only ones who were losing access to these two data points. This change comes despite TLOxp subjecting home-based subscribers to a rigorous site visit and review process before granting access to the service.
- **TLOxp’s Vehicles Advanced Search** menu allows you to search by *Name* (Personal or Business), *Address*, *SSN*, *VIN*, or *Tag Number*.

Judicial Profiles

- **Ballotpedia:** We provided a new URL to view **Ballotpedia’s** biographies of state and local court judges (<http://bit.ly/stlocaljud>) and described how the search has changed.
- **CourtListener:** On April 19, 2016, Michael Lissner announced that **Court Listener** launched its new *Judicial Database* (<https://www.courtlistener.com/person>) with profiles of 8,500 federal and state courts judges.
- **The Federal Bar Association** now allows even non-members to view the online profiles of federal judges that have appeared in past issues of its *Federal Lawyer* magazine. We describe how to search the profiles.

Oral Arguments

- We added information that older U.S. Supreme Court oral argument recordings (from 1955- 2009) are stored at the **National Archives and Records Administration's** building and that the **National Archives'** website offers online access but only from 10/1955 - 12/1972.
- **Oyez:** We added this website so you can access U.S. Supreme Court oral argument recordings online for free, back to 1955.

Social Media

- **Ethics Opinions:** Added Massachusetts Bar Association Committee on Professional Ethics Opinion 2014-5 (May 2014)
- **Facebook:** We updated information that **Facebook** has recently discontinued many of its “nonobvious” search features, such as searching by email address and phone number to locate someone's **Facebook** profile and we replaced illustrations.
- **LinkedIn:** Although **LinkedIn** still allows you to search without being logged into an account, we explained that the results list is now obscured by a pop-up that asks you to *Join or Sign In*. Also updated information about how to *Filter* and updated all **LinkedIn** illustrations
- **SearchisBack.com:** While this third-party site still allows you to submit **Facebook** “social graph” searches to **Facebook**, we explain how **Facebook** has disabled part of it.
- **Social-Evidence.com:** Deleted this site. It is no longer online.

Social Security Numbers (SSN)—See Investigative Databases (Fee-based): TLOxp.com and see Vital Records

Vital Records

- The cost to subscribe to the Social Security Administration's (SSA) **Limited Access Death Master File (LADMF)** has decreased.
- **FamilySearch.org:** To access this site you now must sign up for a free account. We added an illustration of a search result from the *Search Historical Records* database to show how to use its *Refine your search* feature. We also added some specific search tips to highlight some undocumented search/filtering capabilities.
- **Findmypast.com:** We added this genealogy website because it still offers a search of the *United States Social Security Death Index with Social Security Numbers*, but only for deaths through 2012. You must use this URL (<https://linkon.in/findmypastssdi>) and register for a free account.
- **Ancestry.com** offers searchable access to the *United States Social Security Death Index* (the predecessor to **LADMF**), but only from 1935-2014. You might find SSNs for some older deaths.
- **Findagrave:** Updated number of graves in database.

Wayback Machine: See Archived Web Pages

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“Answer” Sites

- Deleted **Jelly.co**
- Added **Quora.com**

Archived Web Pages

- **Archive.org**: Added new cases about the admissibility of evidence from Archive.org; added more illustrations; added information about affidavits; and expanded discussion about new keyword searching of home pages.

Bankruptcy

- **Inforuptcy**: The site no longer offers free dockets.
- **PACER**: Updated all screen shots; expanded discussion of how to search party names and use filters; explained difference between *Party Name* and *Party Role searches*; updated information about restored bankruptcy dockets.
- **Recap**: Described how to search **Recap** after **Court Listener** re-launched and improved the **Recap Archive**. You can now search bankruptcy court dockets on their own (with full-text keyword searching and more). Updated all screen shots.
- **Freecourtdockets.com**: The site does not appear to have been updated in several years. After receiving no response from the site owner when we wrote the 13th edition and now the 14th edition, we deleted the site from the book.

Birthdays

- **Birthdatabase.org** was offline for some time and now that it's back online, its free search no longer works. Instead, the site wants you to click on links to fee-based sites, so we suggest trying the free **Familysearch.org** site or visiting your public library to use their **Ancestry.com** subscription database for free.
- **SteveMorse.org**: We deleted this database because it had been pulling its information from **Birthdatabase.org**, which no longer provides birthdays.

Blawqs and Blogs

- **Google Blog Search**: Deleted because Google disabled it.

Browsers

- Updated introductory chapter to reflect Internet browsing with Google Chrome in Windows 10.
- Included some tips for browsing on iOS devices.
- **Opera**: Expanded discussion of private browsing techniques to include recently-released free Virtual Private Network (VPN) built into the **Opera** browser.

Business Research

- Added information about some public libraries offering free remote access to various business research databases, such as **Mergent**, **Morningstar Investment Research Center**, and **Business Source Premier**.
- **SearchSystems.net**: Added information about this site's links to business registries in the U.S. and other countries.

Directories & Search Engines

- Deleted **CompletePlanet**, which had offered links to over 70,000 topical search engines and directories on a variety of topics, because the site has been discontinued.
- Added **DMOZ** (<http://www.dmoz.org>), which claims to be “the largest, most comprehensive human-edited directory of the Web.”

Discussion Groups

- **Google Groups**: Its usefulness has declined over the years, but is still keyword searchable.

Dockets

- **Freecourtdockets.com**: Deleted this site because it does not appear to have been updated in several years and we received no response from the site owner when we wrote the 13th edition and now the 14th edition.
- **Inforuptcy**: The site no longer offers any free dockets.
- **PACER**: Updated all screen shots; expanded discussion of how to search party names and use filters (such as *Attorney*); explained difference between *Party Name* and *Party Role* searches; updated information about restored dockets.
- **PacerPro**: Now includes dockets from the federal appellate courts.
- **Recap**: Described how to search **Recap** after **Court Listener** re-launched and improved the **Recap Archive** (with full-text keyword searching and more) and updated all screen shots.

EDGAR—See SEC Filings

Human Search Engines

- **Internet Public Library's Ask an ipl2 Librarian** service, which allowed you to submit questions via an online form, has now shut down and suggests that you check your public library to see if they offer chat.

Images

- **ImageToss**: Deleted because the site no longer exists.

Pay Investigative Research Databases

- **SearchSystems.net's Premium** investigative research databases: Updated screenshots.
- **TLOxp**: Made note of new URL (<http://www.tlo.com/>); Expanded information about how to search; added information about new databases, such as *Vessels*, *Utilities*, and *Relationships*; added information about expanded jurisdictional coverage (e.g., vehicle records have expanded to thirty-nine states and Puerto Rico from what had been twenty-two states and the District of Columbia; and detailed **TLOxp's** new (increased) pricing, monthly minimum "spend," and new required site visits for all users.

Oral Arguments

- **Court Listener**: Described how to search **Court Listener's** oral arguments database, which includes arguments from the U.S. Supreme Court and many U.S. Courts of Appeals.

People Meta-Search Sites

- **Radaris**: Added this site.

Real Estate

- The **Public Records Retriever Network (PRRN)**: Public Records Retrievers no longer search public records in Guam and American Samoa but have expanded to search records in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, among other countries, and have expanded from searching public records in 45 U.S. states to all 50.
- **RealEstate.com**: Deleted because it doesn't seem to provide information on all addresses.

Search Engines

- **Bing**: updated information about how:
 - to exclude words
 - home page was re-designed and now shows different Tabs
 - *Alerts* service is no longer offered – replaced by *Interests* (sort of)
- **DuckDuckGo**: Examine the new layout for results.

Search Engines (cont.)

- **Google:**
 - **Alerts:** Documented a less-than-useful change to the process of creating a new Alert.
 - **News:** Find out how **Google** “broke” the *News* database
 - **Patents:**
 - **Google Patents Search:** We describe how to use the new interface and why the older interface, which **Google** still maintains, may still be useful for advanced searching. **Google** no longer hosts bulk downloadable versions of patent data (see the USPTO site at <https://developer.uspto.gov/data> instead).
 - **Google Scholar** offers an *Articles* search with an *Include Patents* check box, but it appears you can no longer obtain actual patent results (only articles about patents).
 - **Image Search:** Explained new *Save* feature in *Image* search results.
 - **Search Tools:** On the results page, this link is now labeled as *Tools*.
 - *Apps Launcher:* It now appears on the iPhone.
 - *Reverse Images:* Updated information about facial recognition.
- **Yahoo!:** Outlined recent acquisition by Verizon.

SEC Filings

- The SEC’s **EDGAR** database has made some major changes, including a full-text search back to 1994, but only of “headers.” In May 2017, we were informed that **EDGAR** plans to extend its four year “true” full-text search back to ten years soon.
- **Morningstar** (aka **Morningstar Investment Research Center**) is no longer offered free on the Web, but it can still be accessed for free by anyone who has a public library card, if your library includes **Morningstar Investment Research Center** in its remote database collection.

Social Media

- **Cases:** Added more cases about getting evidence from social media posts admitted.
- Even though **Facebook’s Graph Search** is no longer available in the site’s search box, we uncover a few new ways to continue to conduct these sophisticated relational searches.
- We’ve also added new ways to determine if a **Facebook** profile exists and how to search **Facebook Live** video.
- We explain the difference between “Deactivating” and “Deleting” a **Facebook** profile.
- **FindmyFBid.com:** Identify **Facebook** numeric profile IDs from vanity URLs.
- **GeoSearchTool.com:** Third-party site for conducting geographic searches for **Youtube** videos.
- **Instagram:** Added discussion of site’s built-in search capabilities. Noted the demise of third-party search sites such as **Findgram**, **GramFeed**, **Websta**, and **WorldCam**.

Social Media (cont.)

- Jurors: A new court opinion concerning whether lawyers can research potential jurors.
- **LinkedIn:** Reviewed changes to search interface/function in the site's new design.
- **Pinterest:** Added site and discussion of its search functions.
- **SearchisBack.com:** Conduct sophisticated relational searches through **Facebook's** social graph.
- **Twitter.com:** More detailed discussion of searching for tweets, including hacking the search box to conduct searches for tweets near a specific location.
- **Social Evidence:** New software-as-a-service (SAAS) provider for monitoring/collecting social media posts for evidentiary purposes.
- **YouTube:** More detailed discussion of searching for videos, including conducting searches for videos posted near a specific location.

UCC Filings

- **National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)** Web site: Updated URL.

Unclaimed Money and Other Financial Assets

- **The National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators:** Updated coverage to include Kenya.

Vital Records (See *also* Birthdays)

- **Familysearch.org:** Updated information about search feature changes and updated illustrations.
- **Findagrave:** Updated number of graves in database.
- **Texas Marriage and Divorces:** Updated dates of coverage of these downloadable records at state's website.

Wayback Machine (Internet Archive at Archive.org)

- Added new case, *My Health v. General Electric Company*, No. 15-cv-80-jdp (W.D. WI December 28, 2015) at <http://linkon.in/myhealthvge>, where the court refused to take judicial notice of pages from the **Wayback Machine** without an affidavit to authenticate the pages.
- More details and screenshots about how to know when pages or sites have been excluded from the **Wayback Machine** from the start versus after they were collected.
- Added link to the **Wayback Machine's** Standard Affidavit
- Added information about new keyword searching feature, but only of homepages.