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Introduction

All states, cities, counties as well as the federal government, provide access to public records. This guide lists sources for public records in Florida and at the federal level. Some sources for background information, such as newspapers, are also included. Also provides links to other guides that provide information on public records.

Florida Public Records



Photo credit: Canva

Volusia County Clerk of Courts

- Search Records

Florida Offender Information Search

- This database contains public record information on felony offenders sentenced to the Department of Corrections. This information only includes offenders sentenced to state prison or state supervision.

Volusia County Inmate Information Search

Florida State Agency homepages

Local Government (compiled by UCF Libraries)

- Provides comprehensive lists of public records sources in Florida. Includes cities, counties, state and regional organizations

MyFloridaCounty

- Search thousands of official

Federal Public Records

- Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP)
"...finding tool for federal publications that includes descriptive information for historical and current publications as well as direct links to the full document, when available."-website. CAN BE SLOW TO LOAD.
- Data.Gov
The home of the U.S. Government's open data
"Here you will find data, tools, and resources to conduct research, develop web and mobile applications, design data visualizations, and more." - website
- Federal Government (compiled by UCF Libraries)
Comprehensive guide to federal government information sources.
- USA.GOV
"USA.gov searches only federal, state, and local government websites ... returns results from government web pages, most ending in .gov or .mil."-website

Other Guides to Consult

- Access & Freedom of Information (compiled by UCF Libraries)
Provides extensive lists of public records sources and related information for Florida, Federal, and International government information. Also includes general resources for public records access & freedom of information.
- The Center for Media and Journalism Studies: Public Records (compiled by Indian River State College)
- Factual and Investigative Research Guide (compiled by Rutgers Law School)
- Public Affairs Reporting (compiled by USF Libraries)
- Public Records Research (compiled by CUNY School of Journalism)
Provides a list of 6 libguides (research guides) on various aspects of public records research.

Resources on Florida's Open Government and Public Records laws.

(but not all counties), all in one place.

- **Click here for counties current range of dates - it varies by county.** The list will also indicate which counties have records in the database. **For example, Orange County and Miami-Dade county do not currently supply records to this site. (And there may be other counties as well that do not supply records)**
- First Amendment Foundation Provides information and a variety of other services to citizens, government officials, and the media on matters relating to Florida's Sunshine and Public Records Law.

requires a purchase for each record. However, when you see a record of interest, you can then go to the county of record and freely access the full-text information there usually -unless there is a law that restricts showing this type of information to the general public.

Research Tip



Photo Credit: Canva

Throughout your professional career as a journalist, one of the best ways to find information sources on the Internet is to include the word **libguides** in your search terms.

Libguides are research guides created by librarians in many academic libraries. (Many public libraries and information providers also create libguides.) Libguides is the name of a software product and most (but not all) libraries keep the word **libguides** in their guides URL - which is why adding that keyword to your search terms will help you find them.

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URL: <https://cookman.libguides.com/publicaffairs>

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