Private Company Information

Private company information is often difficult to obtain because these companies do not trade or issue stocks so they do not have to report to the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) and their financials remain undisclosed. However, there are some resources which will provide some information about these companies. The database Lexis Nexis Academic can prove useful. Forbes.com and the Better Business Bureau are additional resources.

The tutorial, Finding Private Company Information, located on the library’s Subject Guides website will offer additional tips and information. At the library’s web page www.utdallas.edu/library click on Subject Guides in the left screen. In the next screen click on Business/Management then scroll down to click on Finding Private Company Information in the list.

Using Lexis Nexis Academic for Private Company Information
At the library’s web page www.utdallas.edu/library, click on the orange “Find Articles & Databases” button in the right screen. Click on the letter L and scroll down to select Lexis Nexis Academic from the list. Remember that from off campus you will be prompted to enter your NetID and password.

Click on the Companies in the tab in the left screen. Searches can be executed by company name or ticker. The options are Company Dossier, to find all of a corporation’s details, including financials; Dossier Create a Company List, to create a list of companies in a particular industry; Dossier Compare Companies, to compare competitors; Company Profiles, to research one or more companies by selecting from various directories and using specific keywords.

In this search we will use Toys R Us. Click on Companies in the blue column in the left screen. Next click on Company Dossier and in the next screen type the name of the company in the Company Name box. Next, click the red Find button in the right screen. The result screen will show a list of companies. Click on Toys R Us to view available financial, corporate, legal information and other information about the company. Top executives, competitors and company details are in the right screen. Additional information about the company is in the left column. You may print, download or email the information.

The result list will have reports from Hoover’s Company Records, US Business Directory or Standard and Poor’s Corporate Descriptions. Often the content will be very brief and additional resources will be needed. Some suggested resources are Forbes.com and the Better Business Bureau.

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Using Forbes.com For Private Company Information

From the library’s web page www.utdallas.edu/library click on “Useful Websites” from the left column. Click on “Business, Economy & Finance” and in the next screen scroll down to click on Forbes.com in the “Company & Industry” category. Click “Continue to site” in the upper right screen to skip the advertisement. In the next screen, click on the “Lists” in the gray toolbar and then scroll down to select “Private Companies” from the list under “Companies.”

As you scroll down, the top ten corporations are listed. Click on the company name to see the content. On the right, click the red “View complete list” link to view and sort by rank, company name, state, industry, revenue, and employees. Click on the category header for each selection to view the list. Within the list, click on the company name to view the content. A useful feature is the selection which shows a list of companies in the same industry.

Often the content will be very brief and additional resources will be needed. Some suggested resources are the database “Lexis Nexis Academic” and the Better Business Bureau’ website.

The Better Business Bureau for Private Company Information

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) system in the U.S. extends across the nation; coast-to-coast, as well as Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. The group is a source for brief but helpful information for consumers and researchers on the Bureau’s website at http://www.bbb.org.

Enter a zip code or click on USA Site to begin searching. Next click on For Businesses in the upper left screen. In the next screen, click on “Check out a Business or Charity” in the left screen to find company information.

Next type the name of the company, keyword or industry in the “Search For” box, then click the green Search button.

There will be brief information about companies such as their competitors in the Similarly Accredited Companies link. There will usually be a link to the company’s website.

This is just a starting point and other sources might be needed for more extensive information. Try using the database Lexis Nexis Academic or the Forbes.com website for additional information about private companies.
For assistance call the JSOM Library Liaison at 972-883-2126 or email Loreen@utdallas.edu. You can also click on the green question mark at the library’s website.