

CCL Business INC

Chester County Library Business Information Connection

HOW DO I...

Find Local Businesses?

The amount of information on businesses in the Chester County and/or Greater Philadelphia area depends on whether the company is privately or publicly held. Privately held companies are not required to submit the same information to the government as public companies making it a little more difficult to find information on them. See **How Do I Find Information on Privately-Held Companies** and **How Do I Find Information on Public Companies** for more general searching tips.

Databases

[ReferenceUSA](#) (access from home* or library)

business.ccls.org **Business Databases Company Directories**

ReferenceUSA is a useful database to use for finding smaller local businesses. Search by type of business, geography, employee size, and/or sales.

Here is an example of a ReferenceUSA search for local companies:

I'm thinking of starting a coffee shop and want to know who else has one in Chester County.

Use Heading or SIC under Yellow Pages—coffee houses (you may have to play around with terms); County under Geography—Chester

[Newsbank \(Philadelphia Inquirer\)](#) (In-Library Use Only)

www.ccls.org **Databases (under Internet Links) Internet Services (Licensed for in Library use only) Newsbank**

The Philadelphia Inquirer is a source to use to find articles written about local companies. Search by company name or industry. The database includes full-text articles from 198 1-present. Remember, not all companies are going to have articles about them; however, it is worth a look.

Web Sites

[State of Pennsylvania's Corporation Bureau Name Search](#)

www.dos.state.pa.us/corpsearch

Use this site to research a business registered with the PA Corporation Bureau.

[D&B Small Business Solutions](#)

sbs.dnb.com

Find address information about companies for free. More detailed reports (including credit reports, marketing lists, and industry reports) may be purchased directly from D&B.

[Better Business Bureau of Eastern PA](#)

www.easternpa.bbb.org/pn.html

Click on **Consumer Services** . Use **Find a Member** to find BBB member companies. Use **Obtain a Report** to find BBB-produced reliability reports on both member and non-member companies.

Below are the websites for the Chambers of Commerce serving Chester County.

[Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry](#)

www.ccbi.org

[Downingtown Chamber of Commerce](#)

www.downingtownchamber.org

[Exton Region Chamber of Commerce](#)

www.ercc.net

[Great Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)

www.gvrcc.org

[Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce
www.greaterwestchester.com](http://www.greaterwestchester.com)

[Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
www.sccccc.com](http://www.sccccc.com)

[Tri-County Chamber of Commerce
www.tricountyareachamber.com](http://www.tricountyareachamber.com)

[Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce
www.westernchestercounty.com](http://www.westernchestercounty.com)

Another option for finding information on local companies is to find articles about the company in newspapers or magazines. See [Databases](#) above for information on Newsbank (Philadelphia Inquirer).

[Philadelphia Business Journal
www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia](http://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia)

Use to find articles written about local companies. Viewing an article requires free registration.

[BizJournals
www.bizjournals.com](http://www.bizjournals.com)

The parent site for the Philadelphia Business Journal—use it to find articles from around the country.

Remember to search for the company's web site directly using a [search engine](#).

For additional useful web sites for Company Research, see the [Company Information](#) page.

Print Resources

Below is a list of reference books available at the Chester County Library. These books focus on local companies in the greater Philadelphia Area.

D&B's Regional Business Directory—Philadelphia Area R 338.0025 D

Dalton Philadelphia Metro Business Directory R 338.0025 D

Greater Delaware Valley Regional Industrial Buying Guide
R 338.76 G

Pennsylvania Industrial Directory R 338.0025 P

Pennsylvania Manufacturers Register R 33 8.767 P

Great Valley Corporate Center Directory R 338.7402 G

Philadelphia Business Journal Book of Business Lists R 338.0216 B