

# CCL Business INC

## Chester County Library Business Information Connection

### HOW DO I...

## Find Private Businesses?

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. Directories and databases of private companies usually give basic information about the company: name, address, phone number, SIC or NAICS code, sales range, and employee range. See **How Do I Find Information on Local Businesses** and **How Do I Find Information on Public Companies** for more general searching tips.

For additional resources, see our **Company Information** page.

## Databases

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

[business.ccls.org](http://business.ccls.org) **Business Databases Company Directories**

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

For a guide to using ReferenceUSA, see our **Business Databases** page.

[Business Source Premier \(BSP\) via EBSCOHost](#) (access from home\* or library)

[business.ccls.org](http://business.ccls.org) **Business Databases Magazine Databases**

Search by name of a company to find articles about that company.

## Web Sites

[D&B Small Business Solutions](#)  
[sbs.dnb.com](http://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](http://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.

[Consumer Reports Manufacturer's Directory](#)  
[www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org) **Consumer Protection Manufacturers**

An alphabetic list of top manufacturers with phone numbers

[Franchise Zone](#) from [Entrepreneur Magazine](#)

[www.entrepreneur.com/franchise](http://www.entrepreneur.com/franchise)

Check out the [Franchise500](#) for information on specific franchises.

[Switchboard](#)

[www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com)

Large web phone book; search by name or by company type

[Thomas Register of Manufacturers](#)

[www.thomasregister.com](http://www.thomasregister.com)

Search for manufactures in North America. Requires free registration to search the database.

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 Business Source Premier.

[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.

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.

**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

**Hoover's Handbook of Private Companies** R 338.7402 H

**LexisNexis Corporate Affiliations** R338.8 L

**Thomas Register of American Manufacturers** R 338.76 T