

Exposing Corruption Exploring Solutions
Project On Government Oversight

**Congressional Oversight Training Seminars
June 2007**

**Finding Answers Using
Open Source Databases**

Databases reviewed in this session

- **Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse** – Federal data relating to the enforcement activities of the federal government: <http://trac.syr.edu>
 - Includes information regarding funding, staffing and enforcement levels of various agencies.
 - Agencies included are the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the U.S. Customs Service
- **Edgar (Securities and Exchange Commission)** – all reports filed by businesses to the SEC: <http://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html>
 - Companies can be searched for by name, stock ticker symbol, state, country and industry code.
 - Information provided in the reports ranges anywhere from profits and costs to litigation and mergers.
- **FedSpending** – information regarding government contracts, grants, loans, insurance, and direct subsidies like Social Security: <http://fedspending.org>
 - Includes information on contract dollars and top contracts by Congressional district, level of competitiveness for each government agency, or total contracts and their sources for each company
- **Federal Contractor Misconduct Database** – a listing of all misconduct allegations and litigation against the top fifty government contractors (this version is from 1990 – 2002, a more updated version will be available soon): <http://www.pogo.org/db>
 - You can view that data either alphabetical order, order by instances of misconduct of total fines or search for specific instances of contractor misconduct by contractor name, disposition, court type, misconduct type, contracting party, date, dollar amount, key words or some combination thereof.

Other useful Government databases

- **Fedstats** – Easy one-stop public access to statistical information from over 100 agencies broken down by state and/or agency including links to government databases: <http://www.fedstats.gov>
- **Excluded Parties List** – a list of parties that can not qualify for federal contracts or grants as compiled by the General Services Administration: <http://www.epls.gov>
- **Pacer (Federal Judiciary)** – Access to U.S. District, Appellate and Bankruptcy court records: <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>
- **Federal Procurement Data System** – Bare bones list of federal contracts: <https://www.fpds.gov>
- **Department of Defense Personnel and Procurement statistics:** <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil>
- **Central Contractor Registration** - find lists of Federal Contractors by name, zip code etc.: <https://www.bpn.gov/ccrsearch/Search.aspx>
- **Federal Business Opportunities** – a list of federal government procurement opportunities: <http://fedbizopps.gov>
- **Federal Election Commission** – a database of campaign finance disclosure by recipient and donor: <http://www.fec.gov>
- **Office of Management and Budget** – a database of earmarks by agency and state: <http://earmarks.omb.gov>
- **Senate lobby disclosure filings:** http://sopr.senate.gov/cgi-win/m_opr_viewer.exe?DoFn=0

Other useful non-profit/educational databases

- **Opensecrets** – A guide to money in federal elections: <http://opensecrets.org>
- **Taxpayers for Common Sense** – Budget information including earmark databases: <http://www.taxpayer.net/index.html>
- **Center for Public Integrity:**
 - Media Watch – a listing of all the owners of TV, radio, cable, and newspapers in a given zip code: <http://www.publicintegrity.org/telecom/default.aspx>
 - Collateral Damage – A database of U.S. military aid between 2001 and 2004: <http://www.publicintegrity.org/MilitaryAid/default.aspx>