Trends in Public Records Research

ALM conducted a survey to explore how legal professionals are using public records in their research.

What did they discover?

48%

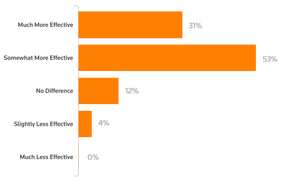
of legal professionals first turn to free public records search solutions, such as an internet search engine.

When beginning a public records search, where do you first turn?

84%

say a paid public records search provider is more effective than a free one.

In your opinion, how much more effective is a paid public records search provider than a free public records search provider?

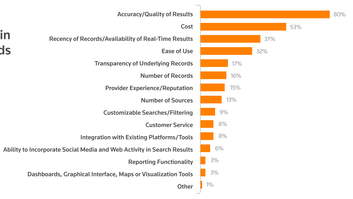


Locating a person, address, or phone number was cited by respondents as the most common reason for using public records searches.

For which of the following reasons does your firm/ organization use public records searches?

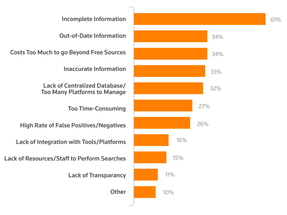
Accuracy/quality of results was identified as the most important factor in selecting a public records search tool, while number of records and number of sources were less important.

What are the top three most important factors in selecting a public records search tool?



Incomplete information and out-of-date information were identified as the biggest pain points.

What are your top three pain points with your current provider/method for public records search?



Are you confident your research is complete and accurate?
Do you struggle to find information on the people and assets connected to your cases?

Legal professionals struggling with their public records research may be at a disadvantage if they don't have the most relevant, accurate, and up-to-date information. Conversely, they may risk wasting time, money, or both, sifting through the mountains of data in an effort to get the complete picture. Can you relate?

Public records research is a critical component for important tasks such as due diligence, locating missing witnesses, opposing party research, confirming facts, and locating property. Having the right resources can help you locate people and find critical information about their connections, assets, and more.

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