

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate School of Library and Information Science

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**Fact Sheet: Information Researchers**

Founded 1976

- Mission:** Information Researchers (IR) is a full-service professional information broker, offering custom research and on-line database searching from its base in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Services:** The unit's information specialists search the large and complex universe of published information sources on clients' behalf. Their skills and tools employ the most effective and efficient strategies to locate answers to clients' questions. Information researchers provides a broad range of custom research on all topics, such as retrieval of facts and statistics, literature and on-line database searches, custom bibliographies, company and industry profiles, written reports ranging from summaries to extensive papers, custom mailing lists, and other custom-designed projects. They also possess the ability to help clients translate questions into concrete projects. Fees range from per-project set fees, to an hourly minimum rate plus direct costs incurred; a free initial consultation includes an estimate.
- Clients:** Individuals and organizations in business, education, industry, government, law, manufacturing, health sciences, and environmental concerns seek IR expertise.  
Current projects include:
- ▶ Education Partnership—a collaboration between the Department of Children and Family Services and the accredited social work master's degree programs in the state; begun in 1996. IR, in partnership with the U of I School of Social Work, supplies information to DCFS to support an optimal level of services affecting the safety, permanence, and well-being of children in DCFS care.
  - ▶ Institute for Competitive Manufacturing (ICM)—IR provides information support for a number of activities run by this university institute. Under the ICM umbrella, a trainer presents Internet workshops for Illinois manufacturers at sites around the state, and also works to strengthen the ICM-sponsored Web site created for use by both small- and medium-sized Illinois manufacturers and the students who carry out real industry design projects for these manufacturers.
- Resources:** IR subscribes to major database vendors, such as DIALOG, and DowJones, and locates information using the Internet, CD-ROM, databases, and printed sources. IR can access almost any published document, from the collection of the U of I library (the third largest academic library in the nation) and most other U.S. libraries, to the British Library, commercial document suppliers, publishers, and government agencies.
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