From Make Your Own Background List, Kate Howard and Helina Selemon (I added a few things too)

Free ways to investigate sources:

People, records and background searches
- Whitepages: https://www.whitepages.com/
- Zaba Search: http://www.pretrieve.com
- Blackbook online: https://www.blackbookonline.info/
- Melissa Lookups: https://www.melissa.com/v2/lookups/

Misc. searches
- Public records: https://www.brbpub.com/
- WhoIs: internet domain search: https://www.whois.com/
- City of Chicago data portal: https://data.cityofchicago.org/
- Kaggle data sets (really good site): https://www.kaggle.com/
- Campus crime and fire stats: https://ope.ed.gov/campussafety/#/
- Illinois sex offender database: https://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/
- Pull property tax record: https://dupageco.org/PropertyInfo/PropertyLookup.aspx
- US Census: https://www.census.gov

Google: name in and out of quotes, add town, organization and mugshot. If you don't want to miss a middle initial or middle name, use an asterisk: "daniel * benedict"

> Example: "Daniel Benedict" Jacksonville,
> daniel benedict Jacksonville,
> "Dan Benedict" Jacksonville,
> "Daniel Benedict" mugshot,
> Daniel Benedict Defender Foundation

Domain Search = "Daniel Benedict" **site:jacksonville.com** this searches only within the Florida Times-Union news domain
> You can do this with any domain or domain type:
> Site:edu; site:gov; site:org

Facebook, LinkedIn and Social media: check the about pages and job affiliations to make sure they are who they say they are, live where they say they live and do what they say they do.

Criminal records: local, federal, sex offender registry

U.S. Department of Justice National Sex Offender Search: https://www.nsopw.gov/en

U.S. Bureau of Prisons Federal Inmates Search: https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/

Federal court records

Free version of Pacer: www.courtlistener.com

Pacer scraper RECAP: https://www.courtlistener.com/recap/

Nonprofits: ProPublica has the best nonprofit search right now.

https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/

Political activity: (different for each state)

Open Secrets: Www.opensecrets.org

ARCHIVED INTERNET SEARCHES (Search for an archived version of a website or webpage when you find a link that doesn't work [a dead link])

Way Back Machine: internet archive: https://archive.org/web/

TIP: Different Search Engines have different page caches, try Google, Bing, DuckDuckGo

Paid services to investigate people and companies:

TransUnion People and Business Search: https://www.tlo.com/homepage

Birthplace (if you have first 3 of social): https://www.stevemorse.org/ssn/ssn.html

Nexis for freelancers: www.expertaccess.org

Federal court records

Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER): https://pacer.uscourts.gov/

LexisNexis Public Records

LexisNexis (see if your publication has it): https://www.lexisnexis.com/