Researching Companies

Researching companies can benefit students in many ways. Students can learn about various industries, find companies in very specific geographical locations, prepare for interviews, and find companies similar to the companies they are interested in. One great way to start researching companies is to speak to a research librarian at MIT’s libraries. Below are ways students can begin researching on their own.

**See who is doing what you want to do:**
A creative way to search for companies that are on the cutting edge is to find out which companies are publishing and applying for patents in your area of interest. Searching through publications can also be helpful.

- **Patents:** [http://libraries.mit.edu/patents](http://libraries.mit.edu/patents)
- **Research Guides:** [http://libraries.mit.edu/research-guides](http://libraries.mit.edu/research-guides)
  - Use this list to find article databases in a variety of subjects, such as Architecture or Science
- **Article databases**
  - Engineering: [http://libraries.mit.edu/get/compendex](http://libraries.mit.edu/get/compendex)
    - Limit date range to more current publications
    - Scan results for publications from companies of interest
  - Business and news: [http://libraries.mit.edu/get/bussource](http://libraries.mit.edu/get/bussource)

**Create a list of companies in a certain area/location or by industry function/codes:**

- **Hoovers:** [http://libraries.mit.edu/get/hoovers](http://libraries.mit.edu/get/hoovers)

  Click on the “Build A List” tab at the top of the page

  Fill out the criteria based on your preferences

  Results will go down as your select your criteria

  Look for NAICS codes under “Industry” to narrow down based on what companies do

  Click the “Browse” or “Search” links under the “Add NAICS Codes” text box
Learn more about a company before you apply or interview:
Before an interview, research company information such as press releases, news articles, current products, and general company information.

- Hoovers: [http://libraries.mit.edu/get/hoovers](http://libraries.mit.edu/get/hoovers)
- See other MIT Libraries resources and databases on companies: [http://libguides.mit.edu/companies](http://libguides.mit.edu/companies)
  - LexisNexis Company Dossier and other resources

TIP: Go to the MIT Libraries company guides webpage to see other resources similar to Hoovers.

Find similar companies:

- Hoovers: [http://libraries.mit.edu/get/hoovers](http://libraries.mit.edu/get/hoovers)
  - After opening a company’s page, either click “Competition” and choose “Competitor’s List” from the drop down menu or scroll to the “Competition” section near the bottom of the page and click “View Full Competitor’s List”
- LinkedIn: [http://linkedin.com](http://linkedin.com)
  - Search for your desired company and open their LinkedIn page
  - Click on the “Insights” tab at the top of the page and see “Where Employees Came From” on the right and what other companies people viewed on the bottom of the page
  - Lastly, see what skills rank highly in the “Skills and Expertise” section to the right of the page

Find contacts at a company:

- CareerBridge: [https://www.myinterface.com/mit/student](https://www.myinterface.com/mit/student)
- MIT Alumni Database: [http://alum.mit.edu](http://alum.mit.edu)
- Find a Job/Internship: [http://gecd.mit.edu/jobs/find/explore](http://gecd.mit.edu/jobs/find/explore)
- LinkedIn: [http://linkedin.com](http://linkedin.com) and [http://linkedin.com/college](http://linkedin.com/college)

Find out which companies are interested in MIT students:

- Company Presentations: [http://gecd.mit.edu/jobs/find/apply/company_presentations](http://gecd.mit.edu/jobs/find/apply/company_presentations)
- CareerBridge: [https://www.myinterface.com/mit/student](https://www.myinterface.com/mit/student)
  - Review the “Employer Directory” to see which companies have recruited MIT students before
  - Click on the “On-Campus Interviews” for companies currently interviewing on campus
  - Check dates under the “Events” tab for MIT Career Fairs

Ask a question or get help:

- MIT Libraries: [http://libraries.mit.edu/ask](http://libraries.mit.edu/ask)
- MIT Global Education & Career Development: [http://gecd.mit.edu](http://gecd.mit.edu)