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Review of the website Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records: A Genealogy Guide

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[Internet Resource]

Online searchable death indexes & records, by Joe Beine.

URL: <http://www.deathindexes.com/>

[Visited Jul'06] Professional genealogist Beine runs several Web sites, including *German Roots* <<http://home.att.net/~wec-monster/>> and *Online Military Indexes & Records* <<http://www.militaryindexes.com/>>. This database appears to cover only the US (see below) and is arranged by state (including the District of Columbia). It aims to include all comprehensive on-line death-related indexes, such as those for death certificates, funeral homes, cemeteries, probate/wills, and obituaries. Unlike some other genealogical Web sites, it is selective and avoids linking to partial indexes, single surname listings, or projects that allow the public to upload genealogical informa-

tion, where quality control is often lacking. Some of these pages are long, such as the one for New York, while others (Hawaii, North Dakota) are brief.

Both free and fee-based databases (such as *Ancestry.com*) are included, and the latter are marked "requires payment." Links to local vital records offices are provided; these explain procedures for ordering copies of certificates. Beine offers brief research guides for searching the Social Security Death Index and for locating obituaries. Almost hidden among his links to other Web sites, however, is a separate page, *Online Death Indexes & Records for Canada*, which is alphabetical by province, as well as research guides for locating deceased persons in Nonpopulation Census Records for 1850-80, and for finding death records for American citizens who died in foreign countries—none of which have direct links from the main page. This sparse, no-frills site (with no graphics) should be useful for both beginning and advanced genealogical researchers. Libraries that provide genealogical links on their Web sites or in printed guides would do well to include this site, and to consider Beine's other sites as well. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Researchers, professionals, and general readers.—*J. A. Drobnicki, York College, CUNY*