

There are abbreviated materials - "Information Packets" - that are included in this list. This list represents only materials primarily on this topic. However, there are other materials that speak to this topic available in the library (i.e., brief "Articles," etc.). Contact ORPARC for additional materials.

Search and Reunion

Material Title: **Adoption Politics**
 Author: E. Wayne Carp *Books* 2004 169 pages

The passage of Measure 58 in Oregon in 1998 restored the legal right of adopted adults to request their original birth certificates. This book reveals the efforts of the grassroots organization, Bastard Nation to pass this milestone initiative. It follows the campaign from its inception, addressing essential ethical questions raised by all sides of this complex issue.

Material Title: **Adoption Reader, The: Birthmothers, Adoptive Mothers and Adopted Daughters Tell Their Stories**
 Author: Susan Wadia-Ells Edited by *Books* 1995 272 pages

These 31 personal essays and stories by women from each side of the adoption triangle are informed by the contemporary adoption movement and raise timely issues that illustrate its complexity, including the birth record debate, open and closed adoption, transracial and cross-cultural adoption, the experience of biracial adoptees, adoption by lesbian couples, etc.

Material Title: **Adoption Reunion Handbook, The**
 Author: Liz, Julia, David Trinder, Feast, Howe *Books* 2004 129 pages

This Handbook, based on research, guides readers with step by step guidance on: how to begin; what to expect emotionally; legal issues; finding names and addresses, setting up a reunion; making the reunion work long term; and rejection and reunion breakdown.

Material Title: **Adoption Reunion Survival Guide, The**
 Author: Julie Jarrell Bailey *Books* 2001 142 pages

This book, divided into four parts, "Preparing for a Reunion: What You Need to Know;" "Practical Advice for Sidestepping Reunion Pitfalls;" "The Tangled Web of Rights and Legal Issues;" and "More Help for Your Journey," helps identify the stages of search and reunion and offers practical, positive guidelines for the successful reunification of adoption triad members in a warm and positive manner.

Material Title: **Adoption Reunions: A Book for Adoptees, Birth Parents and Adoptive Families**
 Author: Michelle McColm *Books* 1993 253 pages

Drawing on her own experiences and those of others, McColm, who has had a successful reunion with her birth mother and extended family, presents a guide for people involved in any phase of the reunion process. This book offers suggestions that can provide a road map for those who have experienced or are anticipating a reunion.

Material Title: **Adoption Trilogy, The: Three films by Jean Strauss (DVD)**
 Author: Jean Strauss *DVDs* 2006 46 minutes

"Holding Hands", 2006, examines the relationship between Strauss and her brother, Bobby. Separated through adoption and reunited as adults, Strauss was with her brother when he died. The film addresses the issue of lifelong sibling severance in adoption and foster care. Multi-award winning short, "The Triumvirate" 2004, tells the story of Strauss's reunion with her birthmother and birth grandmother. "Vital Records" 2005, was created to help legislators understand the debate on legislation which would provide access for adoptees to their original records.

Material Title: **Beneath a Tall Tree**
 Author: Jean Strauss *Books* 2001 268 pages

Strauss begins by telling the story of her childhood with her adoptive parents, whom she loved dearly, and her difficult relationship with her troubled adoptive brother. She goes on to write about her search for, and ultimate reunion with, her birth mother, her birth mother's birth mother, her seven siblings, and, briefly, her birth father. By the end of the book the fifth grader, who knew nothing about her biological roots, has discovered she's a Mayflower descendent, whose ancestors go back to Charlemagne.

Material Title: **Birthright: The Guide to Search and Reunion for Adoptees, Birthparents, and Adoptive Parents**
 Author: Jean A. S. Strauss *Books* 1994 342 pages

This book is divided into two parts, "Search" and "Reunion." The author, an adoptee who located her birth family in 1988, addresses such issues as making the difficult decision to search, navigating the emotional turbulence of a reunion, dealing with the impact of the search on the adoptive parents, and more.

Search and Reunion

Material Title: **First Person Plural (VHS)**
Author: Deann Borshay Liem *Videotapes* 2000 1 hour

This award winning documentary tells the story of its writer, producer, director, Deann Borshay Liem, who in 1966, was adopted by an American family and sent from Korea to her new home in California. Along the way, the memory of her birth family was nearly obliterated by time and misinformation, but recurring dreams led her to discover the truth: her Korean mother was very much alive. Bravely uniting her biological and adoptive families, Borshay Liem's heartfelt journey makes First Person Plural a poignant essay on family, loss, and the reconciling of two identities.

Material Title: **Get Real* (see comment about Children's Materials on Index page)**
Author: Betty Hicks *Children's Books* 2006 184 pages

In this adolescent novel, 13-year-old best friends Dez and Jil are each a little envious of the other's parents – Dez's parents run a sloppy, chaotic household while the adopted Jil's keep a neat, orderly one. Jil becomes obsessed with meeting her birth mother and does so, eventually spending holidays and weekends with her new family which includes a 10-year-old half sister. Problems ensue, lessons are learned, and life is lived.

Material Title: **Great Adoptee Search Book, The**
Author: Jean Strauss *Books* 1990 80 pages

This is a handbook for searching for birthparents from someone who has done it.

Material Title: **Ithaka: A Daughter's Memoir of Being Found**
Author: Sarah Saffian *Books* 1998 302 pages

The author tells the story of her own adoption including a reversal of the usual adoption narrative: her biological parents sought her out. Her journey to a reunion with her biological parents and siblings raises many difficult questions that adoptees face. Her thoughtful inquiry reveals new ways of looking at the ties that bind us to each other and finally make us who we are.

Material Title: **Journeys After Adoption: Understanding Lifelong Issues**
Author: Norris, Betse Schooler, Jayne *Books* 2002 273 pages

This book deals with issues faced by all members of the adoption triad, but the bulk of it focuses on components and considerations of the search for adoptive parents, including "How do I make the decision to search? How do I prepare emotionally? What are my adoptive parents feeling and thinking? What if I'm rejected, encounter death, or reach a dead end? How will I relate to siblings?"

Material Title: **Searching for a Past: The Adopted Adult's Unique Process of Finding Identity**
Author: Jayne Schooler *Books* 1995 191 pages

This book is intended to prepare adult adoptees for the process of searching for their birth families. There are many components to a search, and every case is unique, but Schooler covers a wide range of ideas and considerations that are sure to provide insight to those who embark on this essential journey.

Material Title: **Single Square Picture, A: A Korean Adoptee's Search for Her Roots**
Author: Katy Robinson *Books* 2002 297 pages

One day she was Kim Ji-yun, a seven-year-old, growing up in Seoul, Korea. The next day she was Catherine Robinson, living in Salt Lake City, not knowing the language, the customs, any of the people, or even why. Twenty years later, with the blessings of her adoptive family, Katy Robinson returned to Seoul in search of her birth mother -- and found herself an American outsider in her native land. What transpired in this world -- at once familiar and strange, comforting and sad -- left her conflicted, shattered, exhilarated and moved in ways she had never imagined. This is her story.

Material Title: **Swimming Up the Sun: A Memoir of Adoption**
Author: Nicole J. Burton *Books* 2008 189 pages

As an adoptive child in Britain, playwright Nicole Burton always wanted to find her birth parents. After moving with her adoptive family to the United States, she pursued the elusive characters haunting her imagination. At age 22, she set out to find her English birth parents, and began a search that led to parents, grandparents, siblings, a kaleidoscope of relationships with one dark secret at its center, and more drama than any play she could possibly conceive.

Material Title: **Unlocking the Heart of Adoption: Bridging the gap between birth and adoptive families (DVD)**
Author: Sheila Ganz DVD *DVDs* 2005 57 minutes

This DVD chronicles the filmmaker's journey as a birthmother, interwoven with diverse personal stories of adoptees, birthparents and adoptive parents in both same race and transracial adoptions. It examines relinquishment, growing up adopted, raising an adopted child, years of silence and shame, and searching for answers to unasked questions. In the process, we learn what the universal issues of "identity" "loss" and "needing to know the truth" mean to these people.

Search and Reunion

Material Title: **Whose Child? An Adoptee's Healing Journey From Relinquishment Through Reunion . . . and Beyond**

Author: Kasey Hamner

Books

2000

292 pages

This is the author's adoption story in terms of its effect on her life, her relationships, her self-esteem, and her use of food and other substances; and how her reunion with her birth family helped heal her wounds.