

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: **Adopted (DVD)**

Author: Barb Lee *DVDs* 2008 80 minutes

This DVD, by first-time director Barb Lee, reveals the grit rather than the glamour of transracial adoption, going deep into the intimate lives of two well-meaning families and showing us the subtle challenges they face. One family is just beginning the process of adopting a baby from China, the other family's Korean daughter is now 32 years old. Prompted by her adoptive mother's terminal illness, she tries to create the bond they never had. The results are riveting, unpredictable and telling. While the two families are at opposite ends of their respective journeys, their stories converge to show us that love alone isn't enough to make a family work.

Includes the companion DVD, "Adopted: We Can Do Better", with more than two hours of experts' advice to help families clarify their intentions, cope with grief, identify themselves as a mixed-race family, foster identity for their transracial adopted children, and become educated about the politics of international adoption.

Material Title: **Adoptee Survival Guide: Adoptees Share Their Wisdom and Tools, The**

Author: Lynn Grubb *Books* 2015 220 pages

30 adoptee authors provide support, encouragement and understanding to other adoptees in facing the complexities of being adopted, embarking on search and reunion, fighting for equal access to identifying information, navigating complex family relationships with the latest technology, and surviving it all with a sense of humor.

Material Title: **Adoption and Loss: The Hidden Grief**

Author: Evelyn Burns Robinson *Books* 2003 223 pages

What becomes of women who give up their children for adoption? Why do so many adopted people feel such a strong desire to seek out their families of origin? In what ways are families with adopted children different from other families? This book, written by a birth mother, provides the answers to these questions and many others.

Material Title: **Adoption Politics: Bastard Nation and Ballot Initiative 58**

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 Reunion Handbook, The**

Author: Elizabeth Trinder, Julia Feast and David 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: Preparing Yourself for the Search, Reunion, and Beyond**

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.

Search and Reunion

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

Silver Shorts, Vol. 1: The Adoption Trilogy: Three films by Jean Strauss
"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: **Becoming Patrick: A Memoir**
Author: Patrick McMahon *Books* 2011 310 pages

When Pat McMahon risks the love of the mother who raised him by seeking out the mother who gave him away, he transforms from a mild-mannered engineer into a frenetic detective. After he overcomes the challenges of existential angst, bureaucratic roadblocks and unemployment, the phone call to his first mother releases a torrent of long-buried feelings. During a sometimes turbulent long-distance unfolding, he absorbs her shocking revelation and comes out as gay once again. Their eventual reunion creates a profound bond, even as he navigates waves of conflicting emotions, merges past with present, and embarks on a new future rooted in truth and insights into the universal quest for identity and human connection.

Material Title: **Beneath a Tall Tree: A Story About Us**
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: **Birth Family and Adoptive Family Relationships (CD)**
Author: adoptioncds.com *CDs* 2002

This session includes discussions about creating a photo resume, networking to locate a birth family, sensitive handling of phone calls, the first meeting, a cooperative agreement to outline future contact, and understanding the process from the birth family's and the adoptive family's perspectives. It also includes what to expect when working with a birth parent with a mental health history and/or drug or alcohol addiction.

Material Title: **Birthbond: Reunions Between Birthparents and Adoptees - What Happens After...**
Author: Judith S. Gediman and Linda P. Brown *Books* 1991 256 pages

In this eye-opening, deeply affecting account, the authors reveal - through the words and experiences of adoptees, birthmothers, and birthfathers - that what reunion can accomplish is impressive, although its pangs are no less real than the pangs of birth

Material Title: **Birthright: The Guide to Search and Reunion for Adoptees, Birthparents, and Adoptive Parents**
Author: Jean A. S. Straus *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.

Material Title: **Blended Perspectives Meeting Training Video (DVD)**
Author: Seneca Family of Agencies *DVDs* 25 minutes

This video provides an example of the Blended Perspectives Meeting tool for the purpose of expanding permanency options for youth. At the center of this DVD is foster teen, Christina. Surrounding her are members of her foster and birth families, and her case worker, as they come together for a blended perspectives meeting in support of her future. They are able to identify an extended support system and address common goals and concerns as Christina approaches adulthood.

Material Title: **Clinical and Practice Issues in Adoption: Bridging the Gap Between Adoptees Placed as Infants and as Older Children**
Author: Victor Groza and Karen F. Roseberg *Books* 1998 165 pages

This book is intended for all those affected by and interested in adoption. The contents are written by a variety of experts in the adoption field and examine topics such as treatment issues for adoptees placed at different ages, search and reunion, ethics, infertility, shared identity issues, and the ongoing need for adoption support.

Search and Reunion

Material Title: **Closure: A Documentary About Adoption (DVD)**

Author: Bryan Tucker

DVDs

2013 16 minutes

Angela, an African-American woman, was raised by a Caucasian couple in a large, multiracial family in Washington State. She was adopted at the age of one from foster care in the state of Tennessee, under the terms of a closed adoption. As Angela grew older it became apparent that the unanswered questions about her birth story would continue to haunt her if she did not attempt to find some answers. Filmed and edited by her husband Bryan, this documentary follows Angela for two years during the search for her birth family. Several twists and surprising revelations ultimately lead Angela and her family across the country to her place of birth. It is here where Angela comes face to face with her birth mother for the first time, and meets family members who had never known she was even born - including her birth father.

Material Title: **Emancipated Youth Connections Project: Permanency Stories (DVD)**

Author: Seneca Family of Agencies

DVDs

10 minutes

This video shares participants' experiences through the 2008 project, "Emancipated Youth Connections Projects." The purpose of the project was to develop a model of service to find permanency for 20 young adults (ranging in age from 17-39 years) who had left the foster care system without having permanent and unconditional lifelong connections to at least one adult. Many participants lost contact with siblings. Each participant was supported to make connections and reach out to birth family or other who are important to them. Each one had a unique experience with the process. A toolkit was developed as a result for this project and is available through the SENECA website.

Material Title: **Far from the Tree**

Author: Robin Benway

Children's Books

2019

400

Being the middle child has its ups and downs.

But for Grace, an only child who was adopted at birth, discovering that she is a middle child is a different ride altogether. After putting her own baby up for adoption, she goes looking for her biological family, including—

Maya, her loudmouthed younger bio sister, who has a lot to say about their newfound family ties. Having grown up the snarky brunette in a house full of chipper redheads, she's quick to search for traces of herself among these not-quite-strangers. And when her adopted family's long-buried problems begin to explode to the surface, Maya can't help but wonder where exactly it is that she belongs.

And Joaquin, their stoic older bio brother, who has no interest in bonding over their shared biological mother. After seventeen years in the foster care system, he's learned that there are no heroes, and secrets and fears are best kept close to the vest, where they can't hurt anyone but him.

Don't miss this moving novel that addresses such important topics as adoption, teen pregnancy, and foster care.

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**

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.

Search and Reunion

Material Title: **Hey, Kiddo; How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction**
Author: Jarrett J. Krosoczka *Children's Books* 2018 320

In kindergarten, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery -- Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents -- two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along.

Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

Hey, Kiddo is a profoundly important memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.

Material Title: **In Search of Mom: Journey of an Adoptee**
Author: Michael Watson *Books* 1998 195 pages

Michael Watson had two moms. One was the adoptive mother who raised him from birth. The other was his birthmother whom only existed as an obscure portrait in his consciousness. From the tender age of seventeen, Watson's quest was to find the missing link to his past. He knew three facts: his birthmother's name was Betty Price, she was 22 years old, and he was born at a Community Hospital in Indianapolis.

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: Jayne E. Schooler and Betsie L. Norris *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: **Kalani's Story (DVD)**
Author: Epic Ohana, Inc. *DVDs* 18 minutes

This DVD follows former foster youth Kalani as he gives a first-hand story of how he was affected by his time in foster care, and as he reconnects with members of his family. Separated from his brother and parents at a young age, Kalani lived in ten different foster homes. He struggles to form an identity until he reunites with members of his birth family and other important people.

Material Title: **Kinship Care: Birth Mothers Speak Out (DVD)**
Author: Dr. Joseph Crumbley *DVDs* 2004 24 minutes

A panel of birth mothers respond to a series of questions about having children who lived in kinship care. Some of the panelists will also discuss their experience of living in kinship care with their children. The birth mothers discuss: (1) how they explained to the children why they were living with relatives (2) how they interacted and were involved with their children and relative caregiver (3) how their children were effected and felt about their parents' incarceration, substance abuse, absence or inability to care for them (4) the challenges and approaches used to re-unite with their children, and become a family again. Discussion topics and questions will also accompany each DVD.

Material Title: **Kinship Care: Teens and Young Adults Speak Out (DVD)**
Author: Dr. Joseph Crumbley *DVDs* 2004 24 minutes

A panel of young people discuss how they felt about living with relatives, and not with their parents; the challenges of accepting their relatives in a parental role; how their parents' incarceration, substance abuse and absence effected them; what explanations were given to them, and how they reacted; what interactions and supports from their birth parents and relatives helped them to adjust; and the challenges to re-uniting with their birth parents and separating from their relatives. Discussion topics and questions will also accompany DVD.

Search and Reunion

Material Title: **Kinship Care: Teens and Young Adults Speak Out (VHS)**
Author: Dr. Joseph Crumbley *Videotapes* 2004 24 minutes

A panel of young people discuss how they felt about living with relatives, and not with their parents; the challenges of accepting their relatives in a parental role; how their parents' incarceration, substance abuse and absence effected them; what explanations were given to them, and how they reacted; what interactions and supports from their birth parents and relatives helped them to adjust; and the challenges to re-uniting with their birth parents and separating from their relatives. Discussion topics and questions will also accompany VHS tape.

Material Title: **Lost and Found (VHS)**
Author: Debra Baker *Videotapes* 2005 26 minutes

There are over six million adoptees in the U.S., and though "Lost and Found" is Debra's own story, it could be the story of any of those separated through a closed adoption system. We have seen the airport reunions, and this film takes viewers into the real world of forming relationships in a new, strangely familiar family, and the impact of search and reunion not only on mother and "child", but entire families.

Through interviews of her family, her son, and his adoptive mother, the emotions and ramifications of reunion are explored. Debra's son's story is connected to Debra's story through that of his adoptive mom's, who was gravely ill when Debra met her. But his adoptive mom wanted to tell her story, also; that she felt reunion was a good thing, that there is enough love to go around, hoping to encourage adoptees to search, and their adoptive parents to support them.

Material Title: **May the Circle Be Unbroken: An Intimate Journey into the Heart of Adoption**
Author: Lynn C. Franklin *Books* 1998 276 pages

A poignant memoir of a woman who reunited with a child she gave up for adoption and a no-nonsense book that gives readers an intelligent and well-informed approach to adoption. The two are woven seamlessly into a complex and engaging story that is, in fact, many stories from many people that form a complete picture of the varied and often fulfilling experience of adoption.

Material Title: **Outer Search Inner Journey: An Orphan and Adoptee's Quest**
Author: Peter F. Dodds *Books* 1997 274 pages

In this riveting memoir a woman in post World War II Germany relinquishes her infant son Peter to an orphanage where he's adopted by American parents and brought to the United States. Separated from family of origin and ancestral homeland, Peter grows up alienated in a family and culture he doesn't understand. He returns to Germany believing happiness will come when finding his German family and reclaiming ethnic identity. But Peter's hopes are crushed as his search twists into a desperate struggle to escape a labyrinth of total despair. Set against the backdrop of the Cold War, this is the story of a man's spiritual transformation where the protagonist must ultimately confront himself.

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: **Sibling Reunions: A Letter to Those Who Have Been Contacted**
Author: Randolph W. Severson, PhD *Books* 1991 33 pages

"I have something to tell you," says your mother or father, wearing a downcast look, one that you haven't seen before or at least not seen that often. "What's wrong?" you think... You brace for the worst. But what you hear is something like, "Before I met your Dad"... Or a letter comes: "Dear... I don't really know how to begin this. You don't know me but..." Or the telephone rings. Or there is a knock at the door. On the other side of the conversation or on the other side of the door is a stranger who, with a few words or an improbably story that, nonetheless, at once rings true, becomes what you didn't think you had: a brother, a sister, another sibling. You catch your breath. You freeze. You pause. You mumble awkwardly. And then, your whole world shifts.

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.

Search and Reunion

Material Title: **Social networking and contact: How social workers can help adoptive families**
Author: Eileen Fursland *Books* 2010 102 pages

This book, published by the British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF), examines the way internet, social networking and other technologies are changing the landscape of adoption contact, search and reunion. It is the first UK guide to explore the many pressing questions and concerns facing social workers: What do practitioners need to know about adoption in the Facebook age? How can they be equipped for new challenges? What do social workers need to know about protecting privacy and security so that they can give advice to young people and their families? How can social workers manage the complex situations that arise from unauthorized and unmediated contact? What advice and support is available?

The guide demystifies the technology behind social networking sites, provides a practical explanation of how they work and tackles key issues such as internet safety, privacy and identity protection. It examines the challenges faced by all parties involved in contact and looks at balancing the adopted child's curiosity and need to know with the adoptive family's fears and concerns around security and disruption. Social networking and contact provides a significant amount of information, raises important questions and offers essential advice. Case studies and quotations enable others' experiences to be shared, and reveal the potential and very significant risks that some people have experienced. Although it does not provide any easy answers, the guide does include hard-won insights from adoption workers and adoptive parents who have had to face up to the impact of Facebook.

Material Title: **Social networking and you**
Author: Eileen Fursland *Children's Books* 2011 24 pages

This booklet for adopted and long-term fostered teenagers raises important questions about young people's use of social networking and offers practical advice on sharing information (or not) and staying safe online. It specifically addresses concerns about unexpected contact with birth family members, talking things through with adoptive parents and tracing birth relatives. The real-life experiences of adopted young people help bring the guide to life and challenge the reader to consider 'what happened next?'

Material Title: **Supporting Adoptees through Search and Information Seeking (CD)**
Author: Susan Cutler Egbert *CDs* 8/5/2011 15 minutes

Presented by Susan Cutler Egbert, Utah State University at the 37th NACAC Conference 2011 in Denver, Colorado. This workshop will help adoptees, adoptive parents, and adoption professionals understand the developmental issues involved in search and information-seeking from the perspective of adopted persons. In addition, participants will explore adopted persons' motivations and expectations with regard to search and search outcomes, and gain practical ideas for supporting all members of the adoption triad as they search.

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 *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.

Material Title: **We're All Not the Same, But We're Still Family: An Adoption and Birth Family Story**
Author: Theresa Fraser & Eric Fraser *Children's Books*

This story was written for adoptive families to explore the benefits of adoption openness. The main character, Deshaun, loves his family but always wondered about his biological family. Does he look like them? Did they love him? With the support of his adoptive parents, Deshaun gets to meet his biological family. They develop an ongoing relationship, so Deshaun feels more stable in his adoptive family, but also develops a comfortable relationship with his birth family. Deshaun and his family are reminded (as we all are) that family can include biological, adopted, foster and kin members.

Material Title: **Who am I?: And Other Questions of Adopted Kids**
Author: Charlene C. Giannetti *Children's Books* 1999 95

With advice from experts and quotes from adopted teens, offers objective and reassuring responses to children seeking answers to their questions about being adopted.

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.