Researching M&A Activity

Important facts about a merger and/or acquisition deal include:

- target name  
- date the merger/acquisition was announced  
- the deal value 
- acquirer name  
- date the merger/acquisition was completed 

We’ll look at how to find these M&A activity details for a public company and a private company.

1. **Use Internet Explorer**. Thomson One will only work in Internet Explorer. Navigate from [http://wcl.library.tamu.edu](http://wcl.library.tamu.edu) → Business Starting Points → Business Database List → Finance Tab → Thomson One

2. Look up a public company, such as “Disney” (DIS).
   a. What kinds of information do you see on this page?
   b. What happens when you select “Full Summary” on the “Financial Summary” box heading. How far back does this information go?

3. Select the “Deals” tab and “Company Deals”
   a. In 2012, how many deals did Disney participate in? What were the targets of these deals?
   b. What is the largest deal Disney has been involved in? How large ($ mil) was it? Who was the target?
   c. Scroll down to the “Deal List” box. What happens when you select the “F” icon? The notebook icon? What further information do you get from these icons?

4. Let’s look at a private company. PrivCo is a specially designed database for private company information, so we’ll use that. Navigate from [http://wcl.library.tamu.edu](http://wcl.library.tamu.edu) → Business Starting Points → Business Database List → Company Tab → Privco. Any browser will work for this one. You will have to sign up for an account with your TAMU email.

5. Look up “Cargill” (Incorporated, United States)
   a. What kind of information do you see? How does this compare to the information you found on Thomson One?
   b. Scroll down to find M&A Activity. Has there been any activity this year? Who was the target?
5 Minute Presentation

Presentation time! Elect a spokesperson from your group to come up front, demo your database, and give a general overview of what you found. Answer the questions below and feel free to talk about additional details you learned about the database.

1. Show us M&A activity in both databases. What kinds of companies would you look up in Thomson One? Privco?

2. Was there any information that you couldn’t find in these databases that you expected to?

3. What did you find most useful about this databases?

4. How might you use this database in this class?

5. If you’re researching a public company, why might you be interested in private company information?