Searching Lake County Records

As we have progressed from hand written ledgers to electronic recordings, so have the "tools" to index & locate the records. Our office has scanned millions of images dating back to the 1800's. Today's challenge is to make sure that searchers are able to navigate the variety of tools needed to conduct searches through the millions of records. Listed below is a summary of the various search tools. We hope you find this helpful.

Search by Name	***Documents are indexed by the Grantor/Grantee name(s) on the document. The Search by Name option should be your primary search method.*** Less information usually reveals better results. For example, if the search criteria is "MI" both Michael & Mike will be revealed. If you had entered "Michael", the documents with "Mike" would not show up in your search results. Over the years as technology evolved, various abbreviations have been used. "Lake County" may have been entered as Lake County or as Lake Cty. To see both versions, we recommend that you search with the % tool. As an example, Lake C%ty would reveal both versions in your search results. When using the % tool, please select the "Show Names List" tab. This will allow you to sort for relevant entries.
Search by Doc Number	This search is for current documents back to 1980. Documents prior to 1980 would be found under the Online Index Books tab.
Search by Date Range	Allows a date range search that can be narrowed by document type.
Search by Property	This tool allows a search by address or by legal description. As technology has improved, the search tools have also improved however older documents may not always be found in this search.
Search by PIN	The most common mistake made by new searchers is assuming that the search by PIN tool will reveal all documents related to a parcel. It probably won't! Although helpful, PIN's are not required on documents. If no PIN is present, the document is not indexed by PIN and will not be revealed in your search. Earlier technology did not accommodate the PIN field. We continue to make efforts to update the PIN information on older entries.
Advanced Search	The Advanced tab allows for searching remarks. An example would be to search for a specific word or court case number that may be revealed.
Online Index Books	This tab allows searchers to review the handwritten Grantor and Grantee index books for documents recorded prior to 1980. The file number may be entered to view the pre-1980 document images.
Display Index Dates	Recording is a 2-step process. The first step, "Recording", involves entering basic information and cashiering the appropriate fees. Step 2 "Indexing", involves verifying the scanned image & entering additional search information. The "Display Date" tab allows searchers the ability to check that the indexing portion has been completed.

Questions?   Need further assistance?   Please email recorderonline@lakecountyil.gov for help!