

## **Kansas City, Missouri Public Library**

<http://www.kclibrary.org>

The KCMO library dedicates significant web space and shelf space to help patrons who want to pursue grants. On the home page, click "Research Resources" then click "Business and career center" then click "Non-profits." You can choose:

- Establishing a non-profit
- Grant research
- Grant writing

The amount of information is intimidating. Where to start? Try reading the three sections under "Non-profits." The information is mostly digested from the Foundation Center, a well established source of information.

When you are ready to move beyond the web, this library system occasionally has introductory sessions about philanthropy and grants. Check the schedule of events and/or classes.

The Central Library in downtown KCMO is the only place in our region that allows free searches of the Foundation Center Online. You have to visit the Central Library because remote use of the database isn't allowed. This directory is the 800-pound gorilla for finding private foundations, although there are other, similar databases.

Next, let's return to the KCMO Library home page. Click "Research Resources" again, but this time click "Resources by topic" then "Philanthropy and nonprofits." Your choices this time are:

- Grants
- Local nonprofit resources
- Nonprofits

Some of this page duplicates what you have already seen. But pay attention to the "Local nonprofit resources." Although there is no narrative explanation, the page does link to Nonprofit Connect (formerly the Council on Philanthropy) and the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership. These two websites catapult you into Kansas City's professional community of fund raising and grant seeking.

Among all the Greater Kansas City libraries that offer free grant resources this is the best, for its website and for its collection at the downtown library.

*Prepared by the Heart of America Chapter, American Association of Grant Professionals, November 2009*