Foundation Directory Online: Grantmaker Sample Searches

**What is Foundation Directory Online?** A comprehensive electronic directory of private foundations in the U.S. Also includes some major corporate giving programs and a grants index.

**How do I get to Foundation Directory Online?**

*Option #1:* From the library homepage, search for “Foundation Directory” in the library catalog

*Option #2:* Click on the tab at the top of the library homepage called *Find Databases*. From the drop down menu, find and click on “Foundation Research.” Choose from the menu.

**Type of search?:** Once Foundation Directory Online is open, you have the option of searching by Grantmaker, Company, Grants or 990 tax returns. We’ll look at “Search Grantmakers.” Just click on the tab.

**Sample Search #1:** You are a development director of a non-profit that deals with children and health issues. Use the Grantmaker search to identify grantmakers in the state of Wisconsin whose fields of interest include children/youth services as well as health care.

Click “Fields of Interest” index to see the terms for this search field.

Then click on the term to put it into the search box.

Once you have chosen your search terms, click on ‘Search’ to see your results.

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**Note:**

“Grantmaker State” = residence of grantmaker (Different than: “Geographic Focus” which names a location of interest to grantmaker—may or may not be the same as grantmaker state.)
Notice that you can print or save any of the 51 records.

**Sample Search #2:** You are a fundraiser for a general hospital in Wisconsin and need to secure grants in order to renovate the second floor of the facility. You **do not** want to view profiles of grantmakers who do not accept applications.

**Note:**

"Geographic Focus" = a location of interest to grantmaker (May or may not be the same as a "Grantmaker State" which identifies the residence of grantmaker.)

**Search Tips for connecting concepts:**

1. Use the Boolean operator "and" to narrow your search (ex. “Children and Youth Services and Health Care” in the Fields of Interest will only bring up records where both concepts are present.)
2. Use the Boolean operator "or" to expand your search (ex. "Wisconsin or National" in the Geographic Focus will bring up both Wisconsin as well as National foundations.)
3. Use the Boolean operator "not" to exclude words or phrases (ex. "Arts not Culture" in the Keyword Search will retrieve grantmaker records containing arts and exclude those containing culture.)