

GuideStar. *Access:* <https://guidestar.org>.

GuideStar was founded in 1994 to provide public access to financial, managerial, and comparative data filed by nonprofits on U.S. Internal Revenue Service Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax). In 2019, GuideStar merged with the Foundation Center (founded in 1956), choosing “Candid” as the moniker for their combined operations, while both divisions continue their respective data and analytical services. For years, GuideStar was the only official online nationwide provider for 990 forms.

The IRS has a track record of delays in processing and distributing 990 forms for public viewing, which clearly frustrates nonprofit researchers. The IRS specifies 35 categories of nonprofits, 31 of which have mandatory requirements for filing a 990 report each year. The vast majority of American nonprofits are so small in terms of assets and annual revenues that the IRS allows small organizations to file a postcard version of the 990 form with only the organization’s official name, mailing address, tax identification number, and the name of one contact person. Typically, a full-sized 990 report runs at least 25 pages, containing the names and remunerations of all board members and key officers, financial data for the current year, a statement of organizational purpose, and a lengthy set of questions and answers.

Currently, GuideStar offers limited free functionality, but does not disclose the maximum number of downloads permitted before freezing access for the remainder of the month. Alternatively, unlimited free nationwide searching for nonprofits and downloading 990 reports is available from two nonprofit groups: Charity Navigator and ProPublica’s NonProfit Explorer. These free sites are easy for novice students to use if they know the name of a specific organization. The sites offer quick access to PDF files of reports of 40 or more pages while omitting the shorter, postcard-sized reports. Free unlimited advanced search options are more relevant for students through Charity Navigator and ProPublica.

GuideStar offers two fee-based packages, and discounts are available for annual plans. GuideStar’s premium services include an unlimited volume of searching, more search options, the ability to track changes, compare organizations, and analytical reports. GuideStar’s premium services seem more appealing for fundraising and grant writing units on campuses.—*Gary Klein, Willamette University, gklein@willamette.edu*

Reporters Without Borders. *Access:* <https://rsf.org/en>.

Reporters Without Borders or Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) is a global, multilingual, nongovernment organization founded in France in 1995. Its founding values stem from the fact that “Freedom of information is fundamental in any democracy, but nearly half of the world’s population has no access to freely reported news and information.” At its core is the Journalist Trust Initiative, which benchmarks ethical standards for news reporting for professional journalists.

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RSF provides daily press releases in a wide variety of languages about the state of free information around the world. Its network of correspondents is scattered over 130 countries. Of great interest is the RSF-created World Press Freedom Index (WPFI), a measure of the freedom of the press for 180 countries and regions around the world since 2002. WPFI ranks and rates how well journalistic freedoms are respected by the various countries' governments. This measure is developed using RSF's vast global network of correspondents, who annually respond to a questionnaire that includes rankings on pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, infrastructure, and abuses. When this information is processed, RSF comes up with an index measure from 0 to 100. It is possible to track by country, freedom of information, and the oppression of journalists.

Additionally, RSF advocates for individual politicians to publicly commit to supporting a free press. It supports journalists by providing training, physical supplies during the covering of war zones, legal assistance, and more. Reporters Without Borders has a barometer that measures the number of journalists killed, imprisoned, or otherwise extorted in connection to their work. There are also international features about individual cases involving freedom of the press and misinformation surrounding COVID-19 cases, treatment, and vaccines.

As RSF is a nongovernment organization, anyone may financially contribute to their cause. However, most of their funding stems from organizations that support RSF's mission, and a significant amount of funding stems from sales of their series of photo books.

The RSF site is very easy to navigate overall and most press freedom researchers will be interested in the World Press Freedom Index. This is an excellent source for a deep dive into global press freedom and why free press is an essential inalienable right to global citizens.—*Molly Susan Mathias, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, mathiasm@uwm.edu*

The East-West Center. *Access:* <https://www.eastwestcenter.org/>.

Established in 1960, The East-West Center is an independent, public, nonprofit organization that promotes relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.

The site comes with a sticky header to provide easier and visible access to visitors. The primary navigation menu contains five major categories: programs, events, analysis, news and apply, as well as the standard about, support, and contact pages. The site is content-rich, so it uses dropdown navigation and hover to provide many subcategories under each major category. Auto-rotating events at the center of the homepage have a great display of content where visitors can easily look at the upcoming and most popular events. There is an eye-catching link button on each page to the donation page. Facebook, Tweeter, LinkedIn, Vimeo, YouTube, and Instagram follow buttons appear on every page to promote more connection. The site also provides a vertical navbar for most categories, allowing visitors to quickly access most useful pages or find resources on a particular section or topic using the full-text search box located at the top right of all pages.

The site reflects its mission by organizing the content via "Programs," which includes "Education," "Research," "Professional Development," "Pacific Islands," "EWC in DC,"

“Alumni,” and “Communications & External Relations.” Each overarching program has its own submenu, which provides more specific options to each associated program. For example, “Education” offers various scholarship and fellowship information. “Research” provides featured research projects, research publications, research staff, visiting fellows and visiting scholars, and more. “Professional Development” introduces all of the East-West Center’s short- to medium-term capacity-building, leadership training, professional exchanges, career development, and high-level dialogue activities.

“Events” provides all the webinars, seminars, and conference information, plus news items from the center’s tweets and Facebook. “Analysis” presents all the latest analytical reports written by the experts. The “Apply” section gives all the information on a wide variety of available programs. “News” provides a link to the resources, research, and expertise of the East-West Center for local, national, and international journalists reporting on U.S.-Asia-Pacific issues.

The site offers an abundance of information on East-West topics that is useful for researchers, students, and educators.—*Jia Mi, The College of New Jersey, jmi@tcnj.edu* 