



CORPORATE RESEARCH ON THE WEB

Many union activists want to know if they can use the growing number of resources on the Internet to do research into companies. The Web is rich in resources for corporate research but certain caveats apply:

1. More information is available on public companies that are traded on the stock exchange than on private ones that do not offer stock. Public companies are required to meet governmental disclosure requirements and these documents provide an important source of public data. This holds true for any mode of company research — print or electronic, commercial or free.
2. While the Web is good for tracking the current activities of a company, there is limited historical material available in this medium.
3. The Web is still extremely deficient for legal and regulatory research. Case law is not available for all states and the case law and governmental regulatory databases that are available are often hampered by inadequate search engines.
4. When doing any research online, it is also important to consider whether the information is being provided by the company or an independent source, and whether it is voluntary, e.g., a company press release, or mandated, e.g., a Securities and Exchange Commission form.
5. Finally, in this subject area more than most, many information providers are testing the waters and what is free today, may cost money tomorrow. In fact, some of the sites we will be suggesting offer a range of services — some free, some subscription, some pay-per-view.

ADDITIONAL HELP: AFSCME council and unaffiliated local staff may request additional corporate research assistance by contacting the Department of Research and Collective Bargaining Services at research@afscme.org. The department has access to many premium subscription information services, as well as the AFL-CIO's Unicare database.

With these warnings in mind, here are some places you can start to look for company information.

Corporate Profiles/Directories

Yahoo – Finance!

<http://biz.yahoo.com/news/>

Produced in collaboration with Edgar Online, Market Guide, and Thomson Financial Solutions, this site provides an extensive company profile, income and balance statements, top institutional and mutual fund stock holders, stock quotes, recent insider trades, profiles of officers and directors including biographies, compensation and stock options, recent SEC filings, and contact information and links to corporate Web sites. While 33,502 companies and funds are in this database, detailed information is only available on slightly over 9,000.

Hoovers Online

<http://www.hoovers.com/>

Hoovers covers over 12 million global companies, both public and private, and over 300 industries. It provides a brief description of the company's activities, its contact information, Web site, main officers, financial statements and annual sales, number of employees and top competitors. It also provides links to SEC filings and stock quotes, news from Knight-Ridder and other wire services, company press releases, headline news from Dow Jones (paid subscription required for full text) and political contribution data. Industry profiles provide a snapshot of the industry, a list of companies and related SIC codes. For \$49.95/month, subscribers can get full profiles which also include a history of the company, its subsidiaries, affiliates, all major competitors, brand names, historic financial data and full board of directors.

Corporate Information

<http://www.corporateinformation.com/>

This site offers the ability to search multiple corporate directories such as Yahoo, Hoovers, Bloomberg, etc., simultaneously. It also provides company profiles and financial data from Wright Investors' Services. Free registration is required to use the Wright profiles. Plus, it offers overviews of industries and links to industry-specific news stories and Web sites searchable by industry and country.

Dun & Bradstreet Electronic Business Directory

<http://sbs.dnb.com/>

One of the best sources of information on a company is a Dun & Bradstreet report. These are available at the company's main Web site (<http://www.dnb.com/>) but they can be expensive (e.g., \$112 for a comprehensive report). You can, however, get some basic information on a company by looking it up in the free Electronic Business Directory. The report includes contact information, a link to the company's Web site, industry, estimated annual sales and number of employees. It also includes the major officers and competitors. An EBD search can also be helpful in identifying which location is the headquarters for a company that may have multiple branches with identical names. The EBD can often be the only source of information on smaller private firms. Clicking on "Search Options" within the primary search interface box permits additional searching by phone number, type of business, or D-U-N-S© Number.

Directory of Corporate Affiliations

<http://www.bizlinkage.com/>

This source is available online on a pay-as-you-go basis. You can run a search for free on a company name, and get city and state of all companies with that name and whether they are branch or headquarter locations. A full report on the company costs \$3.50 and gives the firm's contact information, officers, SIC industry code, brand names, state of incorporation, and other details. For \$6, you can get the corporate hierarchy showing all branch names and locations.

Financial Information

The primary source of financial and other information on U.S. public companies are the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filings (EDGAR). The main reports you will be interested in are the annual (10-K) and quarterly (10-Q) statements, and the proxy statements (DEF 14A). In addition to the main SEC Web site, there are several private providers who have added features to make searching and retrieving these filings more user-friendly.

U.S. Securities Exchange Commission (EDGAR)

<http://www.sec.gov/>

This is the primary source for all government filings for public companies. Filings are available within 24 hours.

FreeEDGAR.com

<http://www.freeedgar.com/>

Powered by the EDGAR Online subscription service, FreeEDGAR makes it easier to examine the raw SEC filings by indexing them and providing a table of contents. Their "Company Dossier" feature isolates the main elements of the 10-Ks and 10-Qs, and also provides links to value-added content such as insider trades, stock quotes, recent federal litigation, and annual reports, where available. Links are also provided to *New York Times* news abstracts, investment research reports and credit reports — the full text of which may be purchased.

EdgarScan

<http://edgarscan.pwcglobal.com/>

EdgarScan pulls EDGAR filings from the SEC's servers, finds key financial tables and normalizes financials to a common format that is comparable across companies. Using hyperlinks, it goes directly to specific sections of the filing, including the financial statements, footnotes, extracted financial data and computed ratios. A special "Benchmarking Assistant" performs graphical financial benchmarking interactively. Tables showing company comparisons can be downloaded as Excel charts and registered users can store company portfolios for future benchmarking.

SEC Info

<http://www.secinfo.com/>

This site offers simultaneous searching of the SEC's EDGAR database and the Canadian Securities Administrators SEDAR database. It can be searched by name, industry, business, SIC code, Zip code and more. SEC Info has added hyperlinks within and between filings to make it easier to retrieve information. It has also extracted and grouped registrants, group members (i.e., related firms), and names (directors, agents, etc.). Free registration is required.

You may want to know more about the different types of SEC filings and what kind of information is contained in each of them. These Web sites can help:

Descriptions of SEC Forms

<http://www.sec.gov/info/edgar/forms.htm>

EDGAR Online Form Type Definitions

<http://www.edgar-online.com/formdef.asp>

Morningstar.com: Using the SEC Online

<http://news.morningstar.com/news/ms/HowTo/usingthesec1/usingthesec1.html>

StockScreener

<http://www.stockscreener.com/>

At this site, you can search for and rank companies within an industry by many different financial performance criteria such as annual revenue and profit/earnings ratio. The site also provides definitions and explanations of these criteria. It is sponsored by Hoover's Inc.

Daily Stocks

<http://www.dailystocks.com/>

Search by ticker symbol or company name. This site integrates the search engines of many online business information and investment/stock sources so that the viewer can go straight to information on the company requested without re-entering the search. **Warning:** free BUT lots of pop-up ads!

MoneyChimp: How to Read an Annual Report

<http://www.moneychimp.com/articles/financials/fundamentals.htm>

Guide to Financials: A Basic Introduction to Reading Financial Statements

<http://www.ibm.com/investor/financialguide/>

Motley Fool: How to Read a Balance Sheet

<http://www.fool.com/school/valuation/howtoreadabalancesheet.htm>

How to Read a Prospectus: Guide for Beginning Investors

<http://www.sos.state.mo.us/securities/pubs/how%20to%20read%20a%20prospectus.pdf>

These online guides provide an excellent introduction to deciphering and interpreting the components of corporate annual reports and financial statements.

Annual Reports Online

<http://www.annualreportservice.com/>

Annual Report Service

<http://www.prars.com/>

Public Register Annual Report Service offers links to online annual reports and a fill-in form to order free company annual reports to be mailed to you. It also maintains brief financial profiles and press releases on a limited number of companies, and links to other sources of company news and financial information. Free registration is required to view reports online.

Report Gallery

<http://www.reportgallery.com/>

Report Gallery links to corporate annual reports posted on corporations' own Web sites.

Company Annual Reports On Line (CAROL)

<http://www.carol.co.uk/>

Company Annual Reports On Line offers links to online annual reports of many European companies (predominantly British), organized both alphabetically by company name and by industry.

Executive Compensation

Here are some Web sites where you can get information on corporate executives and their compensation rates. For public companies, most of this information comes from the company's proxy statement.

Executive PayWatch

<http://www.paywatch.org/>

Published by the AFL-CIO, this site offers the salary and compensation figures for the chief executive officers of the Standard & Poor's 500 corporations.

Financial Times: People

<http://people.ft.com/people/>

Click on "Dossier Index" in the side navigation bar to search for executives by name or by company. Profiles include brief biographical information about the executive, their salary, and links to any related articles and Web sites.

Ecomp Executive Compensation Database

<http://www.ecomponline.com/>

Search for executive salaries and other compensation, e.g., stock options, by company name or ticker symbol.

The following business magazines also provide free executive compensation surveys:

Business Week: Executive Pay

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/01_16/b3728013.htm

Forbes: 800 Best-Paid CEOs

<http://www.forbes.com/ceos/>

Company News

If you are interested in certain public companies over a period of time, you can set up a news tracking system on those companies. We recommend these services in particular:

News Alert Inc.

<http://www.newsalert.com/>

News Alert's free service offers stock quotes and news stories for an unlimited number of ticker symbols. It offers full text of premium news sources from Knight-Ridder Tribune and UPI.

Divine (Northern Light)

<http://www.northernlight.com/>

Free registration is required to set up news alerts. Full text is free for current news from wire services. For other articles and reports, bibliographic and summary information is offered with the option to purchase full text.

Yahoo! Alerts

<http://alerts.yahoo.com/>

This site lets you create a news alert to run in such sources as *USA Today*, Associated Press and Reuters, as well as a number of major local daily newspapers. The alerts will be sent to you by e-mail. You also might want to check other news sources for coverage of the company you're researching. More and more local newspapers have Internet editions. They vary in completeness and searchability but some have extensive searchable archives. Here are some of the best sites that index news media on the Web:

AJR News Link (*American Journalism Review*)

<http://www.newslink.org/news.html>

ABYZ News Links (newspapers, magazines, radio, tv)

<http://www.abyznewslinks.com/>

FindArticles.com (magazines and journals)

<http://www.findarticles.com/>

FindArticles.com is an archive of published articles that you can search for free. It contains articles dating back to 1998 from more than 300 magazines and journals.

AltaVista: News

<http://news.altavista.com/>

AltaVista, powered by Moreover, searches multiple newspapers and delivers full text free where available.

Researchville

<http://www.researchville.com/>

Researchville searches multiple newspapers with one single command. The search results must be retrieved by clicking on each separate newspaper Web site. Basic headlines and bibliographic information are retrieved but the full text may be only available for paid subscribers, depending on the policy of each newspaper.

You may also want to check some of the business magazines and newspapers:

Fortune

<http://www.fortune.com/>

This site includes a searchable archive of news articles going back to September 1995 as well as the Fortune 500 companies and other ranking lists. Some of the lists of special interest are:

Fortune 500

<http://www.fortune.com/lists/F500/index.html>

Best Companies for Minorities

<http://www.fortune.com/lists/diversity/index.html>

Best Companies to Work For (includes separate list of best companies for women)

<http://www.fortune.com/lists/bestcompanies/index.html>

Forbes

<http://www.forbes.com/>

Among the other features of the *Forbes* site are the Forbes 500 Annual Directory, the 200 Best Small Companies and, especially, the 500 Largest Private Companies. Information on these companies includes revenues, profits, number of employees, a brief profile, address, phone, and name and educational background of CEO.

Forbes 500 – Public

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes500/>

Forbes 500 – Private

<http://www.forbes.com/private500/>

200 Best Small Companies in America

<http://www.forbes.com/200best/>

Inc.

<http://www.inc.com/>

This site includes the Inc. 500 (<http://www.inc.com/inc500/index.html>), a fully searchable list of America's 500 fastest growing private companies. Reports show revenue, profitability, number of employees, location, industry, year founded and Web site (if available).

Business Week Online

<http://www.businessweek.com/>

This site offers an archive of articles going back to 1994. Searching is free and it will retrieve a basic citation and summary of the articles. You must register and pay to view full text of most articles. *Business Week* also partners with Business.com to push other Web sites that relate to your search topic.

WSJ.com

<http://online.wsj.com/public/us/>

This site gives Dow Jones business news and press release wires from the last 30 days. It also gives headlines of *Wall Street Journal* stories from the last month but full text is only available by paid subscription.

Bloomberg Online

<http://www.bloomberg.com/>

This site provides the latest financial news and data from Bloomberg. It also provides stock market indices from around the world. Additional information is available to *Bloomberg Personal Magazine* subscribers.

Financial Times

<http://www.ft.com/>

This site contains articles from the *Financial Times* newspaper, including a searchable 30-day archive. And it offers company profiles, a People Dossier with detailed information and links to news stories about corporate executives, and an interactive charting feature that permits comparison of a company's stock with the industry average and common indexes such as the S&P 500.

Report on Business Magazine Top 1000

<http://top1000.robmagazine.com/>

Listing of top Canadian companies, including top private and tech firms. Records contains brief financial information and contact information for each company. Also has list of best paid CEOs.

Legal and Regulatory Materials**EPA's Envirofacts Warehouse — Home Page**

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/>

EPA Civil Enforcement — Consent Decrees

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/decrees/civil/index.html>

EPA Integrated Data for Enforcement Analysis (IDEA)

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/idea/>

The Environmental Protection Agency's Envirofacts Warehouse allows the user to search either particular databases (e.g., Superfund Data, Hazardous Waste Data, Toxic Release Inventory, Water Discharge Permits, and AIRS Facility Subsystem) or all simultaneously through the general query screen. Users can search by facility name, geographical location or industry SIC code. EPA criminal docket information is available through IDEA or may be requested through the Freedom of Information Act.

RTK Net (The Right-to-Know Network)

<http://www.rtk.net/>

Co-sponsored by OMB Watch and The Unison Institute, RTK Net provides free online access to many EPA databases. Not updated as frequently as EPA but the search engine is faster and more user-friendly. Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) database is searchable by parent company as well as facility name. The EPA civil enforcement docket is available here and easily searchable. Finally, it is easy to retrieve the EPA-mandated risk management plan (RMP Search) for a company or facility from RTK Net. This is not currently available from the EPA Web site.

Environmental Defense Scorecard

<http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/>

Environmental Defense provides a more user-friendly search engine for EPA data, allowing a streamlined facility search in its Pollution Locator. The resulting report gives detailed information on the nature of the toxic emissions as well as contact information and SIC code/industry for the facility.

Incorporation

<http://www.afscme.org/wrkplace/incorp.htm>

LLRX.com: Business Filings Databases

<http://www.llrx.com/columns/roundup19.htm>

Business Filings, Inc.: Corporation Filing Requirements for 50 States and District of Columbia

<http://www.bizfilings.com/learning/detailedstateinfo.htm>

For many private companies, the only way to get information about officers and directors is through the annual report. Most states require companies incorporated in those states to file annual reports and these are public records. These Web sites provide links to the state agencies responsible for business filings.

Court Decisions (FindLaw.com)

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/>

FindLaw.com is a very comprehensive index source for legal information on the Internet. This sub-page provides links to all the federal and state court decision Web pages. These vary greatly in currency and quality of the on-site search mechanisms. Each court system must be searched separately and some, such as the PACER system for lower U.S. court decisions, are fee-based.

SEC Enforcement Division Actions

<http://www.sec.gov/enforce.htm>

This site includes administrative proceedings, commission opinions, investor alerts, and releases describing civil and selected criminal proceedings filed in federal court by the Securities and Exchange Commission. It is fully searchable.

Securities Class Action Clearinghouse

<http://securities.stanford.edu/>

Produced by the Stanford University School of Law, this database contains information on federal securities fraud complaints filed, summaries, briefs and settlements organized in alphabetical order by company name. It also contains limited information on state securities fraud complaints.

U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Home Page

<http://www.fdic.gov/>

If you are searching for information on a bank that is a member of the FDIC, the FDIC has just made available online summary financial reports on its members. The site includes detailed balance sheet information and loan portfolio/asset quality data.

National Information Center/Federal Reserve System

<http://www.ffiec.gov/nic/default.htm>

This site contains extensive information about banks and other financial institutions regulated by the Federal Reserve. It includes balance sheets, income statements and details on types of loans for the most recent five quarters. The site also maps the corporate structure and branch locations of the institutions.

National Labor Relations Board

<http://www.nlr.gov/>

The National Labor Relations Board makes its rulings available online from bound volume no. 272 (1984) to date. Historical rulings and the NLRB union representation elections database are available from the agency and information on how to obtain these is available on the NLRB Home Page.

OSHA Statistics and Data

<http://www.osha.gov/cgi-bin/est/est1>

This page on the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Web site allows searching of OSHA inspection data and citations by establishment. The database goes back to 1972 and allows sorting by date of inspection, firm name, or state. As an added bonus, the citation records reveal whether or not the establishment is unionized.

Federal Election Commission

<http://www.fec.gov>

Political Money Line

<http://www.tray.com/FECInfo/index.html-ssi>

Opensecrets.org

<http://www.opensecrets.org/>

At these sites you can find both detailed and summary information, and you can download databases on corporate PAC contributions to candidates for national office. Political Money Line and Opensecrets.org are better organized and easier to use. They offer more varieties of information retrieval, including the ability to search for donations by business/employer as well as individual name, and the ability to search just for soft money contributions.

State Campaign Finance Records

<http://www.afscme.org/wrkplace/campfin.htm>

For each state, this database provides links to sources of campaign financial filings if these are available online, or contact information for obtaining print copies of financial filings.

Mother Jones 400

http://www.motherjones.com/web_exclusives/special_reports/mojo_400/

Top political campaign contributors by industry from *Mother Jones* magazine.

Center for Immigration Studies' Employer Sanctions Database

<http://www.cis.org/sanctions/>

This conservative organization provides a fully searchable database of U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service employer sanctions. Find out if the company you are researching has violated immigration law.

Additional information can be found about hospitals, nursing homes and other entities that are subject to government regulations from the following sources:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

<http://www.hcfa.gov/>

Formerly the Health Care Financing Administration, this Web site provides a considerable amount of raw data on the programs it administers but no search engine that would enable the average user to do a facility search, for example.

American Hospital Directory

<http://www.ahd.com/>

The American Hospital Association also makes CMS (HCFA) data available on this public Web site. AHA data includes hospital contact information and a link to the hospital's Web site. CMS data includes inpatient and outpatient utilization statistics, and basic income and revenue figures. Paid subscribers can get additional data such as detailed financial statements and facility characteristics reports.

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Quality Check

<http://www.jcaho.org/qualitycheck/directry/directry.asp>

Look up the JCAHO accreditation reports for a hospital, nursing facility or other health care organization to see how well it's meeting JCAHO standards.

Nursing Home Compare

<http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/Home.asp>

Produced by CMS (HCFA), this site gives contact information, number of beds, occupancy rate, type of ownership, resident characteristics, results of most recent inspection and staffing levels for skilled nursing facilities.

Miscellaneous Research Links**AFL-CIO Do Buy/Don't Buy**

<http://www.unionlabel.org/>

The AFL-CIO Union Label & Service Trades Department posts lists of which companies and products are supported and which ones are being boycotted by affiliated labor unions.

Co-op America's Boycott Action News

<http://www.coopamerica.org/boycotts/>

Site displays brief descriptions of current boycotts with contact information and how to take action. Site also includes a *Boycott Organizers Guide*.

AFL-CIO Union Busters Web Site

<http://www.aflcio.org/unionbuster/index.htm>

This site keeps track of union elections in which an employer has used a consulting or law firm to defeat the union. Access to this database is password-restricted but union representatives can obtain passwords by filling out the online form. Database is searchable by employer name, union or consulting firm, and reveals whether the representation election was won or lost.

Better Business Bureau

<http://search.bbb.org/search.html>

The Better Business Bureau has integrated the business reports from its regional branches into one searchable Internet database.

CorpWatch.org

<http://www.corpwatch.org/>

A joint project of the Transnational Resource and Action Center and the Institute for Global Communications, this site includes:

- links and resources for corporate research

- action alerts
- transnational corporate news
- Greenwash Awards for worst corporate environmental practices (co-sponsored with Greenpeace)

Corporate Watch (UK)

<http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/>

This site offers a small, but growing, collection of in-depth profiles of multinational companies. In addition, they have indexed their magazine articles by company. The two most useful resources on this site are the *DIY Guide: How to Research Companies* and the search engine which covers multiple corporate social responsibility sites in one search.

Transnationale.org

<http://www.transnationale.org/anglais/default.htm>

This is a multilingual corporate research site based in France. Corporate profiles are very detailed with brand names, financial and shareholder data, CEOs, environmental and labor law violations, layoffs, and other social responsibility details. You can search by company name or by consumer product brand name. Transnationale recently instituted paid registration but the subscription rate, \$27/year, is very reasonable, especially if you are researching foreign companies that are not traded on the U.S. exchanges.

Public Information Network

<http://www.endgame.org/>

This site details some of the negative practices of transnational corporations and available reports. All information is sourced, making this database a good starting point for research on transnationals. It is especially strong on environmental issues. Search alphabetically by company name by clicking on the Directory of Transnational Corporations or on one of the small collection of detailed company profiles.

Public Services International Research Unit

<http://www.psiru.org/>

This site contains profiles of multinational companies involved in privatization of public services. A typical report contains basic information about the company, a list of its subsidiaries and activities around the world, and financial summary information. These are only available to PSI members and a password must be obtained. PSIRU also posts news stories on privatization and special reports which are available to all.

Canadian Union of Public Employees - Privatization

<http://www.cupe.ca/issues/privatization/default.asp>

This site provides stories on privatization of public services and CUPE resources by industry sector. Particularly useful is CUPE's *Annual Report on Privatization*.

Project on Government Oversight Federal Contractor Misconduct Database

<http://www.pogo.org/db/index.cfm>

This database can be searched by many fields including name of federal contractor, type of case, and date. Records show type of case and description of infraction, amount of fine or settlement, disposition, court docket number where applicable, and date.

Multinational Monitor

<http://www.multinationalmonitor.org/>

This is the online edition of *Multinational Monitor* magazine. It is archived back to 1992. The most useful portion is the annual December issue that lists the 10 worst corporations of the year. The Web site is fully searchable.

Best Companies for Working Mothers

<http://www.workingwoman.com/100best.shtml>

Working Mother magazine compiles an annual list of the 100 most woman-friendly companies based on a variety of criteria such as salary rates and provision of day care. Company records show ratings in the four criteria: salary, opportunity for advancement, child care and family friendliness, as well as the number and percentage of female employees working for the company. The online database can be searched by company name or by the criteria.

Domestic Partner Benefits

<http://www.buddybuddy.com/d-p-1.html>

Produced by the Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples, this site provides links to lists of companies that provide employee benefits to unmarried domestic partners.

EEO/Orientation List

<http://qrd.tcp.com/qrd/browse/sexual.orientation.nondiscrimination.list>

This is a regularly updated list of private and public employers that include sexual orientation in their Equal Employment Opportunity statements.

The Corporate Library: International Corporate Governance Research

<http://www.thecorporatelibrary.com/>

Free searches limited to S&P 500 companies only. Paid subscribers gain access to full profiles on over 1600 U.S. and 260 international companies and CEOs. Company profiles show brief but detailed information on corporate governance. Site also has latest news in this area and monitors shareholder actions on this subject.

SocialFunds.com: Corporate Social Research Center

<http://www.socialfunds.com/csr/>

This site provides profiles on corporate social practices and includes company news, links to additional profiles and studies created by a variety of reputable firms in the socially responsible investment business, and shareholder resolutions in this area. Links to major social responsibility indexes, such as the Domini 400, and lists are also available. The Shareholder Action area, powered by the Investor Responsibility Research Center, enables searching for recent proxy resolutions by topic or company.

IdealsWork.com

<http://www.idealswork.com/>

Compare the social and environmental records of thousands of companies organized by product. Brand names are rated and ranked according to the social criteria you select on such issues as labor policies, role of women, gay and lesbian rights, and environmental record.

Responsible Shopper

<http://www.responsibleshopper.org/>

Produced by the consumer organization Co-op America, this Web site allows searches by company, brand name, or product category. Companies within an industry are compared and rated on workplace, environmental, and disclosure criteria. Individual company profiles show company strengths and weaknesses in social responsibility, as well as list the brand names and other holdings of the company. A contact tab provides address, phone, e-mail, and Web site for the company and the viewer may e-mail the company immediately about a variety of social responsibility issues.

Nonprofit Entities

Researching the Tax-Exempt Organization

<http://www.afscme.org/wrkplace/990ind.htm>

The tax-exempt sector is one of the most frustrating areas for corporate researchers. The main source of information for these organizations is the 990 form which they are required to file with the Internal Revenue Service. This Web site provides information on these forms.

GuideStar

<http://www.guidestar.org/>

This Web site offers a searchable database of more than 850,000 tax exempt organizations. Full reports, not available for every organization in the database, give a description of the organization, the IRS employer identification number (EIN), financial information from the 990 filing and the board of directors. GuideStar derives its information from the 990 forms and from information submitted directly to GuideStar by the tax exempt organizations.

Charity Navigator

<http://www.charitynavigator.org/>

Database of over 1,100 major charitable entities. Can be searched by name, region, or category of activity. Records show a brief financial statement, CEO compensation, and rate the charity according to a variety of financial criteria relative to other similar organizations. Basic contact information and a link to the charity's Web site are also given.

Give.org Charity Reports Index

<http://www.give.org/reports/index.asp>

A joint project of the Better Business Bureaus and the National Charities Information, this Web site contains reports in PDF format on hundreds of nonprofit organizations that solicit nationally or have national or international program services. It routinely asks such organizations for information about programs, governance, fund-raising practices and finances when the charities have been the subject of inquiries. Reports provide program, financial and governance information, and rate organizations on their compliance with the Council of Better Business Bureau's Standards for Charitable Solicitation.

National Center for Charitable Statistics

<http://nccs.urban.org/>

The National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS), part of the Urban Institute, is the national repository of data on the nonprofit sector in the United States. Its mission is to develop and disseminate high-quality data on nonprofit organizations and their activities for use in research on the relationships between the nonprofit sector, government, the commercial sector and the broader civil society. NCCS collects and maintains aggregate state data on the nonprofit sector as well as an organization database. The NCCS maintains a good list of links to Internet sites on nonprofits.

State Charity Regulatory Divisions

<http://www.afscme.org/wrkplace/charity.htm>

This site lists contact information for state agencies responsible for regulating charitable solicitations with links to the agency Web sites where available. Some states require charitable organizations to file financial reports and/or their 990s with the state and some have put part or all of that information online.

Major Private Providers of Public Services

There are a number of companies that account for a majority of bids to privatize public services. You can find a list of these companies with links to their corporate Web sites, Hoovers capsules, and Yahoo Finance profiles where available at <http://www.afscme.org/wrkplace/corprsch2.htm>.

Other Online Company Research Guides

There are many different kinds of corporate research guides out there. The most useful ones for union activists are the ones that offer resources to evaluate corporate social responsibility. These are listed first, followed by those that are primarily useful for investment analysis:

Manual of Corporate Investigations

(AFL-CIO Food and Allied Services Trades Department.
Registration required; restricted to unions affiliated with F.A.S.T.)
<http://www.fastaflcio.org/manual.html>

Data Center: Researching a Corporation

http://www.datacenter.org/research/corp_res.htm

CorpWatch: Research Tools

<http://www.corpwatch.org/research/PHR.jsp>

Corporate Watch (UK) DIY Guide: How to Research Companies

http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/publications/diy_research.html

Berkeley Labor Guides: Corporate Research - An Online Guide

<http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/library/blg/corprsch.html>

Co-op America's Guide to Researching Corporations

http://www.coopamerica.org/boycotts/researching_corporations_guide.pdf

Researching Companies Online: A Tutorial

<http://home.sprintmail.com/~debflanagan/index.html>

Company Research

<http://iws.ohiolink.edu/companies/>

The Virtual Chase: Company Information Guide

<http://www.virtualchase.com/Coinfo/index.htm>

Searching for Company Information

<http://www.nypl.org/research/sibl/company/c2index.htm>