

[*KCResearch*: Providing Localized Content with Federated Search Technology]

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[Intro to *KCResearch*]

- Background of the project
- What is *KCResearch*
- Audience
- Funding and structure of project
- Technology
- Let's look at it

Background of the Project

- Kauffman Foundation held a research forum
- Research about Kansas City isn't easily accessible
- Forum participants recommended a research portal
- A partnership was formed to create a research repository/portal
- Kansas City Public Library volunteered to host the portal

Background of Project:

- In June 2001, the **Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation** held a Research Forum that focused on growth and development issues in the metropolitan Kansas City area.
- Among other things, they discussed research about KC, and how un-accessible it is to find research about our metro area.

Research about Kansas City isn't easily accessible:

- Why is that?
- Lots of articles – but no single place to search for them
- KC has a number of organizations producing and disseminating research, but access to that info is fragmented - It's either posted on their website, published in their own format (brochure, white paper, etc), or simply not published (other than the Word document or excel spreadsheet that's been used internally).
- no guarantee that info is archived for future use

So... A partnership was formed to create the portal:

Members:

- KCPL
- Kauffman Foundation
- MARC – (Mid-America Regional Council)
- Center for the City at UMKC
- Bloch School of Business at UMKC
- UMKC University Libraries
- School of Public Admin at KU

Kansas City Public Library volunteered to host the portal. Why?

- We already had much of the needed technology in place, and had the capability of creating and managing the rest
- KCPL became the fiscal agent representing the partnership
- So we created *KCResearch*

[What is *KCResearch*?]

- Definition from our website
- “Official” mission statement
- Goal is to provide a one-stop-shop to research about Kansas City
- Portal = website with a searchable database

Here’s a Definition from our website:

A searchable Web portal that identifies, collects, categorizes and provides access to research information related to the Kansas City regional area.

The early stages of the portal have a two-fold purpose, to provide a wealth of quality, regional information to users and to provide a platform for locally-focused research.

Official mission statement (fyi - it’s a work in progress):

To facilitate research and analysis of regional information for researchers, government, policy makers and the general population by providing a searchable Web portal that identifies, collects, categorizes and provides access to community and academic research related to the Kansas City regional area.

Our Goal...

Portal – We’re calling ourselves a Portal, but really, that translates to a Website with a searchable database (for starters, anyway)

[Uniqueness of Project]

- Community groups, academic institutions, public libraries all coming together
- Unique project:
 - Institutional Repositories – primary sources, shared within one organization
 - Community Information Databases – usually contact information
 - KCRResearch – variety of primary sources from variety of community groups with a narrow focus

Community Groups... very unique partnership

[What is *KCRResearch* – really?]

- Find research about Kansas City
- Any field of study
- Academic, non-academic, community-based
- Link to it, harvest the full-text, or OCR scan the full-text
- Make it all searchable

This is what our planned database will do:

- Researchers will be able to **Find research...**
- In our Database, we **Link to it...**



Everybody, really... but lots of different groups will potentially be interested...

- **Researchers** – we’re hoping that *KCResearch* becomes “The Place to Go” for Kansas City-oriented research
- **General Public** – a one stop shop for KC information
- **Journalists** – fact-finding
- **Advocates** – fact-finding
- **Students and Teachers** – the one-stop-shop again...

Funding and Set-up of Project

- Kauffman Foundation provided grant
- 3-year grant
- Two positions
- Project Advisory Group
- Server and software
- Marketing

Kauffman Foundation provided grant:

- **\$433,000** for the 3-year project!
- **3-year grant** – provides us with two positions, server, software, and marketing.

Two positions:

- **Repository Content Developer:** does more of the techie stuff. In charge of the website, the database, working with database vendor, and doing web searches for content. Making sure content gets put in the database correctly
- **KC Research Librarian:** more of the public face. Calls and meets with potential research providers, meets with researchers, presentations, etc.

Project Advisory Group: A steering committee for the project, made up of people from the project partners I listed earlier

server and software (more about that later)

Marketing – promotional materials, logos, etc.

Technology for KCRsearch

- Federated searching, web harvesting, and manual searches
- Single search interface for separate databases
- Big server, website, xml
- Customizations

Federated searching and web harvesting

- We are planning to use **iVia**, an open source product created by the people running Infomine at the University of California Riverside
- Other great products out there!
- iVia is FREE.

It allows:

- **Federated Searching** – hooking up multiple databases for simultaneous searching
- **Web harvesting** – it also will go to specified websites and pull info off those pages and dumps that info into the search engine's database (sorta like Google)
- **Manual searches** – we also do web searches and database searches, and dump relevant info into our own database – which is hooked up into the search engine via the federated searching thing.

First Goal – hook up our own database and MARC's database together, and also start web harvesting some websites

Customizations

- RSS for searches and subject headings

[Let's see the website]

- <http://www.kcresearch.org/>