UNIVERSITY PRESSES OFFER INSIGHT INTO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

“Books For Understanding” Lists Available Experts and Books For Journalists, Librarians, Researchers, and General Public

NEW YORK (June 21, 2004) – The nonprofit sector and philanthropic foundations are the focus of increased attention, and controversy, today. As key providers of social services, innovators in social reform, funders of new methods of activism, and analysts of public policy—among many other roles—civil society, philanthropic and nonprofit groups are at the center of public debate and policy in the United States and in many other countries around the world.


The nonprofit sector is growing rapidly and with its growth also comes pressure to increase accountability to the public, donors, beneficiaries and government. This resource is made available just in time for increased congressional and IRS scrutiny of nonprofits and foundations in the U.S.

The bibliography, Books for Understanding: The Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy, was compiled by Mark Sidel, Associate Professor, University of Iowa College of Law and Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. Professor Sidel saw an opportunity in Books for Understanding to create a useful tool for both scholars in his field and the wider public that is concerned with the issues of the third sector. His own research and writing focus on philanthropy and the nonprofit sector; law and development; and comparative law with an emphasis on Asia.

Among the titles on the new list are:


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The Books for Understanding program launched the month following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington to help teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers find necessary information. The September 11, 2001 list eventually grew to include more than 650 books from 64 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the site. Today, AAUP continues that public service on many topics of interest to the public.

“We want Books for Understanding to be a constantly expanding, relevant source of the information and resources available in the world of university presses,” said Peter Givler, AAUP Executive Director. “These authors are often in the position of having already published books on subjects central to new and difficult situations. Many of them are also the leading experts in their fields with books and ideas that can help in understanding of cultures, policies, and historical consequences throughout the world.”

The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 125 member publishers. Information about AAUP’s programs, services, and members can be found online at www.aaupnet.org.