

From the Sections of RUSA

# Best of the Best Business Web Resources 2025

## BRASS Education Committee

Emily Mross, Penn State University Libraries, Chair. Committee Members: Genifer Snipes, University of Oregon; Jennilyn Wiley, Auburn University; Alan Witt, SUNY Geneseo; Alice Kalinowski, Stanford University; Anna Milholland, The College of William and Mary; Christopher Sturgeon, University of South Florida; Edward Junhao Lim, University of Connecticut; Emily Da Silva, University of Ottawa; Kate Cummings, University of Scranton; Sarah J. Hammill, Florida International University; Tim Tully, San Diego State University; Laureen Cantwell-Jurkovic, Colorado Mesa University; Rebecca Maniates, New York University Abu Dhabi; Terrence O'Neill, Michigan State University, Benjamin Hall, University of Southern California.

The BRASS Best of the Best Business Reference Web Resources Award was established in 2009. The award recognizes three websites highly relevant to information professionals involved in providing business reference services. The websites were nominated and selected by the BRASS Education Committee members in early 2025. The criteria include the quality of content, ease of use, and technical execution.

This year, we recognize resources that provide free access to international business information, nonprofit records, and data literacy training. Reviews are written by members of the BRASS education committee.

## World Bank Business Ready (B-READY)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/businessready>

The World Bank's new Business Ready (B-READY) site benchmarks the business and investment climate across economies, replacing the former Doing Business report. The complete open-source dataset and a reproducibility package are provided.

The B-READY methodology evaluates economies by assessing ten topics, such as business entry, labor, financial services, and international trade, and organizes this analysis around three pillars: regulatory framework, public services, and operational efficiency.

The strengths of this free resource include a broader, more balanced methodology and integration of de jure and de facto data (considering laws and regulations as well as how they are implemented), while also incorporating themes of digitalization, sustainability, and gender. There are some limitations regarding initial country coverage and ongoing concerns from civil society organizations, including NGOs, labor unions, and advocacy groups, about inclusivity and labor standards.

The first release covers 50 economies, with plans to expand to more than 100 in 2025 and nearly 180 by 2026, refining methodology and data collection in future editions.

*Reviewed by Rebecca Maniates, New York University Abu Dhabi, Education Committee Member 2024–26.*

## **Nonprofit Explorer**

<https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/>

ProPublica's free Nonprofit Explorer provides comprehensive, searchable access to tax filings from over 3 million tax-exempt organizations in the United States. This powerful database allows users to search, browse, and download Form 990 filings dating back to 2013, offering unparalleled transparency into nonprofit operations. The interface includes user-friendly search capabilities by organization name, location, or EIN, while also offering filtering by organization type, revenue size, and filing year.

Beyond mere document access, Nonprofit Explorer extracts and displays key financial data such as revenue, expenses, assets, and executive compensation in easily digestible formats. The platform includes visualization tools that track an organization's financial trends over time, allowing for quick analysis of fiscal health and spending patterns. For business researchers, the database serves as an essential tool for nonprofit sector analysis, competitive intelligence, and identification of funding sources and partnership opportunities.

ProPublica regularly updates the database as new filings become available from the IRS, ensuring researchers have access to the most current information about tax-exempt entities. The combination of comprehensive data coverage, intuitive design, and powerful analytical capabilities makes Nonprofit Explorer an indispensable resource for business librarians, nonprofit researchers, grant writers, and anyone seeking transparency in the nonprofit sector.

*Reviewed by Edward Junhao Lim, University of Connecticut, Education Committee Member 2023–25*

## **Data Quality Literacy: A Guidebook**

<https://www.dataqualityliteracy.org/a-guidebook>

This ebook equips information professionals, researchers, and students with the skills to critically evaluate data quality, edited by business librarians Grace Liu, Bobray Bordelon, Rashelle Nagar, Uyen Nguyen, Jordan Sarti, and Jennifer C. Boettcher. It was developed as a deliverable of an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)-funded project.

The edited volume is based on a series of national forum webinars, which were compiled and enhanced with infographics and supplementary materials. The guidebook covers various aspects of data quality literacy, including quality assurance in data creation, governmental and commercial data, data reproducibility and preservation, and more. The book's website also includes the original presentations, slides, and transcripts of each session.

This resource is invaluable for librarians involved in data literacy instruction, researchers seeking to strengthen their understanding of research data, and anyone striving to become more discerning data users. While it is available as an open-access ebook, it is also available in a print-on-demand paperback format for \$15.53.

*Reviewed by Alice Kalinowski, Stanford University, Education Committee Member 2023–25*

## AI Transformation Case Studies

<https://aiexpertnetwork.notion.site/AI-Transformation-Case-Studies-779878d924fa466186071b7939d7599a>

The "AI Transformation Case Studies" Notion workspace, published by AI Expert Network (AIX), expands its "AI in Action" newsletter and Substack. The site provides a free, curated repository of business AI implementation examples. AIX is a global organization connecting businesses with AI professionals. This collection of case studies addresses the scarcity of documented real-world business AI deployments. The collection provides over 200 case studies indexed by company, industry, use case, and technology. Each case study presents structured information, including company approach, implementation, challenges, results, takeaways, and referenced sources.

*Reviewed by Benjamin Hall, University of Southern California, Education Committee Member 2024–26*