Civic Research Institute Records

1920-ca. 1966
15 cubic feet (700 Folders); oversize panoramic photograph

Working papers for the Institute, whose purpose was to study problems in the Kansas City area with regard to politics, health, police, city budgets, charters, and state reorganization, independent of influences of local governments. The work involved preparing in-depth studies of the specific problem, its causes and possible solutions. These records contain much of the raw data collected during the research process.

HISTORY

The Civic Research Institute was initially founded in September 1920, by Henry D. Faxon, W.B. Henderson, Howard McCutcheon and Walter Matscheck. The Name originally adopted by these men was The Public Service Institute of Kansas City.

The plan for a research organization was originally found within the Kansas City Board of Public Welfare which contained a Research Bureau. The Politics of Reform, by A. Theodore Brown, cites a 1913 publication of this Research Bureau entitled Social Prospectus of Kansas City, Missouri. The Prospectus analyzed the composition of the city’s population by economic level, occupation, education, nationality, race and location of residence. Their analysis of the North-End, with comments on resulting problems and their solutions, may be called a prototype for future Civic Research Institute studies.

The establishment of the Public Service Institute as a private bureau eliminated governmental control or manipulation of research data. This became a most important factor as the Pendergast machine assumed power over city and county governments.

By October 1920, a Board of Trustees had been selected for the Institute. W.B. Henderson served as the first Chairman and Walter Matscheck was the first
Director of the Institute. Initial funding for the Institute was provided by William Volker. Later funding was received from private and civic foundations, donation and individual subscriptions.

The purpose of the Institute was the study of problems in the Kansas City area with regard to politics, health, police, city budgets, charters and state reorganization. The work involved preparing in-depth studies of the specific problem, its causes and possible solutions. Extensive surveys were undertaken by the Institute as a check on city assessments and as a means of anticipating future problems.

In the fall of 1931 the name of the Institute was officially changed to The Civic Research Institute. The Institute continued to be an active research facility into the 1960’s when other local research agencies and foundations became active.

PROVENANCE:

These records were acquired as the gift of the General Library of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. They were accessioned by Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City as 0005kc on May 9, 1980.

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Specific item; folder number; Civic Research Institute Records (K0071); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

These papers cover the period 1920-ca. 1965. There is a lack of material for the late 1940’s through 1960. Information on a wide range of civic problems is included in the papers. As these are the working papers for the Institute, much of
the raw data collected during the research process is available for study. Major research topics include: the Kansas City Police Department; Kansas City Charters; Health Surveys; Tax Reassessment studies; Public Opinion Polls; and Jackson County Organization. Located within the Collection are also files dealing with Civic Research Institute finances which include both contributions and expenditures. The collection is arranged approximately in the same filing format that the Institute used.

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Folder 19. Kansas City Public Service Institute Filing System, 1923

Folder 20. Civic Research Institute Fifteen Year Report of Progress

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Folder 510. Hospitals – St. Joseph
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Joseph, Reports, 1940

Folder 511. Hospital #2, St. Joseph
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Folder 512. Hospital and Health Committee Minutes, 1925
Folder 513. Kansas City – Health and Hospitals
Newsclippings, May 13, 1943-January 22, 1949

PUBLIC UTILITIES
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Folder 515. Utility Notes
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Correspondence, January 31, 1938-May 8, 1939
Folder 516. Kansas City – Utilities
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Excerpts on Various Ordinances, Resolutions, Bond Programs,
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Folder 517. Utility Rates
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REPORTS
Folder 520. “Fifteen Years of the Civic Research Institute”, Suggested Report,
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Folder 521. “Industrial Index, Index to Permanent Brackets” undated
Folder 522. “Industrial Survey of Chile” undated
Folder 523. “International Trade and Foreign Investment and Domestic
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Associated Industries of Missouri, undated
Folder 525. “Kansas City Railway and Light Company Annual Report,” May
31, 1908
Folder 526. “Kansas City Railway and Light Company Annual Report,” May
31, 1909
Folder 527. “Stenographic Report of Proceeding of Meetings of Committee of
100 on the Street Railway Situation and of its Sub-Committees,”
1919
Folder 528. “Report on the Proposed Street Lighting Contract Between the City
and The Kansas City Power and Light Company,” May 1921
Folder 529. “A New Charter for Kansas City? What Shall It Be?” June 1921
Folder 530. “City Finance Facts,” June 1921
Folder 531. “Kansas City’s Sinking Funds,” September 1921

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Folder 532. “Kansas City’s Sinking Funds: Present Condition and Effect of Proposed Bond Issues on the Tax Rate for Debt Purposes,” September 1921
Folder 534. “Cleaning Kansas City’s Streets,” November 1921
Folder 535. “Forms of Government in Cities with a Population of 250,000 or More,” December 1921
Folder 536. “Kansas City Charters,” December 1921
Folder 538. “Summary of Findings and Recommendations (Report on Finance and Accounting Offices of Kansas City),” February 1922
Folder 539. “Public Health in Kansas City,” April 1922
Folder 540. “Suggestions for a Segregated Budget System for Kansas City,” September 1923
Folder 541. “Report on Examination of Books and Accounts of Kansas City, Missouri,” April 21, 1924
Folder 542. “Report on Finances of the Institute Fiscal Year September 1924 to August 1925”
Folder 543. “Preliminary Report of the Kansas City Public Improvement Association,” 1925
Folder 544. “Comparative Pavement Costs in Kansas City for the Fiscal Years 1925 & 1926”
Folder 546. “Receipts and Expenditures of the City Government of Kansas City 1913-1923,” August 1925
Folder 547. “General Statement Concerning Fire Department Bonds” December 1925
Folder 548. “Inspection of Existing Fire Stations,” December 1925
Folder 549. “Memorandum to the Finance Committee of the Bond Advisory Council,” December 1925
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“Cost of Government in Kansas City, Missouri,” December 1925
Folder 551. “Payroll of Jackson County, Missouri as of December 31, 1925”
Folder 552. “Consolidated Statement of City Payroll as of November 30, 1925,” January 1926
Folder 553. “Report of Work Performed by the Various Departments of Kansas City’s Municipal Government,” January 1926
Folder 554. “Discussion of the City Manager’s Statement of the City Deficit at April 30, 1926”
Folder 555. “Report of the Kansas City Public Service Institute for the Year 1927”
Folder 556. “Comments on the Proposed Police Pension System,” February 1927
Folder 557. “Statement in Regard of the Sinking Fund and Interest Requirements of the Kansas City School District,” March 1927
Folder 560. “Retail and Wholesale Trade of Kansas City, Missouri,” December 1927
Folder 563. “Report of a Study of the Water Department of Kansas City, Missouri,” January 1928
Folder 564. “Some Facts and Considerations Relative to Kansas City’s Bonded Debt, Present and Future,” February 1928
Folder 565. “Summary – General County Welfare and the County Court,” March 1928
Folder 566. “Expenditures from the Fire and Hospital Bond Funds,” May 1928
Folder 569. “Study Prepared by Corbett Long Regarding County Welfare Homes,” 1929-1934
Folder 570. “Financial Considerations in Preparation of a Ten Year Financial and Improvement Program for Local Governments of Kansas City, Part I – The City,” January 1929
Folder 571. “A Report Upon An Investigation of the City’s Purchasing Methods and Procedure,” April 1929
Folder 573. “Report of the Subcommittee on Ten-Year Budget,” 1930(?)
Folder 574. “Suggested Amendments to Articles XIX Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919, Relating to the Organization and Operation of the Police Department of Kansas City,” 1930
Folder 575. “Report: The Jackson County Sewer District, Number 1,” May 1930
Folder 576. “National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement,” 1931
Folder 577. “Uniform Crime Classification of the Police Department, Kansas City, Missouri,” 1931
Folder 578. “Health and Hospital Survey Part I – Health,” February 1931
Folder 579. “Health and Hospital Survey Part II – Hospitals,” February 1931
Folder 580. “Climbing the Hill of Good Government: Ten Years of Progress in Government, Ten Years of Research Service, Ten Years from Now,” May 1931
Folder 582. “Report on Investigation of the City Manager’s Emergency Fund for the Period from Oct 12, 1931 to April 18, 1939”
Folder 584. “Condemnation Procedure in Kansas City,” November 1931
Folder 585. “Methods of Reducing the Cost of Government,” January 1932
Folder 586. “Progress Report of Joint Committee on Standardization of Rental Rates for State Owned Equipment and Establishment of Relationship between these Rentals and those Recommended for Privately-Owned Equipment,” January 1932
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Folder 589.  “Inter-Chamber Health Conservation Contest Report of Kansas City, Missouri for 1931,” February 1932
Folder 590.  “Welfare (Poor Relief) Activities of Wyandotte County, Kansas,” March 21, 1932
Folder 591.  “Jackson County Offices: Payroll and Expenses,” May 1932
Folder 592.  “Consolidation of City and County Tax Assessments and Collections,” July 1932
Folder 593.  “Plan for the Reorganization of Tax Assessment and Collection Procedure in Kansas City and Jackson County,” August 1932
Folder 594.  “Revised Draft of Bill for Reorganization of County Government,” August 1932
Folder 595.  “Tax Assessments and Collections in Kansas City and Jackson County,” August 1932
Folder 596.  “Partial Report on City Bond Funds,” October 1932
Folder 598.  “A Bill to Reorganize Assessment and Taxation Procedure of Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri,” January 1933
Folder 599.  “Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce Advertising Media,” January 1933-September 1936
Folder 600.  “Expenditures From Ten-Year Plan Bond Funds,” January 1933
Folder 601.  “Trends in City Finance in Kansas City, Missouri,” March 1933
Folder 603.  “City, School and County Debt Requirements and Probable Tax Rates Next Ten Years,” June 1933
Folder 604.  “Seven Years of Council-Manager Government in Kansas City,” July 1933
Folder 605.  “Charts on Local Government Finance,” September 1933
Folder 606.  “Trends in County Finance, Jackson County, Missouri,” September 1933
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Folder 608.  “Fire Insurance of the Kansas City School District” 1934
Folder 610.  “The Tax Problem in Missouri,” March 1934
Folder 611.  “Registration and Voting in Kansas City,” July 1934
Folder 612.  “How the General Property Tax Levy, Per Capita, In Kansas City Compared other Per Capita Levy in Other Cities of Kansas City’s Population Class 1917 to 1932,” August 1934
Folder 615.  “Beginning a New Era,” March 1935
Folder 617.  “Kansas City Facts Concerning the City and Its Supporting Area,” 1936
Folder 619.  “Growing Up: 21 Years of Education with the International Ladies Garment Worker’s Union,” 1938
Folder 620.  “A Brief Report Including Suggestions for Amending the Jones-Munger Tax Law” Prepared by Civic Research Institute, 1939
Folder 623.  “Bond Funds Report on Examination of Accounts from Inception of Ten-Year Plan to April 30, 1939”
Folder 624.  “General Fund Report on Examination of Accounts for the Year Ended April 30, 1939”
Folder 626.  “Park Department Report on Examination of Accounts for the Year Ended April 30, 1939”
Folder 627.  “Report on Examination of Tax Assessments, Abatements, and Collections, for the Year Ended April 30, 1939”
Folder 629. “Report on Budgets, Appropriation Ordinances, and Appropriation Ledgers” September 13, 1939


Folder 631. “Report to the Citizens Audit Committee and the County Court of Jackson County, Missouri,” November 1939


Folder 633. “Statistics for Public School Systems,” 1940


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Folder 635. “Report on a Study of the School System of Kansas City, Missouri,” January 10, 1940

Folder 636. “Measuring the Efficiency of Government Operation and Utilizing Unit Costs” by Griffenhagen and Associates, June 17, 1940

Folder 637. “Interstate Trade Barriers,” October 23, 1940
  “Current Developments in Retail Trade in the West Central Region,” 1946
  “An Address by Arthur Paul Before the Commerce and Industry Association,” January 8, 1946

Folder 638. “Real Estate Assessment Manual Kansas City, Missouri,” November 1940


Folder 640. “Report of Examination,” April 30, 1941

Folder 641. “Farm Security Administration, United States Department of Agriculture,” May 1, 1941

Folder 642. “List of Organizations and Persons Represented at the Urban-Rural Conference,” May 23, 1941

Folder 643. “Directory of Local Civic Organizations 1941,” June 1941


Folder 646. “Public Assistance in Jackson County,” 1942
Folder 647. “Teacher Salaries,” January 1942
Folder 649. “Kansas City Fire Department: Facing the Future,” April 1943
Folder 650. “City Problems,” July 9, 1943, October 1, 1943
Folder 651. “Argentina: Part I Mining and Manufacturing,” September 1943
Folder 652. “For the Nation’s Security,” Fall 1943
Folder 655. “Summary of Foreign Trade of the United States Calendar Year 1941,” May 1944
Folder 656. “Survey of the Cooperative Movement in the American Republics,” May 1944
Folder 657. “Bureau of Internal Revenue Pension Trust Division Information Service” 29 July 1944-9 January 1946
“Index of the Journal of the Constitutional Convention of Missouri 1943-1944,” 1944
Folder 659. “Summary of Economic Information Australia,” 1945-1946
Folder 660. “Summary of Economic Information Brazil,” 1945-1946
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Folder 662. “Summary of Economic Information Colombia,” 1945-1946
Folder 663. “Summary of Economic Information Fiji Islands,” 1945-1946
Folder 664. “Summary of Economic Information Jamaica,” 1945-1946
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Folder 666. “Foreign Trade in a Stable Postwar World,” May 23, 1945
Folder 667. “Resumption of United States Trade with the Far East,” December 1945
Folder 668. “Guiding the Growth of the Metropolitan Area,” 1947
Folder 669. “An Outline of a Program for Citizen Action,” no date
“Suggested Program of Public Improvements for Jackson County,” May 1947
Folder 670. “Flood Protection for the Kansas Citys,” May 1947
Folder 671. “The St. Louis Police Department – A Resurvey,” February 1948
Folder 673. “Report on Selected Aspects of the November 8, 1960 General Election (Kansas City, Missouri),” December 7, 1960
Folder 674. “Presidents and Past Presidents General Assembly of Greater Kansas City, 1961-1963”
Folder 678. “Report on Survey Findings: Voter Preferences for City Councilman and City Manager,” February 1, 1961
Folder 686. “Institute for Community Studies with Supplement,” 1966
Folder 687. “Mental Health in the Community: A Follow-up Study of Former Mental Patients,” August 1967
Folder 688. The Government of Jackson County, Missouri: Potential, Report II Miscellaneous Papers Correspondence, February 1948
Folder 689. *The Government of Jackson County, Missouri: Report I*  
Miscellaneous Papers  
Correspondence, January 28-February 17, 1948

Rough Draft  
Correspondence, April 14-15, 1948  
Newspapers, April 16, 1948

Folder 691. Miscellaneous Publications  
“Greater Cleveland,” November 18, 1937  
“A Key to Good Government,” December 1939  
“Kentucky School Journal Quality Teaching,” January 1961

Folder 692. Photo Statting Study (1925-1927)  
Copies of Indentures, Miscellaneous Photocopying Catalogs, Memorandums  
Correspondence, September 24, 1925-November 25, 1927

Folder 693. Photo Statting Study (1928-1940)  
Photostat Recording – Jackson County, Missouri, News Articles, Pamphlets  
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Folder 694. Photo Statting Study (1928-1940)  
Status of Organization, Services, Economics Report (5 December 1925), Cost of Recording, Catalogs, Miscellaneous  
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Folder 695. Miscellaneous Photographs  
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Folder 696. Motion Pictures  
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Folder 697. Civic Research Institute – Newspapers, ca. 1938-1941

Folder 698. Miscellaneous – Newspapers, ca. 1938-1941  
Housing, Towne Meetings, K.C. Aliens, City Hospital, Welfare Department

Folder 699. Miscellaneous Newspapers, October, December, 1960; April 1962

Folder 700. “Public Affairs,” 1926—publication of the Kansas City Public Service Institute [with index]