

Kirmser Scholarship Essay
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How Hale helped me Revive Troost

All my life I've lived in Kansas City, Missouri. In highschool my eyes were opened to the role Troost avenue played in dividing my hometown. I did a quick search and saw that there have been plans drafted to revive Troost but they were not developed, so I wanted to propose a feasible solution to Troost's current state. Once I got the opportunity to do undergraduate research on this topic I took it. I looked into the history of Troost avenue and looked for solutions to the vacant lots left by population decrease in this area. I did background reading from books in Hale Library and archival research online through the Kansas City Public Library's website. Through this I discovered the history of Troost and Kansas City and developed a passion for fixing my hometown's broken community.

Overall my strategy for gathering information was archival research. My book sources were from Hale library's special collections, regular collection, my mentor's personal library, and Kansas City Public Library's online Mid-valley Collection for historic photos. I'll admit that in the beginning stages of my research I was overwhelmed. I was not sure where to get books at Hale for they weren't right on the floor I walked into then I wasn't sure how the books were organized. I reached out to my mentor for help and she directed me to Ellen Urton, academic librarian for the College of Architecture. Ellen met me in the old Weigel library in Seaton Hall. She took the time to ask me what I was researching and what my goals were. She walked me through K-State libraries website. She took me to Search It and taught me how to use punctuation to produce different results after a search. She put me at ease that I was not the only person struggling to find their way in undergraduate research. I owe her for introducing me to Refworks and essentially the K-State library system. Ellen also showed me K-Rex and showed me how to look at resources used for other research projects focused on Kansas City.

After speaking with Ellen, I used K-State libraries website link to Search it to look for books that included "Kansas City", "race", and "division" in the title. After that I quickly read through books in Hale I thought would give me the information I was looking for and created a miniature book report before I read the full book. I liked this method for filtering out sources because I can still use the sources I glimpsed at for later research. I primarily kept my information for my research on physical paper because I don't have a laptop of my own, then I used the desktops in Hale to type up my citation for my bibliography. After I got my background information down, I gathered photos from Kansas City Public Library because they had a lot of historic photos specifically of Troost. From there I used the book *Phyto*, which I got from my mentor, for the scientific element of my solution and created the design for my poster and demo park.

In conclusion, my research would not have gotten off the ground without K-State's library system. Ellen Urton and the wonderful staff of Hale's Special collections were amazing contributors. Libraries hold value to me and without them I'd still be a lost undergraduate with a vision but no means of creating.