



Public Works for a Better Government

May 16, 2016

Public.Resource.Org Receives 3-Year Grant From Arcadia

Public.Resource.Org (“Public Resource”) is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the Arcadia Fund in support of our work to make public safety codes incorporated by law available to the public. Public Resource has been working since 2007 to make these crucial public safety codes—such as building codes, fire codes, and codes governing the safety of toys and infant products—available for open access on the Internet.

Public safety laws are no different than any other law, they are the rulebook by which we make our societies safe. Even though ignorance of the law is no excuse, many public safety codes with the force of law have been only available under stringent terms of use and at very high prices. In a democracy, the law is owned by the people, and it is essential that citizens be able to read and speak the laws by which we are governed.

Arcadia (www.arcadiahfund.org.uk) is a philanthropic foundation chartered in the United Kingdom which provides support to charities and scholarly institutions that preserve cultural heritage and the environment and promote open access. Since 2002, Arcadia has awarded more than \$363 to projects around the world.

Arcadia began supporting Public Resource with grants of \$100,000 in 2014 and 2015. These grants were instrumental in establishing open access to key public safety codes on 3 continents. With this new grant, support is being provided at \$100,000 per year for 2016-2017, enabling Public Resource to continue our work.

In 2016, particular focus is being paid to 19,000 standards issued by the Government of India that govern many aspects of industrial, agricultural, and personal safety in India. Through our efforts, these important resources are being made available to students, government workers, and citizens in India in new and improved formats suited to the modern web. Documents such as the National Building Code of India are critical educational resources for the millions of engineering students of India, and an essential resource for government workers at all levels who were previously unable to afford the \$200 price for the book.

“I am very gratified that Arcadia has shown such faith in our work,” said Carl Malamud, President of Public Resource. “Their continued support has been crucial in our efforts. Arcadia’s commitment to promoting open access throughout the world is inspirational.”

Public Resource is non-profit corporation founded in 2007, chartered in California and registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a public charity. In addition to make public safety codes enacted into law available, Public Resource has been responsible for making numerous other government databases available, including 14,000 hours of video of Congressional Hearings, 8 million non-profit tax returns from the Internal Revenue Service, and the historical opinions of the U.S. Court of Appeals.