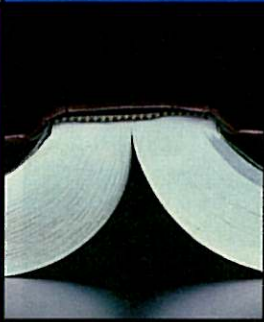




# On the Hunt

*College hopefuls search for scholarships*

By Amy Vaerewyck



**C**ollege tuition is expensive. Everyone knows it. No one wants to pay it. Some don't have to.

For many students, scholarships are tickets for the flight to higher education.

No longer are college scholarships exclusive to 7-foot centers and star quarterbacks. In fact, according to College Is Possible (an educational campaign of the

Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities), in 1995-96 only 1 percent of undergraduates received athletic scholarships.

If you know to what college(s) you want to apply, go directly to the college's financial aid office for scholarship and aid information.

Otherwise, plan on a trip to the local library.

Unlike most institution-given scholarships, which are bequeathed automatically based on transcripts and test scores, private scholarships demand a bit more footwork, in the form of research, applications and sometimes essays. Although most are relatively small (\$500 or less), they can cover smaller costs, like textbooks or rent, or stack up to take out a sizable tuition chunk.

"Even if the dollar amounts are small, it makes sense to apply for all private scholarships for which one might qualify," advises the College Is Possible Web site.

The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Central Branch is an oasis of scholarship information. Go to the Social Sciences department where Foundation Collection Supervisor Kathy Diehl — or one of the seven other social sciences librarians — will greet you with a smile and a wealth of information on how to get money for college.

"You're unlikely to get everything paid for but we can direct you (to sources)," Diehl says. "The fun part of being a reference librarian is that you're a detective."

Diehl has been hunting down resources for library patrons for 28 years. She advises students to think about what they want to find before coming to the library. Once there, Diehl says, don't be afraid to ask questions.

"Talk with us. We aren't going to bite," Diehl says, her easy smile returning.

When students or their parents come in, Diehl first finds out if they have Internet access at home. If so, she sits them down ▶ ▶ ▶