Basic Bookkeeping

Assets

Assets are probable future economic benefits obtained or controlled by a particular entity as a result of past transactions or events. Anything that has an economic value and can be owned or controlled to produce value has the potential to produce such future economic benefits. Whether tangible or intangible, ownership of any form of value such as cash money or stock is considered to be an asset.

Liabilities

Probable future sacrifices of income or assets, arising from present obligation to a particular entity. If liabilities are settled, they may become transferred assets or provide services to other entities in the future as a result of past transactions or events. A liability is a duty or responsibility to another in return for some form of debt such as a business loan which would entail the settlement of that loan.

Accounts Receivable

This type of record is used to keep track of money that is owed to a business. Such money can come from extending credit to a customer who purchases the businesses products or services. The best way to keep track of these figures is to set up a separate accounts receivable record for each customer.

Accounts Payable

This type of record is used to keep track of debts owed by a business to creditors for purchased goods or services. Though the business will likely be billed regularly by its creditors for the balance on the account, having its own records will allow the business to be aware of their financial standing with the creditors at any given time.

Revenue

The fee paid to a lender for a loan or all transactions for which monies are received. It can be the income from products and services sold and the use of investments. Revenue can also be a transaction and the resulting income for which monies are received, however, loan funds and equity deposits are not considered revenue.

The Accounting Equation

The accounting equation is simple. It is the combination of liabilities and equity, which equals assets.

Assets = Liabilities + Equity

The accounting equation helps to identify the relationship between crucial elements of accounting. An asset is anything of value, that which a company owns. Assets consist of tangible and intangible assets. Examples of current assets include: bonds, cash, and property. Liabilities are, a company's existing debts that are owed to third parties .Examples of liabilities would be, accounts payable, wages payable and interest payable.