Policy Commons

A one-stop community platform for objective, fact-based research from the world’s leading policy experts, nonpartisan think tanks, IGOs and NGOs.

We’re the first to present think-tank publishing as a formal body of literature in its own right, with tools to search it, cite it, understand its impact, catalog it, and preserve it for the long term.

Join us now at https://policycommons.net and receive immediate access, with no commitment.
Policy Commons provides one-stop advanced search across more than 24 million pages of books, articles, working papers, reports, policy briefs, data sets, tables, charts, media, case studies, and statistical publications. It's built around a specially commissioned directory of more than 21,000 respected policy organizations around the world. It's focused on preserving this content, much of which is scattered around the internet, and in danger of disappearing. It delivers licensed premium content, open content, user-contributed items, and more.

Policy reports present high quality, factually based content that's often more current than the journal literature. They cover a wide range of topics including social issues.
Discovery highlights

Coverage of major organizations
We index content from major international organizations, such as the World Bank, IMF, FAO, WHO, and EU comprehensively and frequently. This is complemented with coverage of critical NGOs, such as Pew Research Center, American Enterprise Institute, and Russell Sage Foundation. Sites are indexed weekly or monthly as needed.

Coverage of smaller organizations
We selectively index items from over 1,000 smaller organizations and will extend coverage to another 10,000 over the next months. Our editors and advisers choose which organizations to add next based on the value of the content published and in consideration of member needs; this is a curated body of literature. We pay special attention to organizations that represent diverse perspectives, are hard-to-find and often disappear. Even when they can be located, smaller sites are difficult to search, and have changing URLs that make them hard to cite.

On demand coverage
Institutional members may request custom coverage of three policy organizations. When combined with our Alert service, custom indexing allows researchers easily to research, cite and keep current on topics that matter to them.

Specific focus on African content
The directory includes detailed listings for more than 700 African think tanks so far. We currently include 45,000+ reports from 160+ of these organizations, and in the months ahead we’ll be adding content from more and more of them.

Link repair and saved copies—as backup in case content disappears
We allocate persistent identifiers to all our records (so they can be cited with confidence) and where possible, we save copies and preserve them for the future.
Premium content highlights

Premium content from think tank presses
We’ve licensed over 100,000 pages of books, reports, statistics, and archival material from the publishing arms of think tanks and others. Included are back-catalogs, content from the Environmental Law Institute Press, the Council of Europe, the Africa Institute of South Africa Press, the African Public Policy and Research Institute, and more.

Content from inactive organizations
We include 45,000 documents 300,000+ pages from over 340 organizations that have disappeared. Coverage is both global and regional, ranging from the Foundation for International Relations to the Economic Institute of Cambodia. We’ve added persistent identifiers and preserved this material, ensuring the completeness of the academic record—and this collection will grow.

The Canadian Public Policy Document Collection
A curated collection of over 60,000 reports, briefs, and analyses from Canada’s leading think tanks. The collection covers public health, the environment, international affairs, aboriginal rights, and other areas from 1953 to today.

Policy Archive
A comprehensive digital library of public policy research launched in 2008 by the Center for Governmental Studies. Policy Archive has preserved more than 30,000 items going back to the early 1980s, collected from over 1,000 organizations. Now available exclusively through Policy Commons, the collection includes the full digital archives of the Center for Governmental Studies, the Markle Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation Research Directory.

Think tank directory
Our newly commissioned, exclusive Organizations Directory contains 21,100 entries detailing NGOs, IGOs, think tanks, and research institutes. It’s continually updated. Use it to identify organizations by subject, budget, and other metrics and go directly to organization sites.
Functionality highlights

Advanced Search

Zero in on information you need with Boolean operators, field-specific search, multiple facets, and a growing number of controlled terms.

Advanced search
With so much content, fast and easy searching is critical. More than 70% of items are tagged with a formal thesaurus, so it’s easy for users to find what they need. How have views on immigration policy changed between the 1980s and 2010? When did topics such as “the future of work” become part of policy conversation?

Repository service
Upload up to 50 GB of reports or add links to third party content. Your uploads are enriched and processed using our tools and made available to Policy Commons members within minutes.

Follow alert service
Follow organizations, topics, even your own custom searches. You’ll get an email alert whenever new documents are added.

Library features
We offer a full suite of permissions tools, including Shibboleth, Athens and Ez-Proxy authentication, and provide MARC records for premium content and COUNTER usage stats. For larger libraries, we offer licenses for data mining.
More content

We’ll add indexing coverage for another 10,000 organizations over the next months—over 200,000 full-text reports in all. In addition, we’ll license hundreds of thousands of pages of premium content.

Bibliography Builder

Mark individual results and save sets of results. Export these sets with links to LibGuides and library-branded web pages. Each set is displayed on a web page that can be custom branded.

Tabular data extraction and conversion

Unless you read through a report, you don’t know if there are charts and tables inside—that may be important to you. Coming soon: A new tool to search inside reports for tables, and to convert those tables into Excel.
## Membership value

*Policy Commons memberships are available to policy organizations, corporations, governments, and educational institutions. Pricing is scaled to an institution’s size and budget type.*

- An index with advanced search and full-text links to over 2.3m reports, working papers, policy briefs, data, and media.
- Daily, weekly and monthly coverage of 1,000+ organizations, growing to 10,000 organizations.
- Link repair and selected saved copies as backup in case content disappears.
- Searchable directory of 21,000 organizations.
- Over 500,000 pages of premium content, much of it exclusive.
- Repository service—upload up to 50 GB of reports and make them available to Policy Commons members within minutes.
- Custom portals branded with your organization’s logo*
- Custom indexing and coverage of 3 sites of your choice.
- Follow and alert service.
- Indexing and conversion of tabular data within reports*
- COUNTER compliant usage statistics.
- MARC records for premium content.
- Optional perpetual license with data mining rights.
Join now!

Get immediate access to the database at https://policycommons.net
For pricing or a free institution-wide trial contact us at
information@coherentdigital.com

“WeG0s, NGOs, and think tanks publish informally, making
discovery hard, cataloging impossible, and preservation a
nightmare. Policy Commons solves this, bridging practice
and scholarship as a one-stop discovery hub, with
guaranteed full-text access and community features that
set it apart from traditional aggregation solutions.”

Toby Green, former COO of OECD, and Director, Coherent Digital