



Policy Commons

The One-Stop Hub for Public Policy Research



Policy Commons

Policy Commons is the largest and most comprehensive content-and-discovery platform and community resource for public policy. No other policy source is more inclusive or more broadly relevant.

It delivers more than 2.5 million reports, working papers, policy briefs, data sources, and media drawn from a directory of more than 8,000 IGOs, NGOs, think tanks, and research centers—including the complete historical output of select organizations and a mix of born-digital content and items dating as far back as 1920. Over 100,000 of the documents are accessible exclusively in this resource, including material from 100 or more organizations that were influential and then ceased to exist. Continually growing, it will deliver 5 million items within the next year.

Access to *Policy Commons* lets students, faculty, researchers, and policy professionals be more productive, speeding access and discourse across a wide range of disciplines—economics, history, political science, statistics, geography, international development, and area studies.

Faculty and researchers can upload and circulate new materials and share links to publications. Over time, they'll see the activity around these items and build traffic back to their own academic or library websites. Users can follow and share topics of interest from a directory of over 5,000 curated topics—including real-time coverage of COVID-19, police reform, Brexit, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other central topics.

The Best Content

Content is harvested comprehensively and frequently from major international organizations, such as OECD, UN, World Bank, IMF, FAO, WHO, and EU, and complemented with the output from critical NGOs, such as Pew Research Center, American Enterprise Institute, and Russell Sage Foundation. Coherent's editors ensure broad geographical and political coverage by identifying sources that most search engines deprecate. More than 100,000 of the documents—over 500,000 pages of books, reports, statistics, and archival material—are premium items included through special and often exclusive arrangements with leading organizations in the field, such as Center for Governmental Studies, Environmental Law Institute, and others.

Highlights

→ Content from Discontinued Organizations

A special collection of 100,000 pages of reports and out-of-print materials from 100 think tanks that closed their doors between 1970 and 2019.

The collection will grow to more than 500,000 pages by the middle of 2021. Subjects range from international development and foreign affairs to economic and social policy. Coverage is both global and regional, ranging from the Foundation for International Relations to the Economic Institute of Cambodia. With most of the websites dead, citations can't be referenced or fact-checked. *Policy Commons* revives and preserves the material, ensuring the completeness of the academic record.

→ 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 Presses

A continually growing collection of books and publications licensed from the publishing arms of think tanks.

Included are complete back-catalogues, content from the Environmental Law Institute Press, the Africa Institute of South Africa Press, the African Public Policy and Research Institute, and dozens more.

→ The Canadian Public 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.

→ The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

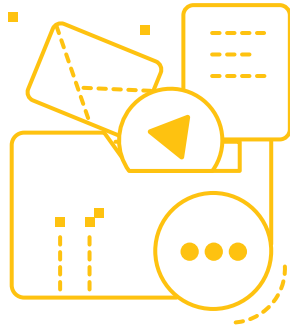
A comprehensive and diverse compilation.

It represents policy leadership, covers the foretelling of possible pandemics, tracks the emergence of thought leaders, and offers continued reporting and analysis as conditions evolve. Long-term, cross-disciplinary questions addressed by leading think tanks are covered: *How can we reform healthcare and social systems to better respond to future pandemics? How will lockdowns change the way we work? What will be the impact on climate change?*



Think Tank Directory

The backbone of *Policy Commons* is a consistently updated directory of IGOs, NGOs, and think tanks past and present. It's the largest, with organizational metadata for 8,000 research institutes, intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Continually growing, the Directory spans the political spectrum and integrates social, economic, and environmental research programs covering all seven continents.



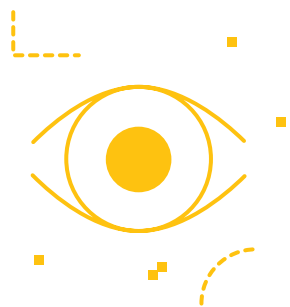
Insurance against broken links

Whenever permitted, saved copies are uploaded to protect against losses from dead links. As URLs break, blogs disappear, or projects run out of funding, users have continued access to documents. *Policy Commons* editors specifically track and capture content referenced by public-policy syllabi, where link rot is 25% or more during the run of an academic year.



The Best Discovery

With so much content, fast and easy searching is critical. More than 70% of items are tagged with a formal JEL-style thesaurus, so it's easy for users to find what they need. Particular care is taken to codify organizations and personal names using linked-data standards such as VIAF and ORCID. Users can ask and answer questions such as: *What is the OECD's stance on SDG13? 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?*



The Most Collaborative

Policy Commons lets users capture, tag, and share important content. With a simple copy/paste function, a person can add a URL from a third-party site—and the information is in the *Commons* for all members to share. Users can also upload their original content or links back to their personal websites. Every item uploaded receives a permanent, unique identifier immediately and is published in real time for all users to discover. The upload generates a record showing entities (people, places, subjects, events, organizations) and tags, and the record can be enhanced and expanded over time by the community of users. The participation of thousands of policy professionals, faculty, and librarians makes *Policy Commons* a powerful tool for collaboration.



Organizational Tools

Institutional members of *Policy Commons* and their patrons are able to do the following:

- Institutional members

Access all proprietary materials on the site, including major new Coherent Digital collections as they are released.
- Use SAML-plus-WAYFless SSO to provide users seamless access without registration.
- Submit PDFs and other media for automated entity extraction, OCR, and other processes.
- Retrieve content for data mining and other actions, using our API.
- Instantaneously obtain permanent identifiers for your content (*Coherent Identifiers* or CIDs).
- Download MARC records for inclusion in local catalogs.
- Generate COUNTER-compliant usage statistics.
- Nominate an internal representative to help guide future development of the *Commons* and to manage directory entries, add institutional content, and otherwise build an organization's presence on *Policy Commons*.
- Utilize WCAG Level II accessibility.



Future Releases

The next release of *Policy Commons*, targeted for September 2020, will include user-added annotations and tagging, individual charts and tables extracted and tagged for easy citing and embedding, bulk upload capacity, user-managed directory entries, and other features.

Why *Policy Commons*?

The idea for *Policy Commons* grew out of Toby Green’s experience as Head of Publishing at OECD. In leading the development of the OECD’s *iLibrary* service, Toby kept hearing from librarians and users that they wished there were “an iLibrary” for all IGOs, NGOs, and think tanks. In creating *Policy Commons*, Toby has made that wish a reality.

Advisers

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“IGOs, 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

Pricing and Access

Policy Commons membership is available to practices, departments, libraries, and educational institutions. For pricing and access, contact Jenna Makowski, Publisher, at jmakowski@coherentdigital.net, or visit <https://coherentdigital.net>



About Coherent Digital

Coherent Digital, LLC, was founded in 2019 by industry veterans Toby Green, Stephen Rhind-Tutt, Peter Ciuffetti, and others, with a goal to tame wild content and make it useful. For more information, please visit [www coherentdigital.net](http://www.coherentdigital.net).

We develop next-generation online resources for education, libraries, and professionals. We combine the best content — much of which is “wild” and has never been formally published — with tools to make it useful.



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