

Reporting to you from Washington, DC...

This week marked the first in-person American Library Association (ALA) conference since the world shut down in 2020.

As the conference got underway, the US Supreme Court decided to overturn [Roe v. Wade](#) in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health](#), removing federal constitutional protection for a woman's right to choose and sending the issue back to the states.

Given the conference's proximity to the Supreme Court, many librarians exercised their rights to free speech and assembly, and the court's decision dominated discussion in the aisles.



To help inform discussion and provide insight into this issue, we took a look inside *Policy Commons* and found two prescient state-by-state legal analyses from the [Center for Reproductive Rights](#). Their [2004 report What if Roe Fell?](#) predicted that [at least twenty-one states](#) would ban abortion if Roe were reversed. The same [analysis fifteen years later](#) predicted twenty-four.

As of now, abortion is banned in nine US states, and if you're keeping an eye on developments, [Guttmacher Institute](#) has two trackers—one on [US State Legislation on sexual and reproductive health](#) and another on [abortion policies](#).

The decision may have an impact beyond US borders—for example, [in Canada](#)—and drive a further rise in [opposition to the right to choose](#), a right that was [endorsed by the UN](#) in 1994. We've also found a 2018 report that provides an [overview of legislation, trends, and consequences of abortion internationally](#).

All of the above and more can be found in a [new Policy Commons custom List](#), and we've also prepared some searches for you: [Roe v Wade](#) (669 results); [attitudes about abortion](#) (378); [abortion policy](#) (277); [reproductive rights](#) (6011).

Speaking of libraries... When librarians get together, magic happens

There were also bright stories and fascinating sessions at the recent conference. Anna Kijas, Head of Lilly Music Library at Tufts University, joined Coherent Digital to share the story of [SUCHO: Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online](#).

Two days after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Anna shared a tweet that started a movement of over 1,300 librarians, scholars, and volunteers to rescue Ukrainian digital cultural artifacts. The story was so remarkable that we produced a video to capture the magic that librarians can create, which you can see [here](#).

Policy Commons is unlocking full membership to over seventy more libraries. What does this mean for you?

Forty CRL ([Center for Research Libraries](#)) institutions have agreed to become founding members of *Policy Commons*. This level of participation means that medium-size CRL institutions will receive substantial additional discounts, and we'll unlock complimentary one-year access for over seventy small CRL libraries. We're tremendously grateful to CRL and its membership for their enthusiastic support.

This agreement gives premium content, unlimited searching, in-depth support, and more uploading capacity to almost half the CRL membership and their researchers and scholars. CRL members can find out more about the arrangement directly from CRL or by emailing information@coherentdigital.net. [Check here](#) to see if your institution is a CRL Member.

You're probably wrong...

... about female bosses, global warming, plastics in oceans, and who's poor and who's not. This is the provocative challenge at the heart of the Gapminder project, created by the late Hans Rosling in 2005. Hans, whom I had the privilege of meeting, was a passionate and brilliant communicator whose Ted Talk [Debunking myths about the "third world"](#) has racked up over 15 million views. (If you haven't yet seen it, you're in for a treat.) [Gapminder](#), now run by Rosling's daughter Anna and son Ola, continues to challenge misconceptions about our society in original and creative ways. I encourage you to check out [How not to be ignorant](#), [Hans Rosling and the magic washing machine](#) and [Population growth explained with IKEA boxes](#). Prepare to be better informed and entertained in equal measure.

We love hearing from you, so don't hesitate to [be in touch!](#)

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