



Greetings.

This month, we rescued [24,000+ new reports from 148 organizations](#) who have closed their doors—and here's why...

In the policy community, most IGOs, NGOs, and think tanks publish directly to their websites, outside of formal channels. Their books, reports, and working papers are very influential. Yet when funding dries up (which is not uncommon), websites go dark, links lead to “404” dead ends, and **evidence gets lost**.

Accessing this body of knowledge is vital, but rarely makes it to the safety of archives and libraries. Even if a copy exists, **tracking it down is time consuming and difficult**. At [Policy Commons](#), we're just getting started.

Digging... so you don't have to.

Two of the gems we recently unearthed:

[The Institute for Democratic Alternatives in South Africa \(IDASA\)](#) was launched in 1987 “to debate and imagine what a non-racial democracy in South Africa could and should look like.” For more than two decades, IDASA was central to the process of political change in South Africa. Its work spanned the apartheid regime, states of emergency, transitional government, and finally, democratically elected parliaments; but it closed its doors in 2013. We now have two collections from this organisation; [9 books](#) and [1,105 publications](#) are safely archived in Policy Commons.

[FRIDE \(Foundation for International Relations and Foreign Dialogue\)](#), was launched in 1999 to “expand ideas on Europe's role in international relations.” In 2010, it was invited to participate in that year's G20 Summit and by 2012 it was ranked among the top 150 think tanks worldwide. Three years later, funding difficulties forced its closure and its website and publications went dark. Now, 2,400 of FRIDE's reports are available via Policy Commons, including [this 2011 article about rising democracies](#), some which are now under threat.

Coming soon... table finder.

We've all been there, hunting for the data that's inside a table... or buried in a report... somewhere, but where? Just one search can take hours of digging. That's why we're developing a specialized search tool to help you uncover tables without opening a single PDF. Launching soon, updates to follow!

Can we offer you some meat-free sausage and mash?

Every so often, we like to bring you **uncommon policy papers** we stumble upon that make us go hmm... or in this case, yummm. The [World Resources Institute](#), an environmental think tank, published [this study](#) about sustainable food consumption and language. It posits that primarily vegetarian diets are one way to lower the environmental impact of food—but descriptions of veggie diets “result in a perception that they are less tasty.” In other words, the researchers discovered what restaurant owners have known forever—“indulgent” sells. Swap out “meat-free” for “field-grown” and “vegetable lasagne” for “triple cheese Florentine,” and you've got a winner.

And finally, do you work with human rights publications?

Do you, or does anyone you know, work with publications on human rights? We're working with UN's OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) to help them understand more about the impact their publications are having, and we've launched a survey (of course!). If you use or collect human rights publications, we hope you'll click [here](#) to start the survey (available in English, French, and Spanish). Please share widely within your own networks—and thank you.

Wishing you a wonderful May!

Toby Green

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