



A Year-end List You Won't Want to Miss...

It's only natural that we devote our December newsletter to one of our most exciting announcements of 2021.

Luckily for us, it's also a befitting time of year to talk about **one of the most enduring and effective communication tools of the online era...**

Lists.

According to psychologist, poker player, and columnist [Maria Konnikova](#), lists "...tap into our preferred way of receiving and organizing information... they hit our attentional sweet spot."

We agree. And to help *you* hit that attentional sweet spot, we've created a new **Lists** tool to help you organize and share the key research items you discover in *Policy Commons* (and of course a [video](#) to help you get started.)

Lists come in three flavors:

- **Lists 4 U**

You can create a private list just for you. If you're working on a paper or research project, organize and safeguard your items easily by adding them to lists. You can create as many as you like. Set visibility to "private," and no one but you will see them.

- **Lists 4 your team or class**

You can create reading or research lists to share exclusively within your organization. Restrict visibility, and only teammates and/or classmates will gain access. You can even use our upload tool to add your own slides, web resources, and more to your institutional list.

- **Lists 4 all**

Lend your expertise and join the ranks of social media influencers, by curating lists to share with the world. This is your chance to recommend "essential homework" leading up to an event, or produce your own top ten rankings on an issue that matters. Set visibility to "public" to share valuable content on social media channels with a click.

You can add publications, organizations, tables—and even create lists of Lists. So without further ado, here are...

Five lists we think you'll love

1. [Top Organizations in Libraries and Scholarly Publishing](#) 20 organizations that publish reports on scholarly publishing and library issues.
2. [2020 Top Think Tanks in Central and South America](#) The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the impact of think tanks on governments and civil societies around the world. This list contains 20 of the top institutions in Central and South America, including the Caribbean, which were included in the 2020 Index.
3. [2020 Top Think Tanks in Central Asia](#) This list contains leading institutions, listed by TTCSP, in Central Asia and the Caucasus region (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).
4. [2020 Top Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) This list includes leading institutions from the 2020 TTCSP index and in the region south of the Sahara Desert.
5. [Pakistan's Economic Future](#) A regularly updated list of relevant topics, organizations, tables, and publications pertaining to Pakistan's regional economic relations, its role in the global market, and recent developments in its trade relations with China.

One list that really got us thinking

Last October, [Yale Climate Connections](#) posted a list of [12 reports from leading research organizations](#). The author considered these reports "essential homework for getting the most out of COP26."

Meanwhile, [STM Association](#) published their [latest study](#), widely considered to be an authoritative report that, among other things, sheds light on the "size and shape" of the scholarly record. What's striking is that 11 of the 12 publications on Yale's critical reading list *would not have been counted in STM's report*.

What's going on? Why are these "essential" reports missing from the scholarly record?

One can only measure what is visible. If SIMBA, Scopus, STM, and others don't include 11 reports from prestigious organizations in their data, it suggests that they can't see those reports.

Perhaps, like the moon, the scholarly record has two sides: a Near Side that's visible and measurable, and a Far Side that's invisible, uncountable. At a recent NISO conference, I introduced this notion of scholarship's Far Side, the challenges it presents, and how *Policy Commons* can play a role in making Far Side content part of the scholarly record.

[A recording of his presentation is available](#) on the *Policy Commons* YouTube channel.

And finally, a little December merriment:

Where does the comma go in God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen?

It's that time of year when [Dave Allen Green](#), author of the [Law and Policy Blog](#) gets all [fixated](#) and twitchy about the correct placement of the comma in this well-loved carol. This year, help for the grammatically challenged comes in the form of an [capella lesson in copyediting](#) by [RamsesThePigeon](#). Warning: produces annoyance and amusement in equal measure.

As we close 2021, we are grateful that you are a part of our community.

Happy holiday season from all of us at *Policy Commons*.

And PS: Don't forget to put "creating Lists" on a list of New Year's resolutions.

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