Policy Commons
Database

Policy Commons is a public policy **database** launched in November 2020. It contains documents from think tanks, IGOs, NGOs, and research centers. Some of this content is uniquely found on Policy Commons, and some documents are archived from inactive organizations.

- Millions of documents
- Publications organized by topics
- Tables and figures searchable
- Directory of organizations

Why might it be useful in your research?

- Provides a convenient place to search for public policy **grey literature***, which is otherwise often spread across the internet
- Preserves content from defunct organizations, or documents that have been removed from the internet
- Grey literature can provide a different perspective from academic literature

*Grey literature "is information produced outside of traditional publishing and distribution channels, and can include reports, policy literature, working papers, newsletters, government documents, speeches, white papers, urban plans, and so on."

- **https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/research-assistance/format-type/grey-literature** (More info on grey literature here)

policy literature
newsletters
reports
white papers
government documents
urban plans
working papers
speeches

Access

Students, staff, faculty, and alumni all have access to Policy Commons on and off campus by logging in to the library catalogue with your SFU Computing ID.

You do not need to create a new account on the Policy Commons website in order to access the search and documents within. However, creating an account with Policy Commons does allow you to make use of additional features, such as creating lists and following organizations.

References and additional resources:
- Access/login: **https://databases.lib.sfu.ca/record/61414676320003610/Policy-Commons**
- About: **https://coherentdigital.net/policycommons**
- Overview video: **https://youtu.be/4L1oCJI9_VA**
- Presentations: **https://coherentdigital.net/presentations**
- Logo and screen captures: **https://policycommons.net/**
- Original announcement: **https://ejournalscambridge.wordpress.com/2020/11/03/policy-commons/**
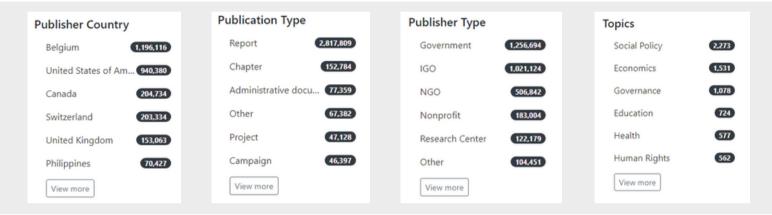
Using Policy Commons

Policy Commons contains documents that are **almost all** possible to find elsewhere online if you are a dedicated searcher.

However, Policy Commons offers several **key features** that a Google search alone does not provide.

- Powerful **search filters** that allow you to create precise, focused searches and limit your results to manageable numbers
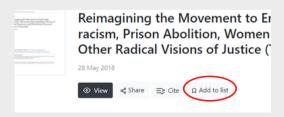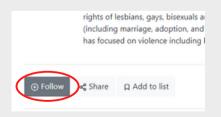
Publisher Country		Publication Type		Publisher Type		Topics	
Belgium	1,196,116	Report	2,817,809	Government	1,256,694	Social Policy	2,273
United States of Am...	940,380	Chapter	152,784	IGO	1,021,124	Economics	1,531
Canada	204,734	Administrative docu...	77,359	NGO	506,842	Governance	1,078
Switzerland	203,334	Other	67,382	Nonprofit	183,004	Education	724
United Kingdom	153,063	Project	47,128	Research Center	122,179	Health	577
Philippines	70,427	Campaign	46,397	Other	104,451	Human Rights	562
View more		View more		View more		View more	

- A growing collection of curated **topics and lists**
- Conduct a targeted **search for tables** deep within reports

Filters: Content: Publications ✕ | Publications: with tables ✕

Public places and commercial spaces: How neighborhood amenities foster trust and connection ...

Add to list

AEI · 20 October 2021 English

Key Points The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted many Americans' living preferences toward less dense places. For instance, more Americans would prefer to live in small towns and rural areas than ...

⊕ Tables

- Find **organizations** (NGOs, IGOs, etc.) that are doing work in your area of interest
- Ability to **personalize** the resource to fit your research needs:
  - Create your own lists
  - Follow organizations
  - Upload your own digital content

Reimagining the Movement to En... racism, Prison Abolition, Women... Other Radical Visions of Justice (...

28 May 2018

👁 View   ⤳ Share   ☰ Cite   🔖 Add to list

rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals a... (including marriage, adoption, and ... has focused on violence including ...

⊕ Follow   ⤳ Share   🔖 Add to list

Upload your content

Choose File No file chosen   ⬆ Upload

- Search for the content you want without ads or sorting through other irrelevant content
- A **consistent** place to find reports that have or might otherwise disappear from organization websites without warning