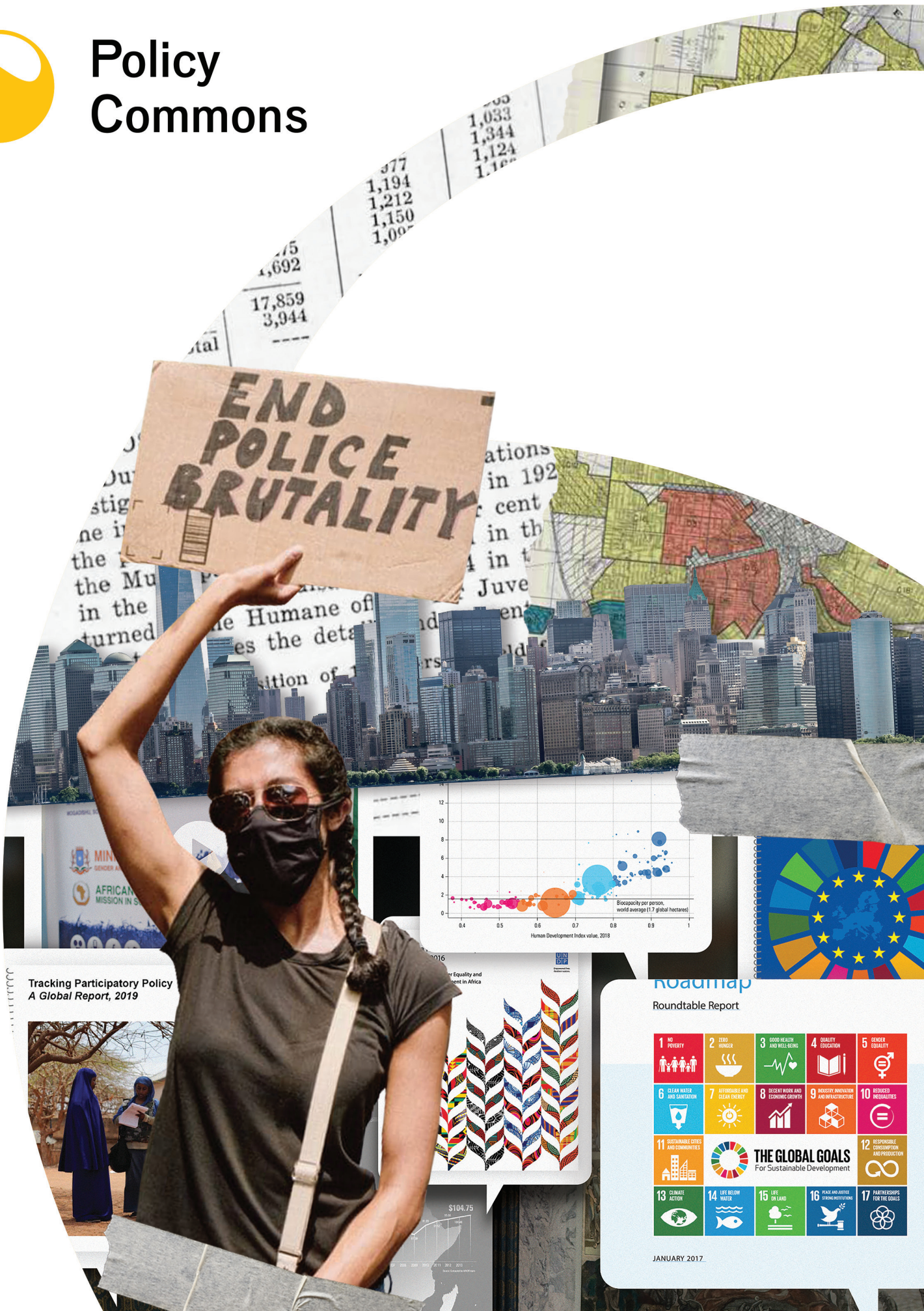




Policy Commons



Tracking Participatory Policy
A Global Report, 2019



Roadmap
Roundtable Report



JANUARY 2017

Home to the world's policy grey literature.

Every year, policy organizations around the world publish 22 billion dollars of research in the form of grey literature.



Policy Commons is the kind of product I wish I'd had all my career. It provides access to things you can't find out about but need right now."

—John Wright, Business Librarian,
University of Calgary

These organizations are experts on the frontlines of policy—think tanks, government agencies, cities, IGOs, and NGOs. Collectively, they create hundreds of thousands of reports, studies, white papers, data sets, media, and other non-book and non-journal material. Nearly all the articles go through peer or expert review.

Yet because grey literature is not, by definition, distributed by commercial publishers and made discoverable, it's underutilized and not citable—what one expert called “a shocking waste.”

Policy Commons has been created to address the problem. It puts grey literature where it belongs—into the permanent scholarly record alongside journal articles and books.



Before Policy Commons became a reality, it was the dream of Toby Green for over a decade.

As Head of Publishing for OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), Toby led the development and launch of the organization's online repository, iLibrary. But iLibrary provided a solution for only the OECD itself, not the policy community as a whole.

After twenty years, Toby left OECD in 2019 to cofound Coherent Digital and started researching his ideas in earnest. Every librarian he consulted spoke of the challenges of finding,

cataloging, and preserving policy grey literature.

The production team began work, and *Policy Commons* launched in November 2020. Behind the scenes, *Policy Commons* employs multiple custom-built crawling technologies, AI selection tools, extraction microservices, and a powerful search engine, all running on Coherent Digital's proprietary *Commons* platform. We continue to learn from our librarian partners, who are generous with their time.

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With *Policy Commons*, you can...

1

Discover millions of reports from NGOs, research centers, think tanks, government agencies, and cities, in one uniform site
Finding grey literature is tedious and time consuming. *Policy Commons* today indexes and preserves the publications of 10,000 carefully selected policy organizations, with the number growing.

2

Save hours with search tools

With full-text searching, wildcard truncation, Boolean and proximity operators, and dozens of search filters, you'll quickly find exactly what you're looking for. We even extract tables so that they can be found without opening a single PDF, and you can download the data in CSV format.

3

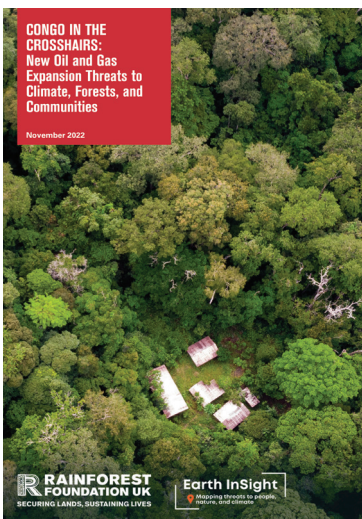
Access research from the Global South

You'll find documents from 160 countries, including content from the Global South and small think tanks whose output is missed or deprecated by search engines.

4

Uncover "lost" content

We've rescued and recovered nearly 900,000 pages of publications from important organizations that no longer exist. We restore approximately 100,000 additional pages a year.



5

Share and cite with confidence

Grey literature is vulnerable to link rot (~75% of scholarly articles cite content that's lost or moved), so we create a permanent identifier and a preservation copy for every publication we harvest. You can now safely cite grey literature and share stable lists of critical reports on websites and in LibGuides and newsletters.

7

Add the content you care about

When you tell us about organizations important to your research, we'll check the sources for quality, add them to the directory, and index and harvest their content. Institutional access includes an on-demand harvesting service.

9

Discover your real-world impact

Use our full-text search engine to discover where your content and organization are mentioned in grey literature. Include these case studies in your impact reports with our permanent links and identifiers.

6

Keep your research current

Grey literature is often more current than traditional publications. And with the thousands of new reports we add every week, you'll stay current by tracking them as soon as they're published. Follow organizations, people, topics—even your own searches—to be first to know about new reports relevant to your research.

8

Upload your own content for free

We invite our users to upload their own content or upload links to other digital resources. We'll enrich and index your uploaded item, give it a permanent URL, and publish it within seconds. Through our partnership with Google Scholar, your content will be discoverable to millions of researchers within days.

10

Research nearly all disciplines

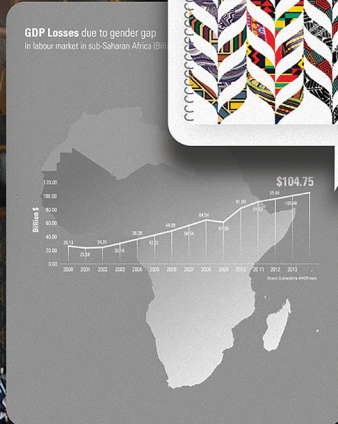
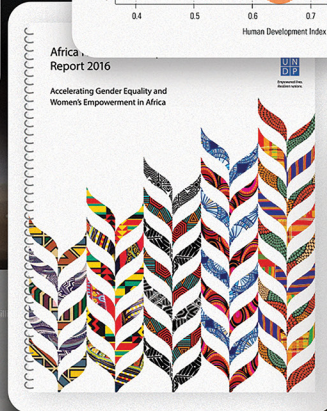
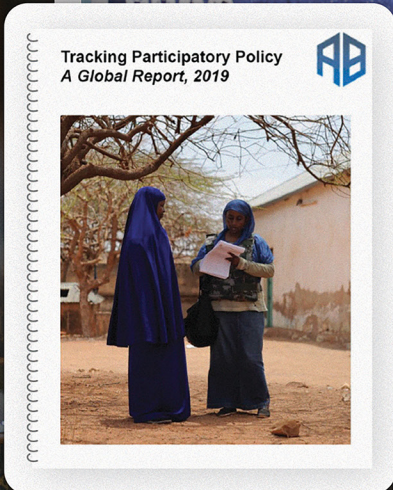
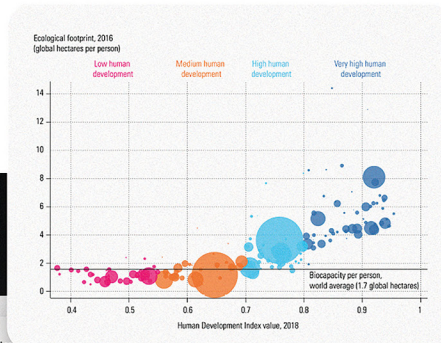
With thousands of topics, you can find policy related to science, technology, climate, sustainability, human rights, the economy, public health, immigration, sports—everything from abortion, acid rain, and acupuncture to Zambia, zero population growth, and zoning.

Experience

***Policy Commons* through one
or any combination of modules.**



Global Think Tanks



A world of think tank knowledge in one site.

Global Think Tanks is the inaugural module of *Policy Commons* and serves as the world's most comprehensive resource for studying the output of think tanks, NGOs, and IGOs globally.

With over 3.5 million reports, working papers, policy briefs, data sources, and more, it's a massive collection and surpasses even ProQuest Dissertations in terms of full-text content. It has also

become the world's largest directory of think tanks, IGOs, and NGOs—25,000 and growing.

Global Think Tanks stands out for the rich diversity of its sources. It selects, indexes, and preserves content from 10,000 carefully selected organizations, including smaller think tanks and organizations in the Global South that are often missed by others.

It also addresses the issue of disappearing research, featuring 400,000 pages of content rescued from over 500 inactive think tanks. We anticipate preserving at least 100,000 additional pages of rescued content every year from organizations that have closed their doors. In addition, *Global Think Tanks* includes a collection of over 2,000 e-books licensed from partners including African Books Collective, Environmental Law Institute, Council of Europe, and others.

3.5MILLION

PUBLICATIONS
AND GROWING

500,000+

LICENSED PAGES FROM
PREMIUM PUBLISHERS
INCLUDING THE COUNCIL
OF EUROPE.

900,000+

PAGES RESCUED AND
PRESERVED FROM ORGANIZA-
TIONS THAT WERE IMPORTANT,
INFLUENTIAL, AND CITED
BEFORE THEY DISAPPEARED.



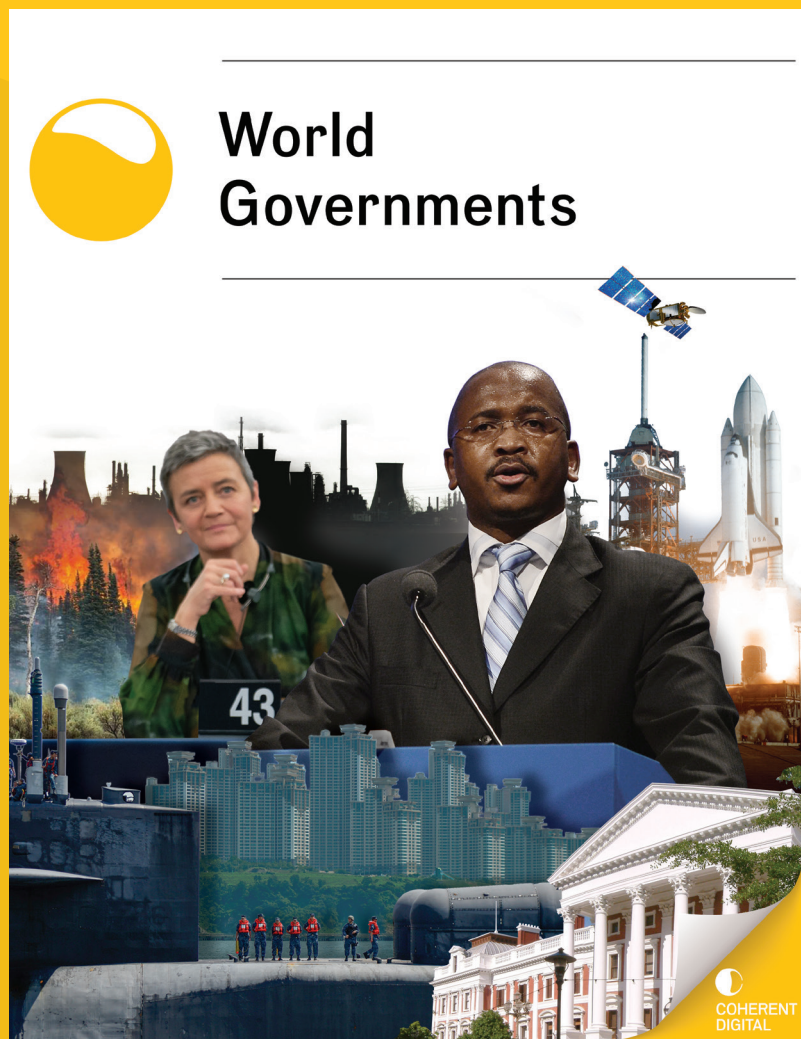
The definitive source for federal, provincial, and state government information from across the world.

3.5M+

DOCUMENTS AND GROWING

COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF OCEANIA, CANADA, EUROPE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE UNITED STATES.

SELECTIVE COVERAGE FOR ANOTHER 450 NATIONAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES FROM MORE THAN 150 COUNTRIES.



While government information is becoming more open and accessible, effectively researching it remains time consuming and difficult.

The various departments, agencies, and offices within governments are fragmented, with dozens of websites lacking preservation and interoperability. Government information is scattered and vulnerable.

World Governments is the first project to gather millions of documents from over 150 global governments together in one website.

Users will easily and reliably access federal, provincial, territorial, and agency research reports—even documents produced by tribal councils, commissions, and other organizations, often missing

from government repositories.

Researchers, analysts, and students can now efficiently research billions of dollars of research, explore its practical applications, and understand and compare the stances of decision-making organizations across the globe.

Delivering research
from 1,000 of the
world's major cities.

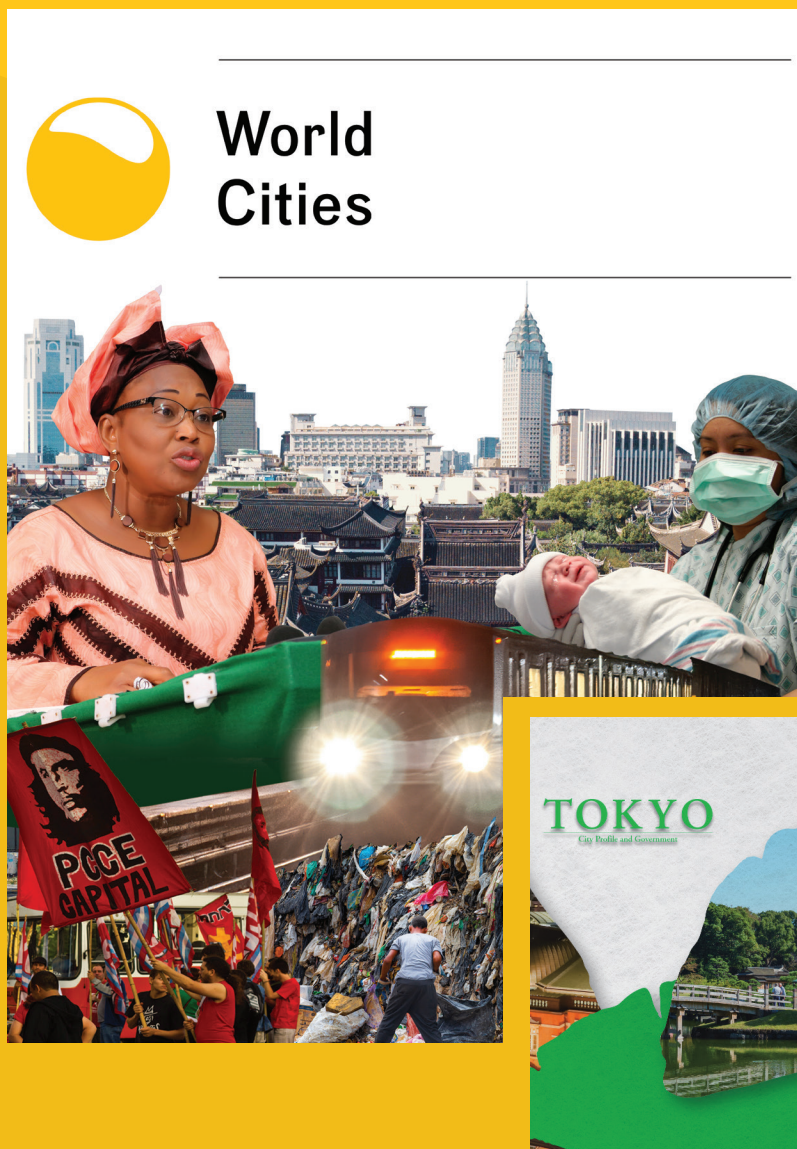
500,000+
REPORTS AND GROWING

1,000+
CITIES

ITEMS ARE PRESENTED IN THEIR
ORIGINAL LANGUAGES, WITH
TITLES AUTOMATICALLY
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.

In many ways it's exceeded my expectations.
I had a consultation on preventative detention in
the Rhodesian Civil War. I found more in *Policy
Commons* than any other single resource. It has
been helpful in every consultation that I have had
this semester.

—Ryan Johnson, Head of Research Services,
Georgetown University Library



Cities around the globe are grappling with issues such as rapid urbanization, escalating climate change, and pervasive inequality—urgent problems that transcend national boundaries.

World Cities is the first and only resource to aggregate and preserve the extensive body of research produced by major cities globally. A growing database, it will contain at least 500,000 documents from over 1,000 major urban centers, discoverable in a single site.

With a strong emphasis on the Global South, the project covers many topics including immigration, infrastructure, public safety, and access to healthcare, education, and jobs. We capture assessments, statistics, plans, budgets, surveys, case studies, and a range of other valuable resources. Additionally, select materials from related agencies and non-governmental organizations are included.

For the first time, scholars can look into issues such as biodiversity and food

insecurity, discovering information from Rome, Lilongwe, Toronto, Singapore and other major cities around the world. The database is one of the few sources to understand and analyze what's happening in the Horn of Africa and other stressed areas of the world.

World Cities is cross-searchable with all other modules of *Policy Commons*.



North American City Reports



In-depth research from more than 600 North American cities.

North American City Reports is a comprehensive and in-depth collection of municipal reports, covering Canada, the United States, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Cities, especially in this region, produce a wealth of reports, research papers, case studies, and other valuable resources that cover a wide range of pressing issues. Yet, like other grey literature sources, reports are hard to find and at risk of disappearing.

A growing database with more than 200,000 documents, it's a source for observing policy in action that provides a window into historical attitudes, actions, and outcomes. The module includes Index to Current Urban Documents (ICUD), a previously published database that ceased to grow after 2018.

Examine Minneapolis's response to George Floyd's murder, Hurricane Katrina's recovery plans, or COVID policies in Boston,

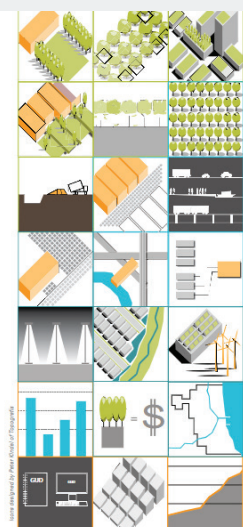
complete with statistical tables.

North American City Reports is cross-searchable with all other modules of *Policy Commons*.

200,000+
PUBLICATIONS

600
CITIES IN CANADA, THE
UNITED STATES, CANADA,
AND THE CARIBBEAN

55,000+
DOCUMENTS PRESERVED
FROM ICUD



ADDING GREEN TO
URBAN DESIGN
A CITY FOR US AND
FUTURE GENERATIONS



The database is just as described; if anything, it's now much more, with newly-introduced modules that will make the database more useful than we had expected.

—Peter McCracken, Electronic Resources Librarian,
Cornell University Library

How to access *Policy Commons* —and what you receive.

Each module is available through subscription, with an option to purchase perpetual rights.

The following modules are currently available:

Global Think Tanks

World Governments

World Cities

North American City Reports

A package with all current modules is available, offering the best value.

Prices are scaled to library size and type, and consortium discounts may apply. Contact sales@coherentdigital.net for a price quote and to arrange a free trial.

Individuals can register at policycommons.net for limited free search of open content, with sample functionality. Experience a slice of *Policy Commons*, then ask your librarian to request an institutional trial for full access.



COHERENT
DIGITAL