

An Archival Advocate:



Public Policy Research in PolicyArchive

Sarah Buchanan, Center for Governmental Studies

"PolicyArchive is a tremendous boon to a wide range of users seeking this difficult-to-find material. The site merits extra consideration for its stated commitment to long-term preservation and access.

Summing up: Recommended."

-- S. W. Nicholson, Michigan State University
CHOICE Magazine
January 2009

Methods

PolicyArchive and CGS staff integrate political and media content from research producers and funders through communication. Metadata is prepared towards the documents' collective retrieval in search and browse capabilities. An open source technology has supported the customization of subject indexing, and 300+ subtopics encompass nuanced research areas. Special Collections present focused research collected for their programmatic, topical, or organizational provenance.

Archives for Scholarship, Archives for Citizenship

Disciplinary Databases Law LexisNexis Medicine Medline Science PLoS ... Public policy PolicyArchive

Abstract

Scholars, investigators, policymakers, and legislators participate in the production and use of research in the public policy arena, drawing on institutional models for data collection and assessment. A broad range of social issues investigated (e.g. economics, real estate, and tax policy), combined with dissimilar methods for archiving and preserving these research outputs constitutes a need to make this policy research accessible in a central repository.

PolicyArchive is supported by the Center for Governmental Studies (est. 1983). CGS creates innovative political and media solutions to help individuals participate more effectively in their communities and governments. PolicyArchive strives to be the largest online repository of global, non-partisan public policy research.

Well-Designed, Fiscally Responsible Corporate Tax Reform Could Benefit the Economy



Enduring Value

PolicyArchive, through its open and inclusive digital archive, allows researchers to focus efforts on issues which are truly undocumented in a region, and it advances shared knowledge. PolicyArchive promotes legislative accountability and fosters citizen education concerning societal issues both local and global.

CGS Survey of Policy Research Organizations (2005):

- · 39 foundation-funded organizations reported:
- · avg. 73 publications per year (range 2 to 750), or 2850 documents annually
- · 26 would submit full-text; 13 would supply external links

Research Collection:

- · June 19, 2008 launch with 12,000 documents in 24 topics and 300+ subtopics
- · Jan. 2009 with 20,000 documents by 500+ publishers
- · May 2010 with 30,000 documents by 800+ publishers (3000 via external links)

Related Resources:

Cox, Richard J. "Unpleasant Things: Teaching Advocacy in Archival Education Programs." *InterActions* 5.1 (2009). Jimerson, Randall C. <u>Archives Power: Memory, Accountability, and Social Justice</u>. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2009.

Roe, Kathleen D. "Archival Advocacy: Making It Real." Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Session 210 handout (2009).