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Find Policy: Quick Access to Research from Leading Think Tanks set up by IRD alum

Blog editor

Think tanks offer a valuable addition to academic research. Between the day-to-day commentary of journalism and the year-on-year of academic publication, think tanks provide topical in-depth analysis on essential policy issues. Across the US and Europe, there are easily 50 or more top institutions that provide great analysis, by recognized scholars. In Latin America, Africa and Asia, too, local think tanks have much to contribute.

But how to access their work? Going from website to website? Subscribing to feeds or newsletters? Plunging into the vastness of a general Google search? Opening up a dozen tabs?

Fortunately there is an easy solution, that might be of interest to LSE students, researchers and also alums. Find Policy, a website we set up after working with think tanks for a few years, focuses search on leading think tanks. It is a bit like Google Scholar, but with a focus on policy research.

The screenshot shows the Find Policy website interface. At the top, there's a browser tab labeled 'Foreign Policy — Fi x'. Below that, the site header reads 'FIND POLICY' with the tagline 'Ideas worth searching'. A navigation menu includes links for ABOUT, CLIMATE, ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN POLICY, HEALTH, PUBLIC POLICY, WORKS, and MORE SEARCH. The main content area displays search results for 'Mosul', indicating 'About 10,300 results (0.46 seconds)'. The results are sorted by 'Date'. The first result is from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, dated 15 hours ago, titled 'The Regional and Domestic Political Context of the Mosul Offensive - The Limits of Fighting Corruption in Egypt - More from Sada >'. The second result is from the European Council on Foreign Affairs, dated 4 hours ago, titled 'Europe's new counter-terror wars | European Council on Foreign Affairs'. The third result is from the Brookings Institution, dated 1 hour ago, titled 'Interview: Islamists on Islamism today | Brookings Institution'. The fourth result is from the Council on Foreign Relations, dated 1 hour ago, titled 'Council on Foreign Relations Newsletter - Daily News Brief...'. The search bar at the top contains the text 'Mosul' and a search button.

Sample screenshot

In Find Policy, you get search pages grouped according to topic, or geographic focus. Of most interest to people at LSE likely are the [Foreign Policy](#) search page, and also the country-pages under [More Search](#), which give easy access to think tanks from around the world. You want to see what think tanks in India have to say on Pakistan? How think tanks in South Africa respond to the ascending Democratic Alliance? What German think tanks say on Ukraine? All this and much more is easily accessible, at Find Policy.

The more precise your search terms, the better the results. You can toggle from “relevance” to “date” to get the most recent results. The service is and will stay free. (We set up Find Policy for our own use, and are sharing the tool.) We also have even more specialized search, such as the world’s main International Financial Institutions, organizations working on conflict resolution, leading consulting firms and more. Given the size of the US think tank sector (more than \$1bn per year for the top 20 institutions alone), there also is a page for searching foreign policy experts.

In sum, Find Policy should be a useful tool, to anyone interested in policy. The best way to make it work? Try a few searches on your favorite topic, right now, at www.findpolicy.org

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