

FAQ — Public Policy Reports Collection

What is the Public Policy Reports Collection?

The Public Policy Reports Collection is an openly accessible, curated, and searchable database of policy-related research reports produced by U of T academic units. It is a collection of grey literature,¹ which aims to improve discoverability of U of T research in a diversity of areas including local, provincial, national, and global public policy matters that are important for the understanding of developing issues. Authors and/or co-authors are faculty members, fellows, students or staff who were at U of T at the time of publication. The collection excludes externally commissioned reports and studies published in scholarly journals or books.

What are the benefits of including a report in the Collection?

Many U of T researchers are involved in the production of reports that make important contributions to developing issues in society. However, these are often not easily found through standard bibliometric searches or through search engines. As a result, it can be difficult to access these materials and utilize their findings. Additionally, policy reports made available via departmental or personal websites do not have permanent links and can become inaccessible when the websites are redesigned.

The Public Policy Reports Collection is part of the University of Toronto Libraries' research repository, TSpace. TSpace provides:

- Priority search engine indexing, including Google and Google Scholar, resulting in higher search engine rankings than items posted on departmental or personal websites;
- Permanent URLs that can be used for sharing and citing
- The ability to track statistics for document download

What can be included in the Collection?

Policy-related reports, broadly construed, which meet all the following criteria:

- **Authored by faculty, fellows, students or staff**, providing that they were at U of T when the report was issued.
- **Authored by U of T academic units** with explicit U of T branding and affiliation of the author.
- **Not published in an academic journal in an identical form:** Because we are collecting grey literature with the aim of making this body of work by U of T researchers more easily discoverable, publications in a scholarly journal or book will not be included in the collection. If a report has been, or is subsequently, published as a journal article or included in a book, it can remain in the collection provided that the two versions are substantially different.

Can a report be co-written by a non-U of T partner?

Yes, as long as at least one author is affiliated with U of T and there is explicit U of T branding on the report, other authors may be external.

¹ Grey literature is literature that has not been published through traditional means (for example, in an academic journal). It is often excluded from databases and other mainstream sources. For more information see [“What is Grey Literature?”](#) guide by the Gerstein Science Information Centre.