The Online Policy Group (OPG) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to online policy research, outreach, and action on issues such as access, privacy, digital defamation, and the digital divide. Additionally, it focuses on Internet participants' civil liberties and human rights, like access, privacy, safety, and serving schools, libraries, disabled, elderly, youth, women, and sexual, gender, and ethnic minorities.

"One Internet With Equal Access for All"
OPG seeks to fulfill this vision through a combination of research and development, community services, and advocacy. A volunteer-run organization funded almost entirely by individual donations, the OPG is headquartered in San Francisco and was founded in July 2000, growing to include QueerNet and California Community Colocation Project in 2001.

ISSUES

Access
A promise of Internet technology is universal access, that is, the ability of all people to have access to a wide variety of helpful information, resources, and community online. OPG seeks to improve the technological, social, and political conditions that either impede access or make the Internet more widely available to the general public.

Privacy
Online privacy encompasses topics like website privacy policies and practices, encryption, and government and private industry surveillance. This issue also involves topics such as online anonymity, preventing inappropriate disclosures of personal information, and the online tracking of consumer behavior.

Digital Defamation
Digital Defamation involves online hate speech, unfair bias, discrimination, and defamation and/or profiling of various minority groups including the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, youth, the elderly, disabled, racial, ethnic, or religious minorities, and other traditionally underrepresented groups.

Digital Divide
Digital Divide refers to the disparity between social, ethnic, racial, and economic sectors of society that are fully enabled online versus those which have been systematically neglected by the online revolution.

SERVICES

The Online Policy Group provides a range of services to equalize online access for organizations and individuals who are underrepresented, underserved, or facing unfair bias, discrimination, or defamation. These services arose from a decade of QueerNet operations and are now available to all constituencies. Applying for services is as easy as filling out a form on our website.

Our main services, all provided for free, are:
- Email list hosting (865 lists serving 77,780 subscribers)
- Website hosting (211 websites)
- Domain name registration (302 domains)
- Colocation in several secure facilities (132 computers)
- Equipment refurbishing and donation (18 computers, 5 printers, 2 fax machines)

CURRENT PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

Below is a list of Online Policy Group research and development projects. Our research and projects encompass qualitative and quantitative methods and combine short and long-term research. Some projects may be useful for a wide variety of other organizations.

Online Service Provider Assessment (OSPA)
Determine how fair, accurate, and inclusive online service providers are with respect to a variety of content topics and constituent communities including a goal of publishing a consumer guide to online service providers.

Schools and Libraries Project
Document real-life Internet access conditions in schools and libraries to offer assistance in handling blocking technology legislative requirements and educate for effective Internet use.

Online Community Forum / Calliope
An online community forum for posting messages and pictures like a commercial web-based forum only without the advertising.

Online Policy Organizations Survey
Survey of nonprofit organizations pursuing online policy work to document their issue and activity coverage.

Online Oddities and Atrocities Museum
A visual collection of the malfunctions and bloopers of Internet blocking technology and other interesting topics.

Blocking Technology Analysis
Survey, test, and provide additional resources related to Internet blocking technology products, including the *Why Blocking Technology Can't Work* document.

Search Engine Analysis
Survey and test search engines and web directories.

Research Corpus Project
Generate topic-based word groups for use in further research.

California Community Colocation Project
The California Community Colocation Project (CCCP) currently provides nonprofit organizations and individuals with colocation services, that is, caretaking of computers in secure facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area and Seattle.

Task Manager
A web-based utility that tracks requests made to the OPG website for email list hosting, website hosting, domain registrations, colocation services, and other types of support, as well as volunteer and intern applications.

Online Internet Services User Interface
Provides a standardized user interface for user-based administration of email list hosting, website hosting, domain registration, and online community forums.

Online Policy Group Website
Update the organizational website with the latest technologies, the most relevant content, and a graphical treatment to match.

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

The Online Policy Group depends on volunteers and interns to make these important online policy projects possible. Volunteer recognition is an important part of the Online Policy Group's volunteer program.

A limited number of internships are also available each term, including summers. Interns work on online policy projects, obtain school credit, and/or gain valuable skills and experience.

For more information or to apply, see the website or contact volunteer@onlinepolicy.org or intern@onlinepolicy.org

The Online Policy Group

One Internet With Equal Access for All

TESTIMONIALS

"It is so great that OPG is providing such a valuable service for us. We would not be able to afford the costs of decent bandwidth otherwise."
-- Minh Nguyen, Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California

"When I became trans I kind of went back in the closet....When out in public, I was scared that people were going to kill me….I was going to get support or kill myself...I was really jazzed to find OPG on the net. Having Internet access is important because people can be more easily connected and can find support.
-- Katrina Muller, Triangle Transgender Support

"In my experience, the ones [artists] that haven't managed to put up a website often just can't move their career forward....With OPG, artists have been inspired to express themselves because now they have a viable outlet for doing so."
-- David Ferguson, Institute For Unpopular Culture

"...[OPG] not only wanted to investigate my seemingly unwarranted termination by this other, large organization but was also willing to help me get a group email started..."
-- Kay Y. James, Lamorinda Peace Group

"I believe that the Online Policy Group will lead the way across the digital divide for underserved citizens of the Bay Area and beyond, and strongly encourage foundations and other funders to support its important efforts."
-- Brian Cheu, San Francisco LGBT Community Center

DONATIONS

The Online Policy Group depends on donations to make these important projects possible. OPG is a tax -exempt 501(c)(3) organization accepting contributions of cash by check or credit card, stock, equipment, goods, services, and bequests tax - deductible to the full extent of applicable law. To donate, see the website or contact donate@onlinepolicy.org
Revision 2.5 of October 21, 2003

Online Policy Group
304 Winfield Street
San Francisco, CA 94110-5512
USA
Tel. +1 415 826-3532
Fax +1 928 244-2347
Email info@onlinepolicy.org
Web http://www.onlinepolicy.org

Online Policy Group

"One Internet with Equal Access for All"

Online Policy Group
304 Winfield Street
San Francisco, CA 94110-5512
USA
Tel. +1 415 826-3532
Fax +1 928 244-2347
Email info@onlinepolicy.org
Web http://www.onlinepolicy.org