

Conclusions & Recommendations

A Maximizing the Availability of Relevant and Credible Information

People need relevant and credible information to be free and self-governing.

THE COMMISSION CONCLUDES:

- The current financial challenges facing private news media could pose a crisis for democracy.
- Public media should provide better local news and information.
- Not-for-profit and non-traditional media can be important sources of journalism.
- Public information belongs to the public. Government must be more open.
- Informed communities can measure their information health.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS:

- Recommendation 1:** Direct media policy toward innovation, competition, and support for business models that provide marketplace incentives for quality journalism.
- Recommendation 2:** Increase support for public service media aimed at meeting community information needs.
- Recommendation 3:** Increase the role of higher education, community and nonprofit institutions as hubs of journalistic activity and other information-sharing for local communities.
- Recommendation 4:** Require government at all levels to operate transparently, facilitate easy and low-cost access to public records, and make civic and social data available in standardized formats that support the productive public use of such data.
- Recommendation 5:** Develop systematic quality measures of community information ecologies, and study how they affect social outcomes.

B Enhancing the Information Capacity of Individuals

People need tools, skills, and understanding to use information effectively.

THE COMMISSION CONCLUDES:

- All people have a right to be fully informed.
- There need be no second-class citizens in informed communities.
- Funding to meet this goal is an investment in the nation's future.
- Americans cannot compete globally without new public policies and investment in technology.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS:

- Recommendation 6:** Integrate digital and media literacy as critical elements for education at all levels through collaboration among federal, state and local education officials.
- Recommendation 7:** Fund and support public libraries and other community institutions as centers of digital and media training, especially for adults.
- Recommendation 8:** Set ambitious standards for nationwide broadband availability and adopt public policies encouraging consumer demand for broadband services.
- Recommendation 9:** Maintain the national commitment to open networks as a core objective of Internet policy.
- Recommendation 10:** Support the activities of information providers to reach local audiences with quality content through all appropriate media, such as mobile phones, radio, public access cable, and new platforms.

C Promoting Public Engagement

To pursue their true interests, people need to be engaged with information and with each other.

THE COMMISSION CONCLUDES:

- Creating informed communities is a task for everyone.
- Young people have a special role in times of great change.
- Technology can help everyone be part of the community.
- Everyone should feel a responsibility to participate.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS:

- Recommendation 11:** Expand local media initiatives to reflect the full reality of the communities they represent.
- Recommendation 12:** Engage young people in developing the digital information and communication capacities of local communities.
- Recommendation 13:** Empower all citizens to participate actively in community self-governance, including local "community summits" to address community affairs and pursue common goals.
- Recommendation 14:** Emphasize community information flow in the design and enhancement of a local community's public spaces.
- Recommendation 15:** Ensure that every local community has at least one high-quality online hub.