

INTRAC - Useful online resources to get current civil society news

Online information and research tools about civil society

This list has been commissioned from INTRAC by Sida's Civil Society Centre. It covers a selection of useful online resources relevant to global development civil society. Some of the sites include more specialised information.

Name	URL	Specialisation	Type	Size/reach	Services available	Blurb from the site
Directories						
A Good Place to Start	http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/info/docs/Good%20place%20to%20start.v14.pdf	Booklet with IDS Information Services specialists' top five websites for 30 topics including aid, capacity building, participation, sexuality etc.	Information booklet	Web		There's no shortage of places to visit online if you're interested in development, but what if you don't want 800 million websites? What if you only want five?
INTRAC's 'development directory'	http://www.intrac.org/pages/links.html	Contacts and links – NGOs, think tanks, official agencies, libraries, networks and support organisations.	NGO	Global, grassroots	Links to useful organisations' pages	Our Development Directory contains links to hundreds of development organisations including official agencies, NGOs, networks, think tanks, information resources and libraries.
SIDA's NGO database	http://www.sida.se/ngodatabase	Sida-funded NGO projects database	Bilateral	Global	Database	This database contains information about projects run by Swedish civil society organisations (NGOs/CSOs) with support from Sida/SEKA/EO. T
Discussions and communication						
The Communication Initiative	http://www.comminit.com/mission.html	Communication for development – networking, studies and data, discussion forums, change theories. Includes resources and toolkits.	Portal – can be customised according to personal preference	An extensive website (summarised information - 17,000 plus pages - related to communication for development).	Weekly email newsletter, cutting edge communications technology used in practice	Space to share, debate and innovate for more effective development communication practice.
Forum on the Future of Aid	http://www.futureofaid.net/	Resource documents, comments, debate forum for development practitioners, policymakers and academics	Discussion forum. Not specifically civil society-focused.	Global. Not extensively used for debate at present, but has lots of potential. Members can start new discussions.		The Forum on the Future of Aid is an online community dedicated to research and opinions about how the international aid system currently works and where it should go next
Impact Alliance	http://www.impactalliance.org/ev_en.php	Capacity building	Online network for capacity building practitioners		Discussions, networking, resources. Discussion forums don't seem especially active.	The Impact Alliance is an international partnership advancing social change through capacity development.

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Development Gateway and DG Communities (themes)	http://topics.developmentgateway.org/civilsociety	Perhaps the biggest web portal for development. One 'dg Community' is civil society; others include environment, economic development, aid effectiveness, education, conflict etc.	Web portal originally set up by World Bank.	Global. Because of its sheer size, it may be hard to find specific resources and news. Signing up to weekly email alerts is a good way to get a sense of new movements.	Email alerts according to topic or 'community'; online networking, discussion forums, documents, contacts etc etc	dgCommunities is a collaborative space for professionals working to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development worldwide. Share knowledge, tools, contacts, and more with members in 200 countries.
Oneworld	http://uk.oneworld.net/	Grassroots-level development activism	Development media portal	Global – separate OneWorld portals exist for different countries or regions.	News, member organisations, TV, radio. Memebrs can contribute media.	OneWorld is the world's favourite and fastest-growing civil society network online, supporting people's media to help build a more just global society.
Dgroups	http://www.dgroups.org/	Communication groups for development actors. Excellent resource - an easy way to start a discussion group, free and simple.	Structure for running development discussion groups. Funded by international NGOs and official agencies.		A site for setting up email discussion groups. Groups can be closed or open.	
Panos	http://www.panos.org/	NGO that supports communications for development	Communications NGO	Global - developing country focus	Case studies	For twenty years Panos has been working with the media and other communicators to foster debate on under-reported, misrepresented or misunderstood development issues.
Pelican Initiative	http://www.healthlink.org.uk/webdo/comms_pelican.html	Implementing organisational learning in practice	Part of Healthlink.	Good representaiton of Global South member organisations. Fairly new – most materials are 2007.	Uses a Dgroups discussion system for practitioner networking. Also has toolkits and allows disseminating information papers. Fairly new site.	The Pelican Initiative, open to anyone, is interested in the issues of learning and development. It seeks to bring together development practitioners from different disciplines, specialists and policy makers to share experiences, and to push the agenda further on three themes
Pelican Initiative discussion:	http://www.dgroups.org/groups/pelican/index.cfm					
Globalportalen	http://www.globalportalen.org/	Swedish perspective on internationalisation and development education	'Swedish Oneworld'	Sweden – with a youth focus.	Links to development organisations	Globalportalen.org byggs upp av 38 organisationer som på olika sätt arbetar med globala frågor, utveckling och bistånd
Global Voices	http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/	A pick of interesting global weblogs (blogs); some 'resident' blogs	Development communication portal	Global	'Roundup' of interesting development blogs from throughout the world. Also podcasts, email alerts, online chat.	Global Voices Online serves as the hub for an international community of bloggers who want to communicate with the broader world. Its main components are a blog, wiki, and aggregator of international blogs.

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Capacity.org	http://www.capacity.org/	Magazine with an interactive web structure. Online interaction is still thin on the ground.	Magazine	Global	Commenting on articles, posting and downloading resources, membership profiles. Includes member organisations' directory.	Welcome to Capacity.org, a web magazine-cum-portal intended for practitioners and policy makers who work in or on capacity development in international cooperation in the South.
NGO Networks						
Euforic – Europe's Forum on International Cooperation	http://www.euforic.org/?	EU development policy –civil society focused	Resources published in different EU languages.	EU civil society	RSS newsfeeds	Information, knowledge and communication on international cooperation and development
Concord – European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development	http://www.concordeurope.org/	EU development policy	NGO confederation	EU	Member links, RSS newsfeeds, member extranet	
Forum Syd	http://www.forumsvd.org/	Swedish civil society	NGO network portal	Swedish focus	Contacts, events, tools	Forum Syd samlar 199 svenska medlemsorganisationer och ett stort antal samarbetsorganisationer och nätverk över hela världen. Tillsammans med medlemsorganisationerna arbetar vi för att stärka det civila samhället genom utvecklingssamarbete, opinions- och påverkansarbete samt kompetens och metodutveckling.
INTRAC's Praxis Interchange	http://www.intrac.org/ngo_directory.php	Includes both a database of CS support service providers (search by country, name or theme) and interactive discussion pages in the Praxis Interchange. Anyone logged in can change pages and add content.	NGO	Global – Service providers lists include detailed information on organisations at district level.	'Wiki' discussion pages on organisational learning and CB issues; free publications; directory of service providers	The Praxis Programme is about enabling civil society organisations to become more effective by linking theory and practice - researchers and practitioners - in the field of organisational capacity building.
	http://www.intrac.org/pages/praxis_interchange.html					
CIVICUS	http://www.civicus.org/new/default.asp?c=00265D	Civil society alliance	Network	Global	'Resources & Services' section of the website includes very useful stuff such as three different e-newsletters, toolkits and links.	CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is an international alliance of members and partners which constitute an influential network of organisations at the local national, regional and international levels, and span the spectrum of civil society
Academic resources						
Institute of Development Studies (University of Sussex)	http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/info/index.html	Disseminating development information. Includes gender, development and health, governance and social development, research from the Global South, etc etc.	University institute – collection of specialist information sites	Academic-based; excellent reach.	Various specialist development websites including gender, livelihoods, participation etc.	While each service has a distinct approach, audience and focus, they all share one goal: to help development research and knowledge reach those who can use it to reduce poverty and injustice
Eldis - One of IDS' knowledge services.	http://www.eldis.org/	Gateway to development information	Info/research portal	Global. One of the top development sources.	Resource guides listed by topic. Email bulletins, newsfeeds, etc.	What is Eldis? 14, 850 online documents, 4,500 organisations, 15,000 email messages, 32 email bulletins, 31 newsfeeds

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ID21 – communicating development research (UK-based).- One of IDS' knowledge services.	http://www.id21.org/index.html	ODA – summarises development research for practitioners and policymakers		UK-based research.	Email updates on different topics: http://www.id21.org/id21-email/email.html, and special reports.	
Participation.net - One of IDS' knowledge services.	http://www.pnet.ids.ac.uk/guides/index.htm	Practitioners, academics	Knowledge source		Email updates, blogs, discussion forums.	Participation.net is a global, online space for sharing ideas about the participation of people in development, citizenship, governance and rights. We welcome researchers, practitioners, activists, educators, policy makers and others from around the world to exchange diverse views and resources.
ODI – Overseas Development Institute	http://www.odi.org.uk/	Macroeconomics	Think tank	UK-based (events) but global development scope.	RSS newsfeeds, comment on blogs, plenty of research material	ODI is Britain's leading independent think tank on development and humanitarian issues
Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales	http://www.flacso.org/	Social sciences		Latin America	Columns, news, newsletters from member countries, virtual library	La FLACSO es un organismo internacional de carácter autónomo y regional, creado en 1957, por iniciativa de la UNESCO y algunos gobiernos de la región. Su principal objetivo es promover las ciencias sociales en América Latina y el Caribe.
Third World Network	http://www.twinside.org.sg/	Trade and economic development; health	Network	Worldwide	Briefing papers, publications, news, email discussions on bulletin boards	The Third World Network is an independent non-profit international network of organizations and individuals involved in issues relating to development, the Third World and North- South issues.
International Development Research Centre	http://www.idrc.org/en/ev-1-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html	Disseminates development research from South.	Public Canadian body	Global	E-books, bulletins, videos, research funding	IDRC is a Canadian Crown corporation that works in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world in their search for the means to build healthier, more equitable and more prosperous societies.
UN Research Institute for Social Development UNRISD	http://www.unrisd.org/	Social policy, gender, social movements, development economics, urbanisation, regulation, democratisation, well-being.	UN research institute	UN-centred.	Email alerts, RSS newsfeeds. Email alerts can be customised according to frequency, topics and events. Publications can be ordered by email or bought.	For some time UNRISD has had a research programme on civil society and social movements designed to generate a more realistic understanding of social actions and dynamics in civil society. In recent years, work in this programme area focuses on transnational activism
Page on civil society and social movements:	http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/(httpProgrammeAreasForResearchHome)/22D98108BA57BDC98025718B003C2A4C?OpenDocument					
Allavida and Alliance magazine	http://www.allavida.org/finder-nonprofits.html	Allavida is an INGO that also publishes Alliance magazine.	NGO	Specific regions	Includes contact finder for East Africa, UK and Central Asia; Alliance magazine has some free articles, some for subscribers	Alliance - for news and analysis of the latest developments in philanthropy and social investment worldwide
Alliance magazine	http://www.allavida.org/alliance/alliancehome.html					
Development Studies Association	http://www.devstud.org.uk/	Researchers and academics in development.	DSA Association's website	UK-based	Monthly bulletin includes plenty of updates on resources, courses, blogs etc.	Connecting and promoting the development research community

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NGOs						
PRIA	http://www.pria.org/cqi-bin/index.htm	Participation for democracy	NGO	India-focused but applicable worldwide	M&E tools, case studies, newsletter, publications, LogoLink network of practitioners	To work towards promotion of policies, institutions and capacities that strengthen the voice and participation of the poor and the marginalized in improving their socio-economic status through democratic governance in society
Oxfam	http://www.oxfam.org.uk/	NGO, charity, humanitarian assistance, policy	NGO	Worldwide	In-depth resources, policy briefings, campaigning materials, blogs, podcasts and video, debates and discussion, teaching resources	Oxfam GB is a development, relief, and campaigning organisation that works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world.