

= Free Expression Policy Project =

The Free Expression Policy Project (FEPP) is an organization devoted to assisting researchers with assembling information related to freedom of speech , media democracy , and copyright , and advocating for these issues . Civil liberties lawyer Marjorie Heins founded the nonprofit organization in 2000 . Based in Manhattan , New York , it was initially associated with the National Coalition Against Censorship , and subsequently operated as part of the Democracy Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School .

The FEPP conducted a survey in 2001 which revealed that online monitoring software , including Net Nanny , SurfWatch , and Cybersitter , cast too broad a net and often blocked legitimate educational websites in their attempts to censor material from youths . In 2003 , the organization assisted 33 academics in filing a friend @-@ of @-@ the @-@ court brief challenging a law which restricted the sale of violent video games to minors . In coordination with the Brennan Center for Justice , the FEPP released a public policy report in 2006 on the inefficiency of Internet filtering ; the report concluded that freedom of expression was harmed by such online censorship activity . In 2007 , the FEPP became an independent organization .

The New Walford Guide to Reference Resources praised the FEPP website for its links to resources on freedom of expression and censorship . FEPP has been characterized by the Austin American @-@ Statesman as a think tank devoted to researching the First Amendment to the United States Constitution . The Denver Post described the organization as a censorship watchdog organization , and a separate article from the same newspaper called it a left @-@ of @-@ center politically aligned group , which advocated for both intellectual freedom and artistic freedom .

= = History = =

The Free Expression Policy Project was founded by Marjorie Heins , who became its initial director . It was formed as a nonprofit organization . Founded in 2000 , the organization formed with goals of assisting researchers with assembling information related to freedom of speech , media democracy , and copyright , and advocating for these issues . It started as an outgrowth of the National Coalition Against Censorship . Prior to founding the organization , Heins served as director of the Art Censorship Project at the American Civil Liberties Union . The FEPP monitors incidents of censorship against artists , and is based in Manhattan , New York .

A 2001 survey conducted by the organization found that popular online filters including Net Nanny , SurfWatch , and Cybersitter had significant problems , and blocked legitimate websites , including the website of US Congressman Richard Armey because his site included his nickname , " Dick " . The University of Kansas Archie R. Dykes Medical Library was blocked by SurfWatch because the word " dykes " appeared on the site . In 2003 , Stephanie Greist served as communications director for the Free Expression Policy Project .

In 2003 , the Free Expression Policy Project assisted 33 academics specializing in journalism , with filing a friend @-@ of @-@ the @-@ court brief challenging a law which restricted the sale of violent video games to youths . In 2004 the organization operated at the National Coalition Against Censorship . In 2005 the organization was part of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School . Within the Brennan Center for Justice , the FEPP operated through the Democracy Program at the law school . In 2006 the organization , in collaboration with the Brennan Center for Justice , released a report on the inefficiency of Internet filtering . The 87 @-@ page report concluded that academic @-@ based censorship of material on the Internet was far too broad and harmed free expression of ideas . The FEPP became independent from both the National Coalition Against Censorship and the Brennan Center for Justice in 2007 .

= = Analysis = =

The New Walford Guide to Reference Resources praised the FEPP website for its links to other websites about freedom of expression and censorship . Austin American @-@ Statesman described

the Free Expression Policy Project as a think tank dedicated to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution . A 2002 article in The Denver Post called the FEPP a watchdog organization which monitored censorship . In a 2004 article , The Denver Post characterized the organization as a think tank from the left @-@ of @-@ center political alignment , which advocated for both intellectual freedom and artistic freedom . The New York Times called the FEPP an organization which was critical of censorship of depictions of violence in the media .