

## Last Home for Open Research Threatened

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.

On a business note, for us to have access to suppliers for our business I need an internet which isn't 'gated'. Some of the items we need to run our business aren't available locally, therefore the next most efficient method of finding these items is through the internet. How can I be sure that my search is a product of a truly open market-place when the very tool I'm using is censored?

As for information on other subjects, how can I be sure that the information about spirituality I'm researching for an article is complete if the company through which I access the internet has decided that church doesn't meet it's criteria as a website that should be allowed to be accessed?

I'm an adult. I can make decisions for me and my children. I don't need or want someone else making decisions about what I may or may not access on the internet - this is not an elected forum and the phone and cable companies are not my chosen representatives.

Leave the internet neutral.