

At the birth of public television

The Carnegie Commission on Educational Television was a project of the nonprofit Carnegie Corporation of New York. The commission explored the role nonprofit television could play in the U.S. media system. Its work is credited with building public support for the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, which created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the organization providing government funds to public, noncommercial radio and television programming today. You can get a research start on the report here, on a page produced by Current.org, which covers public broadcasting.

When public television was created, there were only three national broadcast networks. The big question: Now that hundreds of channels are available, is there still a need for public television? What research would be needed to answer that question?