



GOVLAB



OPEN DATA PROJECTS

2015



NETWORK OF INNOVATORS

Find collaborators
Create alliances
Learn from others



GOVLAB ACADEMY

Move your public interest project
from idea to implementation
with online coaching



DATA COLLABORATIVES

Learn about opening up
private data to maximize
public good



OPEN DATA 500 GLOBAL NETWORK

Find out how companies
around the world are using
open government data



OPEN GOV RESEARCH REPOSITORY

Find and contribute research
on open government and
civic technology



OPEN DATA IMPACT STUDIES

Find out how open data
is making a difference
around the world



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Network of Innovators: A GovLab Experiment

Find collaborators. Create alliances. Learn from others.
smarterstate.org

Network of Innovators (Nol) is a mobile application designed and developed by The GovLab in collaboration with governance innovation leaders across seven countries. The tool makes searchable the know-how of government innovators on topics integral to governing more effectively and legitimately, such as opening data, prize-backed challenges and crowdsourcing for public good. By answering questions about governance innovation skills and experiences, the participant creates a profile, enabling her to be matched to those with complementary knowledge—either those who are similar or different—to enable mutual support and learning.

Nol adopts a more nuanced way of sharing and finding expertise – one that looks beyond traditional credentials to focus on real world know-how. Instead of rigid categories or open-ended tags, Nol attempts to get at what people know by asking the kinds of questions they could answer. In response to those questions, they can specify the expertise they have and want to share: whether they have the ability to do something, to tell someone about it, or to refer them to others knowledgeable about the topic. Although initially intra-governmental, the goal is to end up with a knowledge network of individuals and organizations who have worked on innovative projects—inside and outside of government.

Nol is an experiment intended to help the community learn if expert networking is an effective means to:

- Find who else has experience trying an innovation.
- Identify who has worked on a particular type of policy or problem.
- Find collaborators to develop new ideas for tackling a shared problem together.
- Form alliances and networks of supporters.
- Create a visual map of your own and other people's expertise and the ability to compare skills across countries.
- Describe the job profile of the 21st century public servant.

The first public test of Nol will be at the International Open Data Conference, Ottawa, Canada, May 28-29, 2015. For more about Nol, see <http://smarterstate.org>.

The GovLab Academy and Open Data

Move your public interest project from idea to implementation with online coaching
govlabacademy.org

Thanks to the generous support of Knight Foundation, The GovLab Academy – a training program designed to promote civic engagement and innovation – has launched a series of online project coaching programs.

The Coaching Programs are hands-on, project-driven mentoring programs designed to help teams or individuals, both inside and outside of government, move public interest projects from idea to implementation. Participants receive individualized feedback, mentoring by topic experts, customized and original learning materials, and peer-to-peer support within a community of people working on similar projects and solving similar problems. Apply for upcoming programs, including:

- **Open Data Projects:** Designed for those (including SMEs) already undertaking open data related projects. We provide coaching and mentoring designed to help you implement your project or take it to scale.
- **Data Collaboratives:** Designed for private sector companies interested in sharing data for public good, together we explore your datasets' potential to promote social good; understand different governance models for sharing; and evaluate risks and strategies to mitigate them to achieve the highest social impact responsibly.
- **Sensing Our Environment, Sensing Ourselves, Improving Our Lives:** This course is geared towards both government officials and policymakers exploring how bottom-up sensor projects can achieve a core mission and technical experts exploring how to get their project implemented.

For a full list of programs, see <http://govlabacademy.org/coaching-programs.html>.

The GovLab and Data Collaboratives

Learn about opening up private data to maximize public good
thegovlab.org/dc

Data collaboratives are when organizations from different sectors — private companies, research institutions, and government agencies — share data to help solve public problems.

At The GovLab, we study the impact of data collaboratives. Our interest stems from the premise that much of the data that would be valuable to improve people's lives resides with the private sector—in the form of, for instance, Web clicks, online purchases, sensor data, and call data records—and could be made more accessible. There is limited knowledge of how to maximize the benefits of data sharing while minimizing its associated risks, such as potential threats to privacy.

To accelerate the adoption of data collaboratives, The GovLab focuses on:

- **Documenting value and measuring impact:** The GovLab is co-creating **case studies** of existing data collaboratives to highlight what works in these new partnerships—their value propositions, technical arrangements, legal frameworks—and strategies for measuring impact.
- **Matching public demand and corporate supply of data in a trusted way:** Data collaboratives require good governance to unlock the supply of private sector data sets with potential public interest value. The GovLab and Peace Informatics Lab (Leiden University), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum Data-Driven Development initiative, have joined forces to create the **Data Governance Working Group** to design new governance mechanisms.
- **Building a practical toolkit:** The GovLab and partners are developing the first iteration of a practical toolkit to help those wishing to create new data collaboratives or accelerate those already in place.
- **Training and convening data providers and users:** On Friday, March 20, 2015, The GovLab co-hosted the Accelerating Data Collaboratives Workshop with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). This workshop focused on best practices for sharing public and private data for public good.

The Open Data 500 Global Network

Find out how companies around the world are using open government data
opendata500.com

Coordinated by The GovLab, the Open Data 500 Global Network is an international network of organizations that seek to study the use and impact of open data. The OD500 Global Network enables participating organizations to analyze open data in their country in a manner that is both globally comparative and domestically specific. The OD500 Global Network starts from the assumption that only by mapping the use of Open Data within and across countries can new approaches for understanding the economic and social impact of open government data be generated.

In 2014, The GovLab launched **Open Data 500 United States**, supported by Knight Foundation. The OD500 is the first comprehensive study of U.S.-based companies that use open government data as a key business resource. The study provides a way to map and visualize the relationships between companies and open government datasets, as well as to conduct other sector-by-sector analyses

New studies include:

Open Data 100 Mexico: opendata500.com/tx

Open Data 500 Australia: opendata500.com/au

Open Data 300 South Korea: opendata500.com/kr

Open Data 100 Italy: opendata500.com/it

Although the open data ecosystem varies from country to country, we adopt a common approach and platform to enable the comparative study of the use of open government data by businesses anywhere in the world. Participation in the Network provides countries and organizations a way to collect, analyze, and display information on the economic impact of open data in their regions; allows for cross-country comparison; and invites them into a research and practice community developing innovative tools and methodologies for understanding the economic impact of open data.

To find out more about how companies are using open government data, or how to conduct a study in your country, please visit opendata500.com.

Open Gov Research Repository

Find and contribute research on open government and civic technology
opengovresearch.org

Advances in technology, together with new scientific insights on collaboration and decision-making, provide a unique opportunity to redesign our democratic and civic institutions and, indeed, the very notion of citizenship in our democracy.

Despite a flourishing of civic innovation, civic technology, open governance and open data – innovative uses of technology to enable citizens and institutions to tackle society's biggest problems together – we know too little about what kinds of innovation work, when, why, and under what conditions. We also lack interaction and coordination among those studying innovation in governance, across traditional disciplinary boundaries, and between activists and academics.

The **Open Gov Research Repository** seeks to curate and help design research on solving public problems differently. The Repository, developed by **The GovLab**, in partnership with the **World Bank Digital Engagement Evaluation Team (DEET)**, **MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Opening Governance** and **mySociety**, provides institutional decision-makers, academics and practitioners with a diversity of content related to meaningfully implementing and assessing the effectiveness of innovations in how we solve public problems.

The Repository comprises three central elements:

- **Publication Repository** – an extended collection of research publications exploring new means of addressing public problems – from data analysis to citizen engagement.
- **Research Methods Blog** – a regularly updated blog (written by members of The GovLab, DEET, Research Network and mySociety teams) focused on assessing and developing new strategies for measuring the impact and effectiveness of open governance and civic technology initiatives.
- **Shared Knowledge Base** – collaboration and knowledge-sharing between practitioners and researchers in the field including live, moderated Q&As and an asynchronous forum for posing questions and sharing insights.

Researchers and practitioners working in open governance and civic technology are eagerly encouraged to share their publications, blog posts, questions to the community and more.

Open Data Impact Studies

Find out how open data is making a difference around the world

thegovlab.org/opendata

The GovLab, in collaboration with the Omidyar Network, is pleased to announce Open Data Impact Studies, a series of international case studies to be developed Summer 2015. These impact studies are designed to help us better understand the demand-use-impact cycle of open data.

Despite global commitments to and increasing enthusiasm for open data, little is actually known about its use and impact. What kinds of social and economic transformation has open data brought about and what is its future potential? How—and under what circumstances—has it been most effective? How have open data practitioners mitigated risks (e.g. to privacy) and maximized social good?

Even as proponents extol the virtues of open data, the field suffers from a mismatch between the supply (or availability) of data and its actual demand (and subsequent use). This mismatch potentially limits the impact of open data, and inhibits its ability to produce social, economic, political, cultural and environmental change. Thus, a more nuanced understanding of the various processes and factors underlying the demand, supply, release, and use of open data is crucial.

In the run up to the project, we are compiling a list of candidate cases for further study. We invite you to submit your suggestions at the email address below. Ideal cases are those that are:

- Representative: encompassing a variety of geographies and different use cases. In particular, we are eager to source case studies from the nonprofit sector and from the developing world.
- Illustrative and explanatory: seeking not only to describe what has happened but also why and how it has happened. Therefore, it is important that there exists sufficient information or documentation to enable in-depth research.
- Inspirational and replicable: offering actionable guidance for other open data projects around the world. Part of our goal in assembling these case studies is to better understand what works and what does not, and under what conditions to enable others to replicate.

We would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.