Librarians as Critical Infrastructure in Data Ecosystems

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Abstract
Across the US and around the world, a growing number of public sector, educational, and nonprofit organizations have been sharing data with one another. These organizations hope to increase transparency, enhance efficiency and service quality, improve communities, encourage public participation, develop new knowledge, and foster civic innovation. While there are many success stories around data sharing, there is a growing awareness that the act of publishing data will not always result in community impact. Data intermediaries are often needed to help people extract value from data, and to help producers make good decisions about what and how they publish.

In Pittsburgh, our local civic data ecosystem is unique in that both public and academic librarians are actively involved as data intermediaries, and they work in close collaboration with other intermediaries, data publishers and users in a variety of ways. Librarians play a number of roles, including helping people discover information, building data literacy and technical skills, providing technical assistance in data management and documentation, creating feedback mechanisms to publishers, convening and hosting events, and connecting data users.

Our experience shows that libraries and librarians should be key actors in the continuing development of data ecosystems and act as core data intermediaries; their expertise adds value to a wide range of issues that affect both data publishers and users. In this talk, I will share insights gained through the Civic Switchboard project, which aims to develop the capacity of libraries in civic data ecosystems.

Comments
DOI https://doi.org/10.23889/ijpds.v3i5.1048
Librarians as Critical Infrastructure in Civic Data Ecosystems

November 13th, 2018
About Me
Examples of Data Management Partnerships
Metadata Consultation

Re-enactment

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Data Management Plan
Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center
www.wprdc.org

Last updated 4/23/2018

Introduction
The Regional Data Center is managed by the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Social and Urban Research, and is a partnership of the University, Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh. The Regional Data Center provides an infrastructure for civic data sharing. This infrastructure has several dimensions, including: a technological infrastructure in the form of a community open data portal; a legal infrastructure for data exchange; a governance infrastructure for both data stored on the portal and the project itself, and an infrastructure for community engagement.

This plan describes basic data management practices and policies employed by the Regional Data Center. These practices are designed to enhance data quality, ensure proper...
Data Archiving and Preservation

Future Proofing Civic Data:
Exploring the Challenges of Preserving Open Civic Data for the Long Term

A white paper presented by the Temple University Libraries
Last Edited: September 29, 2017

Project team: Joe Luria, Dean of Temple University Libraries (PI); Rachel Aqeel, Digital Projects & Services Librarian; Delphine Khatami, Head of Digital Initiatives; Chad Nelson, Lead Technology Developer; Margaret Sly, Director of the Special Collections Research Center; and Gretchen Self, Science and Engineering Librarian.

We are grateful to the Knight Foundation for the “Knight News Challenge on Libraries” grant that supported this project.
Context for Data with Guides or ReadMe

**Data Guide**

A Guide for Data Related to Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Allegheny County

**About**

The data in this guide has been assembled and made available for public use as part of the Allegheny County Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) project. This local DASH project is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as part of their national initiative aiming to develop, implement, and evaluate multi-sector data sharing projects addressing a range of public health challenges. As part of this collaboration, the Allegheny County Health Department has collected social determinants data from multiple sources in an attempt to improve the cardiovascular health of 1.2 million residents in the county. This data available through DASH not only relates to cardiovascular disease, but a wide

**Fast Food Establishments**

The Allegheny County Health Department has generated this list of fast food restaurants by exporting all chain restaurants without an alcohol permit from the County's Fee and Permit System. A chain restaurant defined by the County is any restaurant that has more than one location in the County. Chain restaurants capture both local and national chains (including locally owned national chains) so long as there is one or more establishments in operation within the County.

**What's Included in the Data:**

Publicly Available

- Client ID
- Name
- Legal Name
- Start Date
- Street #
- Street Name
- Zipcode
- Latitude
- Longitude
- Fast Food Category

**Where to Find the Data:**

- Open Data on the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center’s Website
- Interactive Map
Examples of Community Engagement Partnerships
Cultivating an Ecosystem
Facilitate Community Conversations

Your Voice Matters:
You’re Invited to a Public Meeting about Sensors, Privacy & Data in Chicago

WHAT: Array of Things Public Meeting
WHEN: Tuesday June 14, 2016 | 5:30pm — 7:00pm
WHERE: 1805 S Loomis St. — Lozano Library
The event will take place in the large meeting room

Refreshments will be served. No technical experience or knowledge is required. ALL are welcome!

Learn more about Array of Things: arrayofthings.github.io
Sign up to get updates on this event: bit.ly/ArrayofThingsMeetings

Hosted & sponsored by the
SmartChicago COLLABORATIVE
User Engagement and Feedback

Data User Group Meeting

Civic User Testing
Provide a Home for Community Events
Celebrate Data through a Data Day

@PghIP is down at @carnegielibrary talking about #BurghsEyeView Check it out at data.pittsburghpa.gov
Establish publishing priorities
Data Literacy Training
Data Skills Training

- NNIP Microsoft Trainings
- Data/Library Carpentry
- Data SF
- Civic Data Ambassadors
- Individual workshops
Technical Assistance
Promotion - Social Media, Newsletter, Events Calendar, Flyers, Etc.

Data Day: "spooky" data social; open data + wine; blight data; open data about dogs; Petrochemical America; Weapons of Math Destruction recap; neighborhood profiles; Open Data in PR; Mona Chalabi; events, and more

Like this newsletter? Sign up for our mailing list or forward it to a friend.

View this email in your browser

Open Data & Civic Tech News #27: Data Day is almost here!
October 6, 2017

- Data Day is almost here! Get ready for a day of hands-on activities on Saturday, October 21. Many exciting activities will be spread throughout the Carnegie Library in Oakland. You can learn more about political redistricting, see what you can do to help raise awareness of the 2020 Census, learn more about how Pittsburgh and Allegheny County are using data, and be inspired by data-themed art and music activities. We’ll see you there. There may even be a special guest!

- If you’re connected with the university community in Pittsburgh, join us in Hillman Library’s Digital Scholarship Commons for a special event on October 30 for spooky treats and to meet others that love data. Learn more about where to turn for data, and find inspiration for a project. You’ll also be able to give a brief 3-5 minute lightning talk at the event where you can share your work, talk about data careers, pitch your club or a project idea, and tell your data story.

- In their recent blog post, learn how the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and PublicSource encouraged teens to connect with data in this summer’s zine camp. The zine camp was one of the projects the Library has sponsored to promote data literacy. The participants used the zines to share a personal story about data.
Storytelling
Librarians Give Great Advice
Civic Switchboard
(Just enough about)

The Civic Switchboard Project

Our Pittsburgh experience: libraries and library workers should be key actors in civic open data ecosystems and act as core data intermediaries.

Conviction 1: Cultivating a healthy local civic data ecosystem depends upon the coordinated efforts of a variety of data intermediaries. Intermediaries need to work together; library involvement can include both academic and public libraries.

Conviction 2: No single model can be made to fit every city or region. Modelling at the national level must be done by capturing a wide variety of successful local practices.
The Civic Switchboard Project

Project Website + Blog + Community of Practice
https://civic-switchboard.github.io/

Civic Switchboard Guide and Toolkit
https://civic-switchboard.gitbooks.io/guide/

2018 Workshops: Before NNIP and DLF

2019 Field Awards
Thank You!

Check-out Civic Switchboard, and find a friend at your library.