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Open Data Literacy 2018 summer internship at Washington State Library

2nd DRAFT - 8 May 2018

**Internship/Project Title**:

Opportunities and Capacity for Open Data in Washington Public Libraries

**Problem statement**: What is the level of interest and capacity for open data initiatives across public libraries in the state of Washington?

Three key areas for investment in open data

* Collaboration with cities or counties to provide access to civic open data
* Opening up library data to the public
* Outreach to library service communities on open data access and use

**Project Goals**:

1. Conduct a directed environmental scan of a selected group of public libraries in WA to document interests, capacity, and needs for providing open data programs and services. Identify libraries along a continuum of readiness-- currently active / planning stage / high interest -- in promoting or using open data to foster civic engagement or government transparency, or to increase data literacy of their service communities. Explore potential WSL roles in promoting and publishing open data.

2. Provide outreach to Washington State Library (WSL) and other public libraries to build awareness of trends and possibilities addressing:

* What are open data?
* Why are open data important for public libraries?
* What current initiatives across the country can serve as exemplars?

3. Draft and pretest survey and / or interview protocol for state-wide analysis of readiness. Develop sampling and distribution plan.

4. Develop an internship plan for incubating promising open data projects in libraries for summer of 2019 and future sustained engagement with ODL.

**Work plan:**

Achieving the overall goals will require overlapping activities involving careful planning, development of presentations and resources, engagement with libraries, and development and testing of research instruments. It may also involve developing pilots and prototypes of programs, services, and technical platforms.

The ODL team recognizes that not all activities may be completed within the 2018 internship timeframe. Priorities will be adjusted as needed in consultation with project mentors and the ODL team.

Activity 1. Plan directed environmental scan and engagement strategy.

Determine the best approach for identifying and communicating with selected public libraries across the state to explore interest and capability for investing in open data initiatives.

Begin with a group of libraries identified in consultation with:

WSL mentors and contacts

Will Saunders from the Washington OCIO, based on progress to date on the Data Equity for Main Street project. Starting points:

* Everett Public
* Mt. Vernon City Library
* Richland Public
* Walla Walla County Rural Library
* Spake County Library District
* Butte County
* Asotin County
* Other libraries involved in alpha or beta testing of the Data Equity for Mainstreet project

Activity 2. Develop engagement materials.

Presentation on ODL and WSL project overview

Profiles of exemplar and inspirational cases of public libraries active in open data.

Examples include: Chattanooga, Boston, Kansas City, and Edmonton. Other examples can be found in Nic Weber’s previous work: <https://github.com/OpenDataLiteracy/OpenDataAndPublicLibraries>.

Resources for learning about open data opportunities for libraries, drawing on materials developed by GovEx at JHU, Sunlight Foundation, and others advocacy and educational organizations.

Activity 3. Perform site visits with 3-4 pilot libraries.

Libraries will be targeted that align with the three key areas of open data investment:

* Library/city collaboration to provide access to open data
* Opening up library data to the public
* Outreach to library service communities

Interact with library personnel to explore interests and capacity for open data initiatives and needs for professional development. Articulate questions for state-wide analysis of open data interest and readiness. Initial themes include:

1. Alignment with current civic engagement and community interests
2. Professional development or education needed
3. Personnel challenges
4. Technical challenges
5. Opportunities for collaboration or centralization of programs
6. Potential for sustaining internship resources to build program

Develop sampling protocol and distribution process, as well as communication plan. Administration of the survey will require that ODL has built sufficient awareness of the project and involvement of WSL in encouraging participation.

Activity 4: Explore potential WSL roles in open data.

Focus will be on:

Examining capacity to coordinate or publish open data.

Planning a prototype platform for open library data.

Activity 5: Identify candidate open data projects for incubation in future stages of ODL.

Develop plan for summer 2019 ODL interns to be deployed at WSL or participating libraries, and for sustained engagement into the future.

**Deliverables**:

* Presentation on open data basics and exemplar public library open data efforts
* Web resources accessible through the ODL website
* Instrument and plan for state-wide analysis
* Documented high potential open data projects in WSL and other state libraries.
* Scalable approach for continued progress in coordination with the State Library for 2019 and beyond
* Draft project report for conference or journal dissemination