

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST



DEPARTMENT OF DATA SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC POLICY

NAME: PRISCILLA BEDZRA

INDEX NUMBER: SE/DMD/24/0005

DATA CURATION AND MANAGEMENT

(DMA820)

DR. RAYMOND E. KOFINTI

ASSIGNMENT 1

Commentary on Data Dissemination and Sharing on the Ghana National Data Sharing Policy

Data Policy is quite a new area for many organizations in Ghana and my organization is no exception. The Ghana Education Service (as per today has its website nonfunctional) does not have documentation on its data policy. As a result, I will focus on the national data sharing policy from the ministry of communication.

1. Structure of Data Dissemination

The policy establishes multiple structures for disseminating government data. At the top level, the Ministry of Communications, through the National IT Agency (NITA), oversees implementation, while a Data Sharing Steering Committee (DSSC) sets standards, guidelines, and monitors compliance. Below that, Data Task Teams are established within individual Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to coordinate data activities.

Two key data platforms are emphasized:

- National Open Data Portal (<http://www.data.gov.gh/>) – for public access
- Data Exchange Hub – for internal sharing between MDAs

This structure promotes vertical and horizontal communication, facilitating data dissemination to both public and institutional audiences.

2. Format of Data Dissemination

The policy mandates that data be:

- Published in machine-readable, non-proprietary formats (e.g., CSV, JSON, XML)
- Licensed under the Open Data Commons Attribution License
- Accompanied by standardized metadata

3. Data Sharing Protocols and Procedures

The policy defines three levels of data accessibility:

- Open Data – freely available to the public
- Shareable Data – not public but sharable within government
- Restricted Data – confidential or sensitive, only accessible under defined conditions

Each dataset must be categorized in a Data Inventory, reviewed and updated annually by each MDA. The Data Sharing Steering Committee has final authority on disputes related to classification.

4. Data Visibility (Website / Social Media Handles)

Data is primarily published on:

- The National Open Data Portal: <http://www.data.gov.gh>
- MDA-specific platforms and websites

The policy encourages wide data visibility through:

- Regular updates on institutional websites
- Social media awareness campaigns
- No mandatory user registration for public datasets

B. Organizational Improvement Suggestion:

Data organization can be improved by the following means;

- Creating a dedicated data section on your website
- Posting bit-sized data stories or infographics on social media platforms (X/Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook)
- Using hashtags and tagging relevant agencies (e.g., @DataGovGH, @GSS_Ghana) to expand reach

References

<https://data.gov.gh/sites/default/files/Ghana%20National%20Data%20Sharing%20Policy%20Draft%203.0.pdf>

<https://www.georgeinstitute.org/about-us/governance/our-policies/data-sharing-policy>