
Open Government: Say AAAA.



**A reflection on the current and future state of open government
in Canada via research conducted under the auspices of
InterPARES Trust**

open data: data available to anyone that may be used for any purpose and that is in a structure that facilitates its use at little or no cost to the public.

open information: the release of government records and published materials for public use, typically in unstructured formats

citizen engagement: a communicative, interactive and iterative process or initiative that actively involves citizens in policy or program development at any level of government.

Acceleration



Acceleration

“From a recordkeeping perspective, big data and open data concepts and issues are like a tree where the roots represent the business processes of an organization and the branches represent the extension and augmentation of these processes to ... underpin big data and open data initiatives. The common denominator and the basis for setting retention specifications and formal schedules for these initiatives is the business process” (117).

McDonald, J., & Léveillé, V. (2014). Whither the retention schedule in the era of big data and open data? *Records Management Journal*, 24(2), 99-121. doi: 10.1108/RMJ-01-2014-0010.

Aggregation



Aggregation

“The data and information that is selected for publication and distribution under a new initiative derives from original government source material that has been repurposed and given value within a new open government context. The value of this information thus depends on the reliability of the source material as well as the accuracy with which this is then communicated with users. Since this material was created as a result of separate business functions and processes, information concerning the work processes, the system and the environment that guided the creation, capture, and control of the source material must therefore be considered as relevant to the publication of the open government information—together, they provide a complete and accurate picture of the information’s context and meaning and, therefore, a basis for trust in the information” (173).

Léveillé, V., & Timms, K. (2015). Through a records management lens: Creating a framework for trust in open government and open government information. *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science* 39(2), 154-190. doi: 10.1353/ils.2015.0010.

Up next: Automation





FOIA The Dead

Morley Safer

Morley Safer was a Canadian journalist who came to prominence offering unvarnished coverage of the Vietnam War. After receiving a viewer complain that Safer's reporting would be "destructive to morale," FBI prepared a report but declined to investigate further.

New York Times obit: [Morley Safer, Mainstay of '60 Minutes,' Is Dead at 84](#)

DOCUMENT PAGES TEXT Zoom Search

August 6, 1965

1 - Orig
1 - Yellow
1 - Mr. Fitzgerald
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Flemister

CODE

CABLEGRAM URGENT

TO LEGAT OTTAWA
FROM DIRECTOR FBI
MORLEY SAFER, FPC.

SUBJECT IS COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NETWORK CORRESPONDENT
IN SOUTH VIETNAM. RECENTLY HE HAS BEEN GIVING PARTICULARLY
UNFAVORABLE RADIO ACCOUNTS OF MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH
VIETNAM. ACCOUNTS HAVE HAD TO DO WITH BRUTALITIES OF MARINE CORPS.
ON AUGUST FIVE LAST, SUBJECT APPEARED ON TELEVISION GIVING

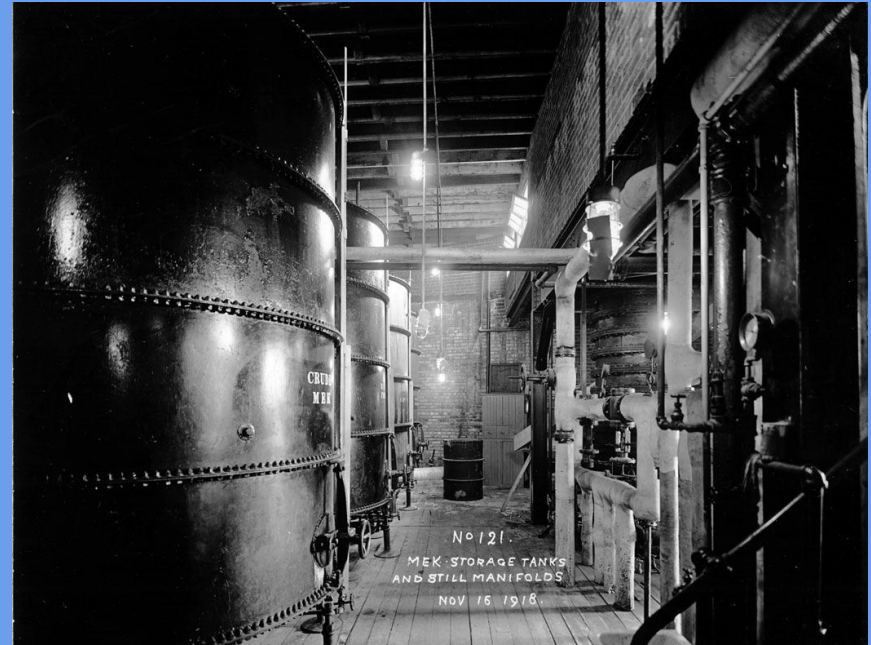
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261

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Accessibility



Algorithms



Algorithms

“Transparency of the whole engagement process, and how different information technologies for input and analysis were used to get from the beginning to the end, is a crucial contributor to establishing trust in the system itself through the availability of evidence” (p. 18) ... A lack of transparency around how records are created, analyzed, managed, and preserved means that citizen engagement initiatives may create greater distrust in engagement processes themselves, thereby contradicting their original ‘open’ intent” (p. 21).

Hurley, G. (2017). Your comments here: Contextualizing technologies, seeking records and supporting transparency for citizen engagement. *Tidsskriftet Arkiv*, 8(1), 1-25. doi: 10.7577/ta.1956.

Apathy



0 Current
Commitments

97 Reviewed Commitments

Starred Commitments

- 🔗 Implement the Extractive Industries... (1/1/2013)
- 🔗 Increase Transparency in Spending (1/1/2013)
- 🔗 Amendments to FOIA (1/1/2015)
- 🔗 Open Science through open data (1/1/2015)
- 🔗 Build Safer Communities with Police Open Data (1/1/2015)

22 Current
Commitments

63 Reviewed Commitments

Starred Commitments

- 🔗 Open Data Canada (11/1/2014)
- 🔗 Mandatory Reporting on Extractives (11/1/2014)
- 🔗 1. Open Government Licence: Issue Open... (7/1/2012)
- 🔗 2. Open Government Licence: Adopt Open... (7/1/2013)
- 🔗 1. International Aid Transparency Initiative:... (7/1/2012)
- 🔗 Open Science (11/1/2014)

USA and Canada's current pages on the Open Government Partnership [Link](#)

Up next: Applications



Civic engagement made *really* easy

A ready-to-use citizen participation platform for local governments.
Reach more citizens, manage your participation projects, and make better decisions.

[Get a demo](#)

PARTICIPATION METHODS

The right tool, each step of the way

CitizenLab supports you at each step of the participation ladder.
Ask for your citizens' feedback, make them collaborate on a project,
collect their ideas and much more, all on a single platform.

Thank you!

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Thanks to the [City of Toronto Archives](#) for making beautiful images from their collections available online!
