Data:

To solve this problem, we would need to obtain data dividing the county into scalable units. The county is divided into various cities. Given the sparsely populated nature of the rural county a 'city' was determined to be a small enough unit to base our classifications on. We shall obtain latitude and longitudinal location data from this data source and try to concatenate it to data obtained from a local search-and-discovery service app to find restaurants and shopping area clusters within the county.

Due to a government shut down in the united states; the census and other such locality data could not be obtained from data.gov. Although not ideal, an alternative presented itself upon discovery of https://simplemaps.com/data/us-zips. The company Simple Maps states that data has "been built from the ground up using authoritative sources including the U.S. Postal Service™, U.S. Census Bureau, National Weather Service, American Community Survey, and the IRS". This was deemed reliable and accurate for purposes of the project and their free version of data was obtained in .csv format from the website. It provided latitude and longitude information for all states of the US divided into counties and cities.

We shall obtain location and features data for local businesses by using FourSquare, a local search-and-discovery service app. This app distinguishes itself by providing a reliable and free data collection for developers easily accessed by API. An account was created and API was accessed to obtain data regarding categories of restaurants and shopping places in the county of Washington and the frequency with which they are visited.