

# **Your Library and Open Government Collaboration Opportunities**

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Jim Kammerer • 2018 MLA Fall Retreat,  
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# How you use government data everyday.



# Overview

## Your library today

- Government Information Center.
- Mission statements, goals, strategic plans.
- Current ways of serving as Government Information Center.

## Collaboration opportunities

- Scalable ways to develop.
- Identify/contact stakeholders.
- Partnerships.

## **Your library as a government information center**

- **State Depository Library Program.**
- **Traditional print publication process.**
- **State Publication Management Plan handouts.**
- **Administrative Rules of Montana.**

## Mission statements, library goals, strategic plans:

- Lewis and Clark Library strategic plan includes guiding principles about accessibility, openness, literacy, outreach, and partnership.
- Livingston Public Library: “We foster literacy, learning, and community engagement to support an active democracy.”
- Imaginelf Library strategic plan: “...actively seek partnerships with organizations, institutions, government agencies and businesses to enable the library to better serve its customers and achieve shared community objectives.”
- Billings Public Library: “...ensure civic engagement for all residents of Yellowstone County, help create, reinforce, and sustain an educated populace....” Also, BPL strategic goals: “Make access happen, Connect with Patrons, Partners, and Professionals, Build Our Future”.

# Current library access to government information?

- Traditional publishing/distribution.
- What government publications are at your reference desk?
- How are they used by public?
- How do the publications come to your library?
- The most common government information requests right now?

**How has your library adapted to new model of information distribution?**

- **Give examples of library government information web pages.**

## What Will You Discover with Open Data?





# Why data?

- **Basis for decision making.**
- **Programming, planning, assessment, evaluation. To get grants. Public support. Engage your community. Tell your story.**
- **Data literacy as part of information literacy.**

# Open Data

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**Definition:** *“Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike.”*

<http://opendatahandbook.org/guide/en/what-is-open-data/>

# Open Data: Criteria

1. **Open license. Public domain. No terms of service. Attribution requirements.**
2. **Available in bulk. Batch downloads possible.**
3. **Up to date. Complete as possible.**
4. **Machine readable.**
5. **Non-discriminatory: Available to anyone. Online. No registration. Anonymous.**
6. **Open format. Non proprietary. Text files (.txt, .csv) not (.xls, .pdf, .doc, etc.)**
7. **Free. No fees.**
8. **Doesn't include personal information, security/safety restrictions.**

# U.S. City Open Data Census <http://us-cities.survey.okfn.org/>



U.S. CITY OPEN DATA CENSUS  
POWERED BY OPEN DATA CENSUS

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Number of places **264**

Number of datasets **725**

Number of open datasets **406**

Percentage open **56%**

Welcome to the U.S. City Open Data Census! **Submissions for the 2018 edition of the census are now open!** See [past years' submissions here](#).  
[Read more](#) about what has changed from the old version. At the moment, cities are ordered alphabetically; you can order by rank by double-clicking the "Rank" header.

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Rank	Place	Budget	Parcels	Construction Permits	Crime Reports	Zoning	Service Requests	Code Violations	Employee Salaries	Business Listings	Spending	Restaurant Inspections	Property Assessment	Public Facilities	Traffic Crashes	Procurement Contracts	Emergency Calls	Lobbyist Activity	Police Use-of-Force	Website Analytics	Property Transfers	Score	
1	Cincinnati, OH																					94%	
2	Las Vegas, NV																					89%	
3	San Francisco, CA																						85%

# Potential local/state government information:

- What data might the public need/want that they don't know about?
- What data might the public want this winter?
- What data/info would you like to have access to? And why?

# Scalable ways to develop as government information center:

- Current library data available? Examples?
- What is a starting point for your library?
- What are the questions/issues in your community? What govt data/info addresses these issues? Are people coming to your library for this data? If not, why not?
- Government does want to hear from the public.
- Ask govt employees how you can help as librarians. Seek out your colleagues on the local/county levels.
- Do you see yourself as a catalyst for open data publishing?

# Additional ways to develop as government information center:

- Think broadly about being a government info center.
- Are you at “the table”? Get out of the library building.
- How are you connected to your community? Who do you know?

## Examples of local/state govt information:

- [Billings building permits](#)
- [Billings Document Center](#)
- [Helena Construction Permits](#)
- [Helena Zoning Maps](#)
- [Lewis & Clark County Public Inmate Roster](#)
- [Helena City Commission Meeting Minutes](#)
- [City Data Tables](#)
- [Annual financial Reports](#)
- [Audits and financial Reviews](#)
- [Budgets of Montana Towns](#)
- [State Agency Audit Findings](#)
- [Chicago Public Library facts/figures](#)
- [IMLS data for Montana](#)



# Open state data:

- [School District Profile](#)
- [Montana Property Records](#)
- [Drinking Water Watch](#)
- [Montana State Agency Databases](#)
- [Montana live audio feeds](#)
- [MSL state agency web collection](#)
- [MSL Internet Archive collection](#)

# Collaboration Opportunities

- Identify local/state government publishers. Contact them. Give them feedback.
- Help highlight or recognize their work.
- What would make their work easier?
- Reduce information requests.
- Save staff time/money.

# Open Data and Public Libraries



<sup>56</sup> Holden, J. P. (2013, February 22). Increasing access to the results of federally funded scientific research. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## Cool tools:

- Chrome browser extension for “Official Wayback Machine” to archive web pages on the spot.
- Search and adopt a web page change detection tool. Useful for monitoring changes to govt sites, special prices, discounts, job offers, search page rankings, etc. Some are free, some are fee.
- Curate your own web collection of open government sites

## Additional resources:

- [Data Equity for Mainstreet](#)
- [Data 101 Toolkit](#)
- [How to write an open data policy](#)
- [World-class cities come in all shapes and sizes.](#)
- [Civic Switchboard: Connecting Library and Community Information Networks](#)
- [Trends in Civic Tech](#)
- [Federal Govt open data site.](#)
- [Draft administrative rules of Montana for depository libraries and state agencies](#)
- [Memo regarding state publications and Administrative Rules of Montana](#)