

Open and Transparent Government: Issues, Policies, and Strategies

Government Information Quarterly is seeking scholarly manuscripts for a special issue on Open Government, to be published in October 2010. *Government Information Quarterly* (GIQ) is a premier cross-disciplinary and refereed journal that covers information and telecommunications policy, information management, information technology planning and management, and e-government practices, policies and issues relevant to all levels of government within the United States and abroad. For purposes of this special issue, “open government” is defined as the strategies, processes, programs, and policies that make government activities transparent and accessible to individuals. This includes specific actions and technologies that make government activity and decision-making available for inspection, review, and comment by individuals or interested organizations.

The issue seeks manuscripts that focus on local, national, and international policy aspects of Open Government, particularly in the areas of:

- **Transparency.** Of particular interest are the policies, laws, and other governance structures that promote open, effective, and accountable government.
- **Freedom of information.** Of particular interest is the use of laws comparable to the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (including electronic) or equivalent, to seek access to and the release of government information.
- **Declassification.** Of particular interest are the policies, laws, and other governance structures that govern the classification, declassification, reclassification, overclassification, and sensitive but unclassified content, the movement of content between these classifications, and the release of information to the public.
- **E-democracy.** Of particular interest is the relationship between the public and government through the use of innovative, interactive, and social networking technologies.
- **E-rulemaking.** Of particular interest is the use of digital technologies by government agencies in the rulemaking and decision making processes and how that impacts the rulemaking and decision making processes.
- **Scientific and Technical Information (STI).** Of particular interest is the degree to which the government “edits” or “modifies” scientific and technical information it produces such to support political ends as opposed to scientific openness and accuracy.
- **Government 2.0.** Of particular interest is the development, design, and implementation of interactive technologies by government agencies to develop and support user-oriented e-government applications, services, and resources.
- **Measurement and Evaluation.** Of particular interest is the development of measurement and evaluation tools, methods, and approaches for assessing “open” and “transparent” government.
- **Inclusive practices.** Of particular interest are the policies and practices that governments use to ensure equity of access to government information, especially digital government information. This includes practices that ensure access to and

democratic participation in electronic government and governance to populations who may not have access to the Internet or face other challenges (i.e., persons with disabilities).

- **[Electronic] Records management.** Of particular interest are the requirements that laws and other policy instruments (e.g., Presidential Records Act), place on government agencies to manage, schedule, make available, and preserve their records (including digital content).
- **Privacy.** Of particular interest are the issues and challenges that increased access to and dissemination of government information in multiple formats presents government agencies – and governance structures, protections, and other requirements necessary to ensure privacy.
- **Sharing of Information.** Of particular interest is the degree to which agencies within a governmental agency are allowed to or encouraged to share government information and the impacts from such sharing.
- **Comparative Assessments.** Of particular interest is the development of tools that enable researchers and others to compare the openness and transparency of one government to other governments in light of different social, economic, and demographic characteristics. Included here are the comparative policies that examine the transnational issues of open government, especially as they are linked to universal norms of justice and human rights.
- **Access.** Of particular interest are the policies and practices which allow for an informed citizenry used by government to ensure permanent public access to government information.

The special issue welcomes submissions on the above and related topics. Interested authors should submit a 600 word abstract to gig@umd.edu by November 15, 2009. Based on a review of the abstracts, selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts by December 1, 2009. Full manuscripts will be due by February 1, 2010 and will undergo a double-blind peer review process. Final manuscripts will be due by April 30, 2009. Submissions prior to the final dates above are encouraged. Manuscripts should be 20-25 pages double-spaced, and follow *GIQ* style requirements (guideline information is available at http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/620202/authorinstructions).

GIQ uses an online editorial system (<http://ees.elsevier.com/giq/>), for which authors will need to register to submit the full manuscript. More information regarding *GIQ* and manuscript preparation is available at <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/govinf>.

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Government Information Quarterly is a quarterly publication of Elsevier Science. The journal explores such topics as information and telecommunications policy; e-government; access to

and use of government information; information technology management, implementation, planning,

and evaluation; information services development, management, and provision in a distributed networked environment; service quality assessment, benchmarking, and performance measurement; and governing and governance in a networked environment. GIQ articles are available through ScienceDirect at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>.

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