Joint Councils Executive Report on Trends this Month

Data integration and the Internet of Things (IoT) were key topics of discussion this month.

Key Insights - Data:

Data integration in the public sector was a key theme this month with a focus on: the **advantages** of "federated" data analytics platforms (refers to an emerging alternative to building increasingly large datasets); how complex policy problems can be solved with data integration more often; and, the challenges of data integration.

Challenges related to data integration and analytics included risk aversion, ownership issues and privacy issues.

Check out **these three ways** public sector data centre consolidation can benefit citizens. Deployment of an operational data hub has been a reoccurring theme and would allow organizations to process, analyze and share data in real time. Read more **in this article.**

Public-private partnerships are encouraged for participants from different sectors to exchange data to help solve pressing public problems by using resources such as **this one by The Governance Lab**.

Noteworthy Reports related to data
Data Analytics Can Drive Change in Health Care
Who owns the data collected by Smart Cities?

Key insights - Internet of Things:

As the IoT increasingly becomes a part of our daily lives, the tech industry is raising concerns around the fact that most of these IoT devices are not secure. Many are proposing **Blockchain as a solution** to the security dilemma.

Government regulation of IoT is coming according to security experts. Experts emphasize the need for technologists to be involved in IoT security policy.

Governments should avoid rushing into IoT because of the complexity of setting up data collection and analytics in the right way and the issues of cybersecurity and networking. Read more about this **here.**

Articles regarding the IoT data distribution dilemma discussed possible solutions to the dilemma. Read **this article** to learn more about what governments, businesses, and private actors should be doing to overcome the challenge.

Read the **10 Predictions For The Internet Of Things (IoT) In 2018**

Other Noteworthy Reports & Articles:

[The making of a smart city: policy recommendations,](#)
by the European Commission.

[Shopify CEO Tobi Lütke to lead feds' digital industries strategy table](#)
by Ottawa Business Journal

[Blockchain-Based ID Management Systems Being Developed For Canada,](#)
by ETHNews

[How Can Government Deliver an Amazon-esque Service Experience to Constituents?,](#)
by Government Technology

Special Topic – Showcasing IPAC's Special Issue:

This month, we would like to draw your attention to some incredible content related to Digital Government available in [IPAC's feature issue – Understanding Governance in the Digital Era: An Agenda for Public Administration Research in Canada](#). There are some great articles that are worth a read and the full issue makes for a great academic source of information.

We have summarized a few articles that we especially like here:

[The vestiges and vanguards of policy design in a digital context,](#)
by Amanda Clarke & Jonathan Craft

Why we like it: There is a lot of information out there about why digital is great. This article creates a space for questioning what we are really getting.

Summary:

This article explores the opportunities, challenges and expectations that the digital context of design and new digital era policy instruments, such as open data, big data, robotics and crowdsourcing, present to policy designers operating in today's governments.The authors argue that opportunities from new policy instruments are rightly emphasized but that the promise of new instruments, and design optimization, has not always been fulfilled in practice.

Digital government and service delivery: An examination of performance and prospects,
by Jeffrey Roy

Why we like it: This article gives its readers an opportunity to reflect on how to best leverage the Joint Councils, the ICCS, and other stakeholders, to take Canadian Service Improvement to the next level.

Summary:

The authors argue that there is an urgent need for key public-sector stakeholders, to explore newer and more novel methodologies for gauging service improvement and facilitating service innovation. Among other things, it proposes that, "A national research strategy – enjoining public sector service providers and stakeholders such as ICCS as well as applied research bodies, private sector institutes, and academe would … seem a necessary precursor to moving beyond [what] has come to define public sector service delivery in recent years."

Information governance in digitized public administration,
by David C. G. Brown & Sandra Toze

Why we like it: This article touches on the key issue of information governance, a subject that ties in well with the data themes that were trending in the daily newsletter this month.

Summary:

The article discusses the tensions and pressure points of our digital environment followed by background on information governance used to propose an information governance-centred research agenda. The authors argue that information governance can provide a foundation, in a digital world, for government information to meet current needs.

Canadian governance in transition: Multilevel governance in the digital era,
by David P. Cargnello & Maryantonett Flumian

Why we like it: The article touches on trends impacting public institutions that are important in today's increasingly digital world.

Summary:

The article highlights significant trends affecting the Canadian governance ecosystem which includes the rise of digital culture and its impact on public institutions. The authors argue that multilevel governance thinking may be helpful for navigating Canada's current digital context.

For those of you looking for more information, there is a "related content" button below each article. It will lead you to additional documents that you may be interested in.

Continuing the conversation on Digital Strategy:

We have received feedback that the focus on Digital Strategy was helpful last month and that it has lead to some discussion amongst Joint Council members. To support continuing conversations, we thought we would provide you links to some of the Digital Strategy work that exists in Canada right now:

Legend

★ Public Digital Strategy identified

◯ Other digital commitments identified may include: engagement of a CDO or equivalent or commitments to digital related topics such as user experience, digital talent & skill development, good service, open government, etc.

Based on the information identified, it is clear that Canadian jurisdictions have been actively developing Digital Strategies. We found 9 and believe that there are more.

In jurisdictions where there are other digital commitments, there may be more than one interesting link available. We have provided you with one to start. We also know that some of the jurisdictions that are not listed are moving ahead with digital commitments but we are not aware of anything we can link to. A common theme was an emphasis on Data, which aligns with what we have found trending in the news this month.

We found a variety of approaches to digital strategies in Canada, most having a strong operational focus. The strategies also often included objectives related to more strategic outcomes, most often related to the economy, but with engagement and access also being given a mention.

We would love to add to this picture! Please let us know what we have missed and can add to build out the snapshot of Digital Government in Canada!

We would love to hear from you

Send us your suggestions for a special topic that we can feature. All feedback is welcome and will help us to build a product that best meets your needs. Feedback and contributions can be sent to us at Info@iccs-isac.org.

We want your feedback! Please **email** with your comments on this executive report.
What are you talking about? Tell **us** and we can feature you in an upcoming executive report.