Summary

The last ten years has been a time of growth and formalization for digital government (DG) research, spurred especially in the past five years by the existence of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Digital Government Research Program. The amount and variety of digital government research is clearly growing. A community of DG researchers appears to be emerging and is comprised of computer and information sciences and social and behavioral sciences. The community appeals to both academics and practitioners.

For the purposes of this study we defined digital government research as the application of computer and information sciences, as well as the social and behavioral sciences, to the information-related needs, problems, and missions of government agencies and democratic societies.

The questions being addressed by DG researchers cut across almost every domain of public service and every aspect of information management, technology, and infrastructure. Therefore, the two distinguishing features of many digital government research projects are their multidisciplinarity and the incorporation of partnerships between researchers and practitioners. These unique features of DG research are observable in the rising number of collaborative projects, cross-disciplinary initiatives, and multi-method approaches.

However, the question remains whether traditional academic journals welcome submissions that depart from conventional disciplinary treatment of research findings. This project explores the need for and feasibility of a new journal dedicated to digital government research.

Publications & Results

Reports and Working Papers (1)

Highlights: Exploring the Feasibility of A Digital Government Journal
Thu, 01 Jul 2004

This project administered an online survey exploring the opinions and preferences of the digital government (DG) research community with respect to the need for, feasibility, and sustainability of a dedicated digital government journal.

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Results

A. Summary of Survey Results

Survey results indicated that DG researchers do experience problems publishing their work in traditional disciplinary journals. More than half of the respondents reported that they often experienced difficulty identifying suitable journals in which to publish their work, encountered reviewers who do not sufficiently understand DG issues, and were forced to disaggregate multidisciplinary research into disciplinary elements in order to be published. As a result, respondents gave roughly equal endorsement to two publishing strategies that they felt would further their own publishing agendas as well as promote the visibility, legitimacy, and influence of DG as a field of research. These strategies included organizing DG special issues in existing disciplinary journals and creating a new journal dedicated to digital government research. The vast majority of respondents said they would submit articles to these sources, would serve as reviewers and editorial board members for a new journal, and

would also organize special issues in existing journals.

B. Journals Pertaining to DG Research

1) Newly Launched Digital Government Journals

During this project various groups launched new journals with an emphasis on digital government research.

Electronic Journal of eGovernment (EJEG)

The journal contributes to the development of both theory and practice in the field of e-Government and accepts academic papers, topical articles, and case studies.

http://www.ejeg.com/index.htm

International Journal of Electronic Government Research

The journal serves as a forum for scholars and practitioners to present theoretical and philosophical discussions on current issues relating to the practice of electronic government. An official publication of the Information Resources Management Association.

http://www.idea-group.com/journals/details.asp?id=4298

Journal of E-government

The inaugural issue of the journal will be published in Spring 2004 and will focus on a range of issues from local government projects to entire national and international government initiatives. It will analyze the use of information technology as a means of enhancing democracy and democratic institutions. It is associated with the Center for E-Government at the University of Southern California.

http://www.egovjournal.com/about.htm

The Information Polity

The journal brings awareness that ICTs, including the Internet, are important for polities as new forms of government and democratic practice are sought throughout the world.

http://www.iospress.nl/html/15701255.html

2) Existing Interdisciplinary Journals

The following interdisciplinary journals were already publishing digital government research. The number and scope of articles varies by journal.

Communications of the ACM

Brings its readers the latest in technology trends as written by the creators and innovators of those technologies.

http://www.acm.org/pubs/cacm/

Government Information Quarterly

A cross-disciplinary journal that covers information technology, management, and e-government practices, as well as policies and issues relevant to all levels of government within the United States and abroad.

http://www.lib.auburn.edu/madd/docs/giq/title.html

Information Technology & People

Contains research articles that discern not only the interrelationship of IT and the organization, but new methods and theories for perceiving and understanding this relationship.

http://www.itandpeople.org/homepage.htm

Journal of Government Information

Provides a forum for scholarship on government policy, current practice, new developments, and history of the distribution, processing, and use of information at all levels of government.

http://www.lib.auburn.edu/madd/docs/jgi/info.html

Social Science Computer Review

Covers social science research and instructional applications in computing and telecommunications, and also covers societal impacts of information technology.

http://hcl.chass.ncsu.edu/sscore/sscore.htm

The Information Society

Examines how information technology impacts social life including home, workplaces, schools, communities, and diverse organizations, as well as new social forms in cyberspace.

http://www.indiana.edu/~tisj/

Press Releases & News Stories

News Stories

Can Digital Government Support Its Own Journal? Yes, Says Extensive Survey by SUNY-Albany's Center for Technology in Government

dgOnline News

July 22, 2004

New Journal to Chronicle Digital Government Research: Researchers Join with Publisher to Launch the "International Journal of e-Government Research"

dgOnline News

July 22, 2004

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Original Scope of Work

This study created and administered an on-line survey of digital government researchers. The survey was designed to elicit the experiences, opinions, preferences, and professional characteristics of individuals conducting digital government research. We compiled a purposive sample of digital government researchers from several lists including: (1) authors and co-authors of articles published in the top five academic journals in public administration, public policy, and management information systems between 1999 and 2003 (2) the attendees and presenters at the National Conference on Digital Government Research; (3) presenters in the e-government cluster at the annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS); and (4) all National Science Foundation (NSF) digital government grantees (principal investigators and co-investigators). These were selected because they are considered outlets for interdisciplinary research. A total of 458 participants were sent the online survey. We achieved a 41% response rate (n=188).

The survey data was analyzed and presented at the 2004 National Digital Government Research Conference (dgo.2004). Highlights were shared with respondents and the data is the basis for several forthcoming reports and articles.

Related Web Sites

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Digital Government Program.
http://www.diggov.org/about/

The Digital Government Program funds emergent research on information technologies by creating partnerships between academic researchers, government agencies, and the private sector.

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