

Since the early days of the Center for Technology in Government (CTG), the field of digital government (DG) research has come into its own, drawing research funding from the National Science Foundation and elsewhere and yielding information technology and social science research results ripe for integration into real government programs. CTG has been on the forefront to establish DG research as a new field that involves the cycle of innovation from research, to testing, to deployment, and back.

What distinguishes digital government research from research in its underlying disciplines is that those who practice it do so in active partnerships with government agencies. Further, DG research, like CTG itself, often involves close collaboration between the social and information sciences to examine interactions between technical and social processes in the context of governmental missions, organizations, and practices.

The five articles in our annual report this year exemplify the range of perspectives, theories, and approaches in digital government research and are drawn from our own diverse projects. They provide a frame of reference for learning more about interdisciplinary research aimed at producing successful information-intensive innovation within government.

The topics cover significant issues facing government leaders and the DG research community such as: collaboration and information sharing; preservation of “born” digital government information; understanding the public value of IT investments; looking to the future of e-government technologies; and engaging the emerging field of international digital government research.

We thank the many government professionals, corporate partners, and academic researchers who have contributed to our work on these issues. As we work on all levels of government in the US and expand our work internationally, we will continue to share our results in ways we hope will benefit those who face the challenges, risks, and unknowns of investments in information-driven innovation every day. 06Advancing Digital Government Research

Digital Government is the use of information and technology to support and improve public policies and government operations, engage citizens, and provide comprehensive and timely government services. As a result, digital government projects can, and do, involve a very broad range of computer and information technology as well as policy, legal, societal, and organizational factors. **Digital government research** involves the application of computer, information, and social science methods to investigate the information-related needs, management challenges, and policies of government, as well as the information-related characteristics of a democratic society.