

Intergovernmental and Inter-organizational Digital Government Initiatives in Multi-Jurisdictional Policy Domains: A Comparative and Transnational Research Agenda from the Cases of Canada, Mexico and the United States

As the governments of the world evolve toward a more global perspective on the social, political, and economic issues facing our nations it is critical that research efforts are sensitive to and respond to this evolution as well. New requirements for cross-boundary collaboration driven by a global view demand new understanding about how individual nations respond to public problems and about how nations work together in response to transnational problems. New forms of government enabled by technologies and made possible through new models of cooperation and collaboration made possible through new models of cooperation and collaboration must be explored and tested. As researchers, we must also create new models and strategies for working together across geographic and political boundaries, focusing on the efforts of government as they seek to work in this new way. This proposal seeks support for an international digital government working group that will focus on understanding new models of collaboration required by the global nature of government problems as well as the role of technology in facilitating these inter-organizational initiatives. The activities of this working group will focus on the development and pursuit of a research agenda that attends to comparative questions about intergovernmental digital government initiatives in North America as well as questions related to North American digital government initiatives that are transnational in nature.

Although the three countries of North America are very different in many aspects (providing good variation), they have important similarities in government and a federal system). Project leaders in the three countries appreciate the importance of intergovernmental relationships for the success of many digital government initiatives. In addition, the three countries are closely related and interdependent in several political, economic, and social issues. Therefore, the results may also have important policy implications for each of the three countries and North America as a whole. Finally, the inclusion of a developing country, a country with a highly developed presidential – system, and one with a highly developed parliamentarian – system will allow the results to be relevant to many countries specifically as well as many regions around the world.

Group co-chairs will be Dr. Theresa A. Pardo from the Center for Technology in Government, University at Albany, and Dr. Luis F. Luna-Reyes from the Universidad de las Americas, Mexico. The eleven-member working group includes members from three countries: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Eleven institutions are represented by the group.

This initiative provides the opportunity for the members of the working group, many of whom have collaborated together in the past, to take their joint interest and expertise in this area to a new level. The grant funds will provide the opportunity to leverage many previously productive two and three way collaborations among members of the proposed group to a more significant and focused effort towards a long-term research and practice collaboration.