Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMP Tool

Title: Engaging Civil Society to Study Government Accountability and Responsiveness using Big Data

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Funder: Digital Curation Centre (dcc.ac.uk)

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Project abstract:

Under modern freedom of information laws, citizens are able to request information from their governments and governments are obligated to respond. This project seeks to understand how, and whether, these systems and their institutions become more or less effective over time, with a particular focus on Mexico's freedom of information system. To do so, we will (1) analyze millions of individual citizen information request texts, and government response texts, for the case of Mexico with big data methods, (2) conduct a series of focus groups with key policymakers and NGO members in Mexico City about their impressions of the use of the system, and (3) conduct several elite interviews with government administrators of Mexico's access to information system. Our research is oriented to answering the following three questions: (1) What type of information do Mexican citizens seek from their government and how do they access that information? (2) What types of citizens and what types of requests are most successful at receiving the sought-after information? (3) How do citizens use public governmental information in their activism? Answers to these questions will help scholars better understand the design and benefits of accountability seeking institutions.

Start date: 10-01-2020

End date: 12-31-2021

Last modified: 07-08-2024

Copyright information:

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Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

The research team will conduct two kinds of methods to gather information, a remote interview with the leader of each of Civic Society Organizations (CSO) selected based on a standardized questionnaire and remote focus group sessions with members in different levels of the CSO.

Data will consist of videorecording interviews, transcriptions of the interview, transcriptions of discussions and focus groups, NVivo coding files, Amazon Web services transcription files (in. json format), as well as python scripts and csv files with all the statistics and metrics derived from the analysis. We will retain a copy of all materials into standard Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) or open-source software to guarantee a easy access.

How will the data be collected or created?

Phase I: Gathering of information

CSO Leaders Interview: 15 mp4 video recordings of 90 minutes each, from zoom platform, 15.m4a audio recordings of 90 minutes each. 15 Nvivo files with transcriptions and codification.

CSO Members Focus Group: 15 mp4 video recordings of 90 minutes each, from zoom platform, 15.m4a audio recordings of 90 minutes each. 15 Nvivo files with transcriptions and codification.

Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

CSO Leaders Interview: Reports that summarize, analyze, and discuss quantitative and qualitative data collected. 1 csv file with all the statistical information, 1 .doc file reporting main insights derived from the analysis.

CSO Members Focus Group: Reports that summarize, analyze, and discuss quantitative and qualitative data collected. 1 csv file with all the statistical information, 1 .doc file reporting main insights derived from the analysis

Ethics and Legal Compliance

How will you manage any ethical issues?

We include an informed consent process to ensure that all participants understand that these data are being generated for the purpose of sharing with the research community. Before allowing open access to all transparency community in Mexico, participant will be contacted to review and comment the

final product to deliver. Participants will be granted the option of remaining anonymous in publications and publicly available materials. This project has received an exempt status from the Marquette Institutional Review Board.

How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IP/IPR) issues?

During the conduct of this project, all ownership rights rest with London School of Economics. The sharing of research results will be consistent with London School of Economics policies governing intellectual property, copyright, and the dissemination of research products. The research was conducted with the intention of all data and materials should be freely available for use by the research community.

Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?

To ensure long-term security of the data generated by this project, a complete copy of all materials will be generated and stored independently and will be secured stored by London School of Economics and on the researchers' academic websites.

How will you manage access and security?

The data resulting from this project will be made available for use by CSO members, academics and the public as soon as completed and no later than the conclusion of the project. These materials, available as standard Microsoft Office files, pdf documents, and comma delimited files, will be widely and freely disseminated via a specific website. Citations to qualitative data will include persistent identifiers which link to data sources in the Syracuse QDR.

On completion of the project, we will identify which project materials are of probable long-term interest for archiving and preservation. Materials will be anonymized or de-identified as appropriate and stored locally on London School of Economics system. Data will also be deposited without access restrictions with the Qualitative Data Repository. A copy will be shared with each civil society organization that participated in the study.

Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

We expect that individuals with an ongoing interest in transparency, government accountability and related topics will download coded transcripts and the report and consult the video recordings. This includes scholars that study information and accountability, the Mexican policy advocacy community and global networks of transparency scholars and activists.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

Data will be deposited without access restrictions with the Qualitative Data Repository. A copy will be shared with each civil society organization that participated in the study.

Data Sharing

How will you share the data?

Data will also be deposited without access restrictions with the Qualitative Data Repository. A copy will be shared with each civil society organization that participated in the study. Scholars will share the location of data in Syracuse University's Qualitative Data Repository in publications using persistent identifiers and over social media.

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

Responsibilities and Resources

Who will be responsible for data management?

Principal Investigator Palmer-Rubin and Project Manager Tapia

What resources will you require to deliver your plan?

We are using NVivo Qualitative Data Analysis software, already in the researchers' possession.