Open Government Data: Is there life after transparency?

Open Institute – University of Texas at Austin

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UT Austin | Portugal

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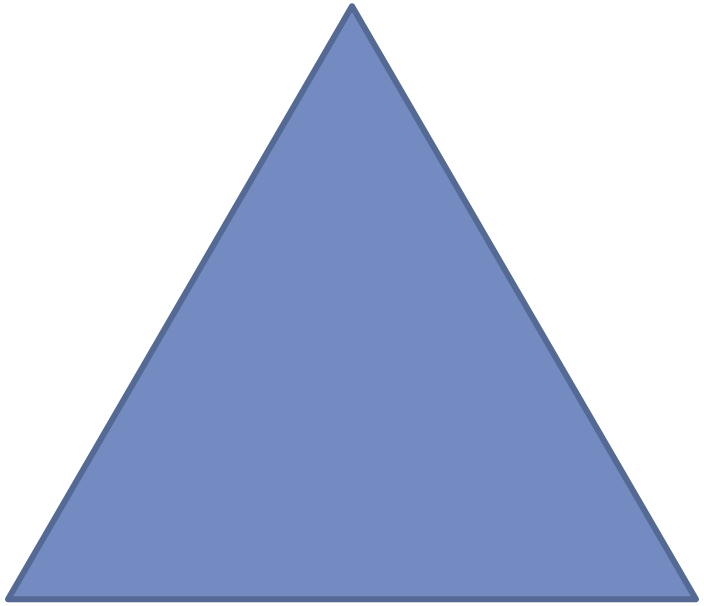
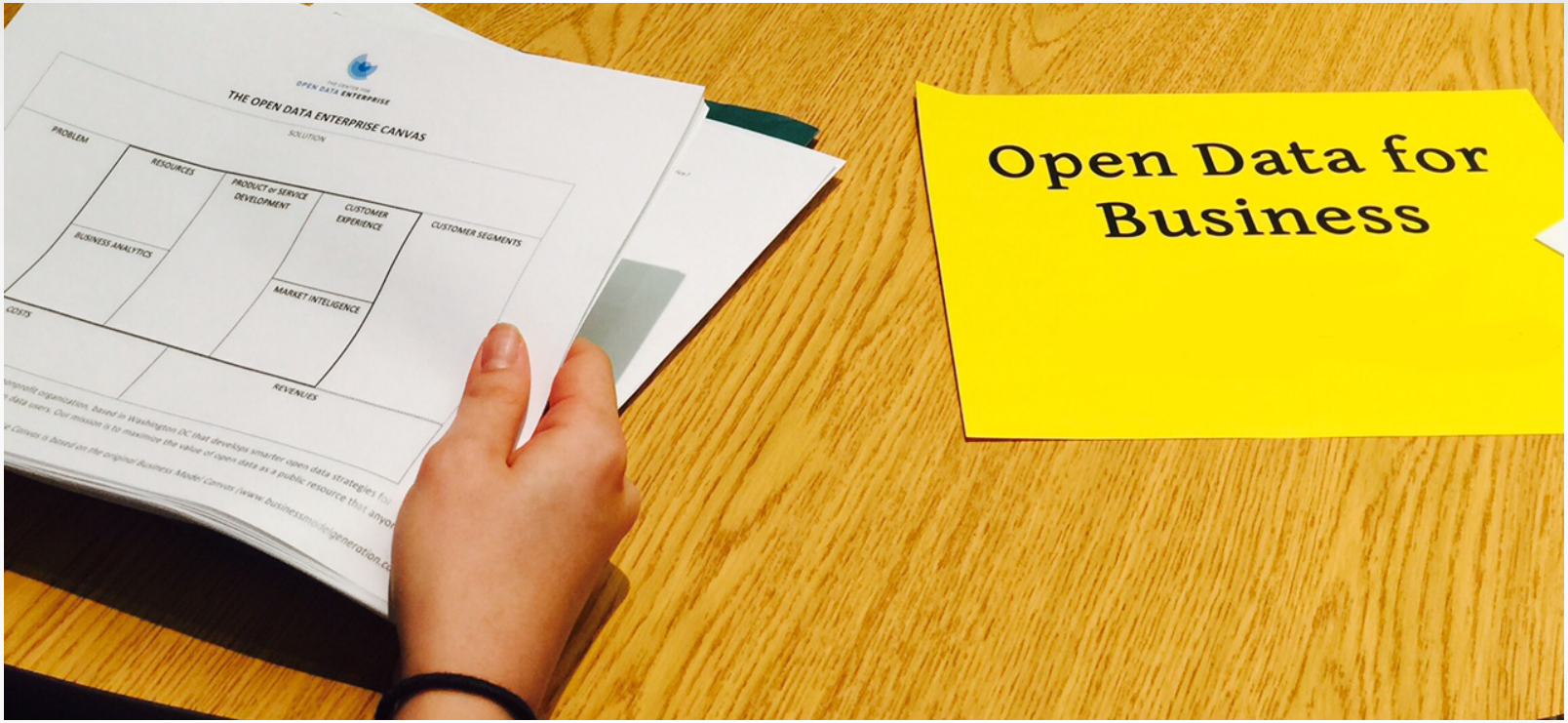
Government



Business

Civic Technology



CODE for AMERICA

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THE CENTER FOR OPEN DATA ENTERPRISE

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Outline

- What is open government data
- Historical perspective & Context
- Supply-side
- Demand-side (commercial re-use)
- Problem statement
- My research

What is open data

- "data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone" (Open Knowledge Foundation)

- "data that anyone can access, use and share", and add that "for data to be considered 'open', it must be published in an accessible format, with a license that permits anyone to access, use and share it" (Open Data Institute)

What is open data

- Availability and Access: the data must be available as a whole and at no more than a reasonable reproduction cost, preferably by downloading over the internet. The data must also be available in a convenient and modifiable form.

- Reuse and Redistribution: the data must be provided under terms that permit reuse and redistribution including the intermixing with other datasets.

- Universal Participation: everyone must be able to use, reuse and redistribute - there should be no discrimination against fields of endeavor or against persons or groups.

What is open government data

- Data produced, collected, or owned by government
- Mass datasets From health, energy, education, traffic, weather, public sector budgeting, to other kinds of data about policies and inspection
- Individual privacy, confidentiality, and national security are safeguarded

Open (not) government data

Examples:

- Social media data
- Crowdsourced data
- Sensor data
- Corporate data

Distinction 1

open data ≠ open government data

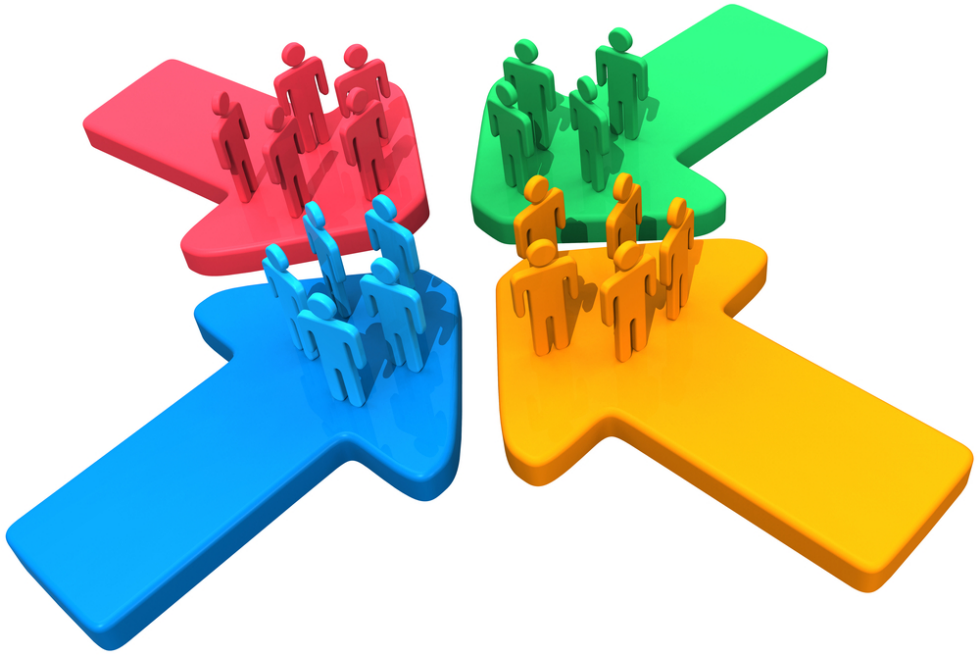
Historical perspective & Context

TRANSPARENCY

CIVIC TECHNOLOGY

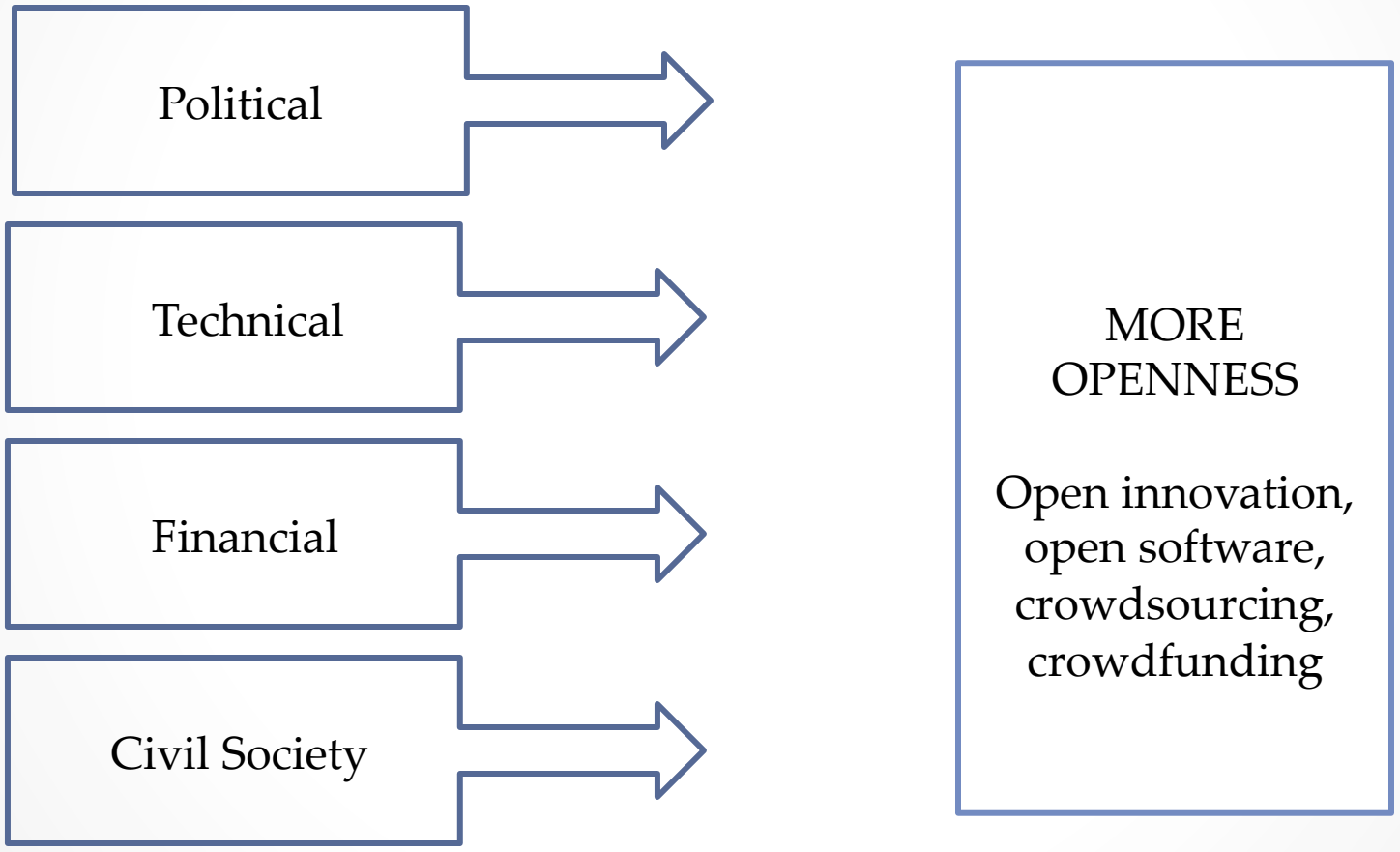
PSI RE-USE

Open Government Working Group



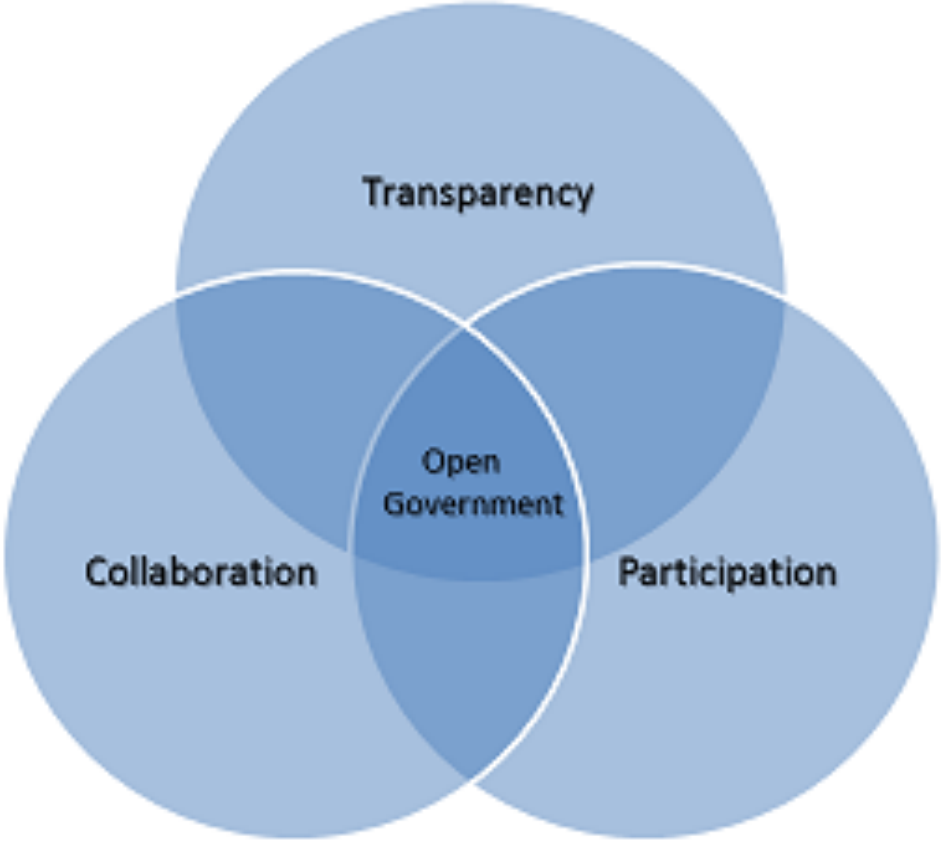
See Meeting minutes

Various angles



Open Government

Open Government Directive



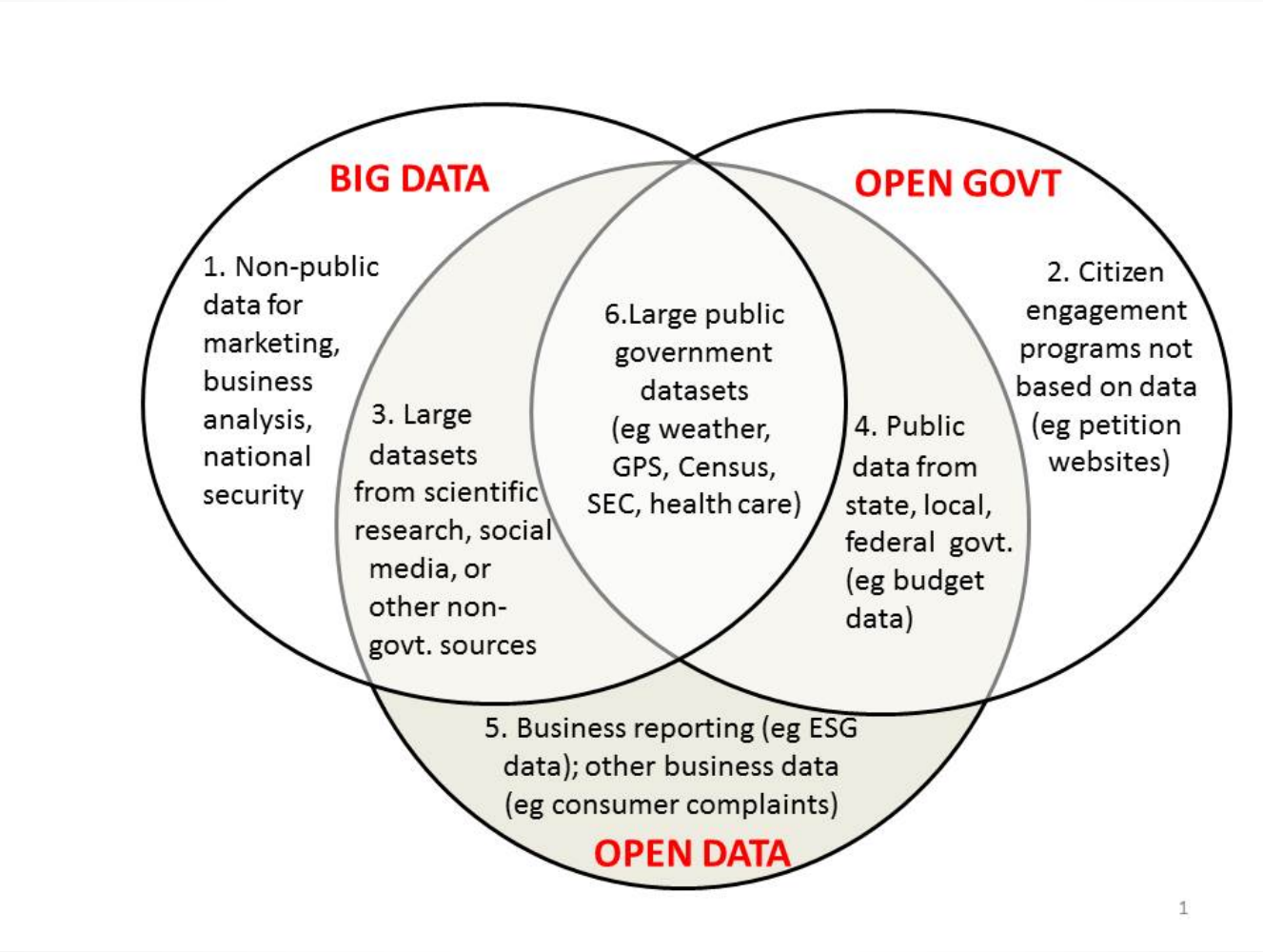
Open Government Data

open government data

vs.

open government data

Mapping open government data



Source: Gurin, 2013

SUPPLY-SIDE

Open Data Portals

- Pioneers: USA, UK
- Local gov: Austin, NYC
- State/Regional gov: Texas
- Federal/National gov: Portugal
- International: EU, World Bank, UN

- Aggregators:
- Google / Amazon
- Pordata
- DataViva

The state of open government data

- initiatives grew from 2 to over 300
- over a million datasets have been released by governments around the world
- Open Government Partnership OGP has grown from 8 countries to the 66 participating countries.
- Open data census (OKF) , Open data Barometer (OKF

Nothing is perfect

- Resistance by government agencies
  - Revenue source
  - Resistance to change
  - Lack of technical resources and skills
  - Costs
  - Cannot see benefit

- Datasets need to be selected, refined, converted, published. This process is not apolitlcal.

DEMAND-SIDE

(Potential) Impact

- Public accountability
- Citizen participation
- Public sector efficiency
- Economic growth
- ..... (public value)

- Social injustices
- Decrease in reporting
- Deanonymization

Use and Re-use

- Citizens, jounalists (e.g. decion making, investigation)

- Developers, innovators (e.g. visualizations, apps)
  - https://openspending.org/
  - http://www.donteat.at/
  - http://www.busguru.co.uk/
  - http://demo.cratica.org/
  - Ecossistema Político-Empresarial
  - Open Data Impact Map

Distinction 2

data ≠ information

Data vs. Information

DATA	INFORMATION
Factual	Subjective
Raw	Refined, Processed
Describe	Interpret, Understand
Potential value	Actionable

“Without the meaningful use of data, data engineering is just a bunch of cool tricks.“

(Bizer, Boncz, Brodie, and Erling, 2012)

Digital/Data Divide

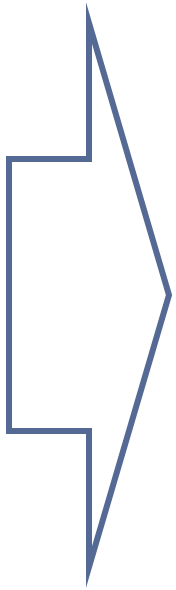
- Access vs efficient use (Gurstein, 2010)
  - Technology
  - Computational / statistical skills
  - time
- Across various levels
  - Individual level
  - Organizational level (example)
  - Macro level

Existing models

- Open datasets – Intermediaries – Impact
- Open government Data Ecosystem
  - Government/Public sector
  - Citizens
  - Innovators (e.g. hackers, start-ups, large companies)
  - Facilitators (e.g. non-profits, investors)
- (Private sector) Innovators take central role (RESEARCH FOCUS 1)

(Very) Different interests

- Access
  - API vs interactive platforms
  - File format
  - Price
- Re-use
  - Licence type
  - Consistent terms
- Data itself
  - High value datasets
  - Data quality
- (RESEARCH FOCUS 2)



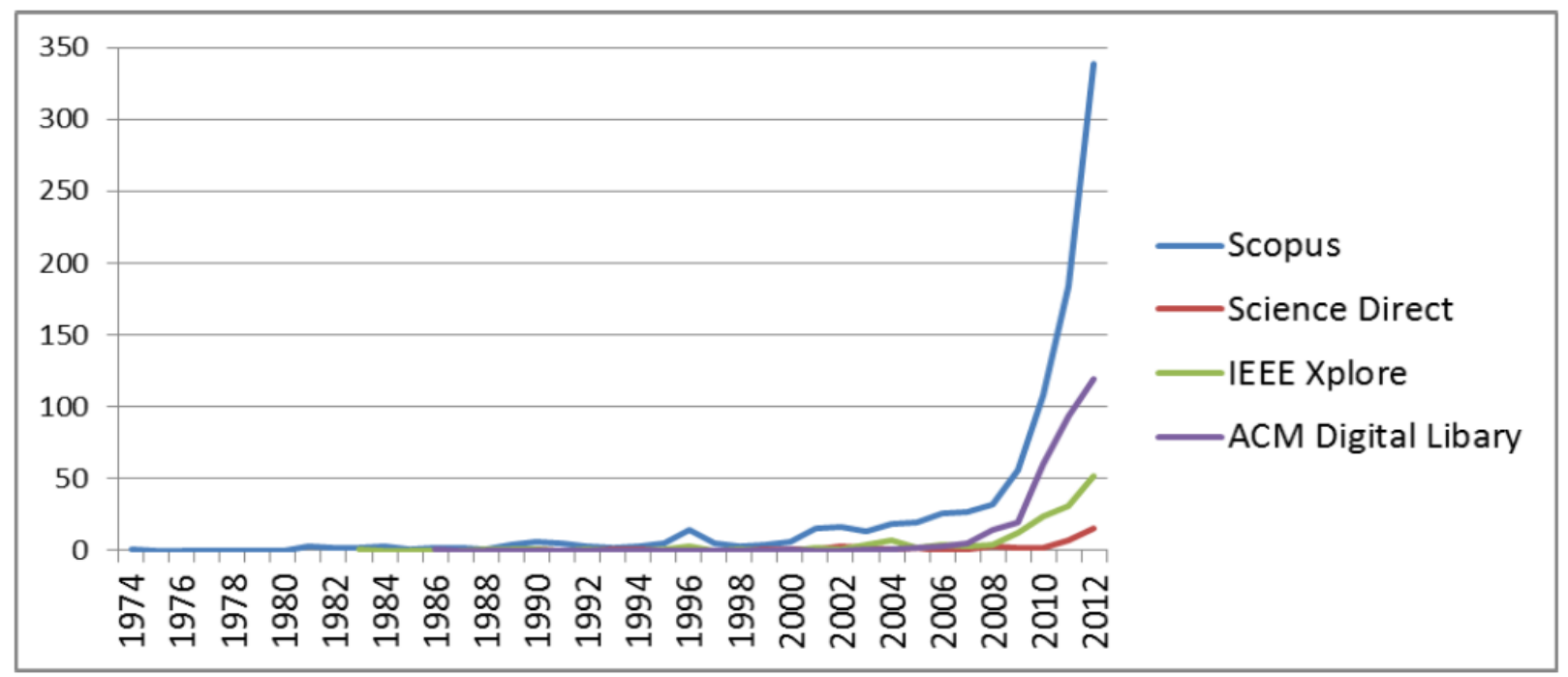
stakeholders are grouping

example

Research

Motivations
Need to focus on demand-side
Recent shift towards innovation/commercial re-use (Obama, 2013). Commercial potential is very high.
Essential to narrow the digital/data divide
Open Government Data is rising topic

The state of open government data



Source: Zuiderwijk, Helbig, Gil-García, Janssen, 2014

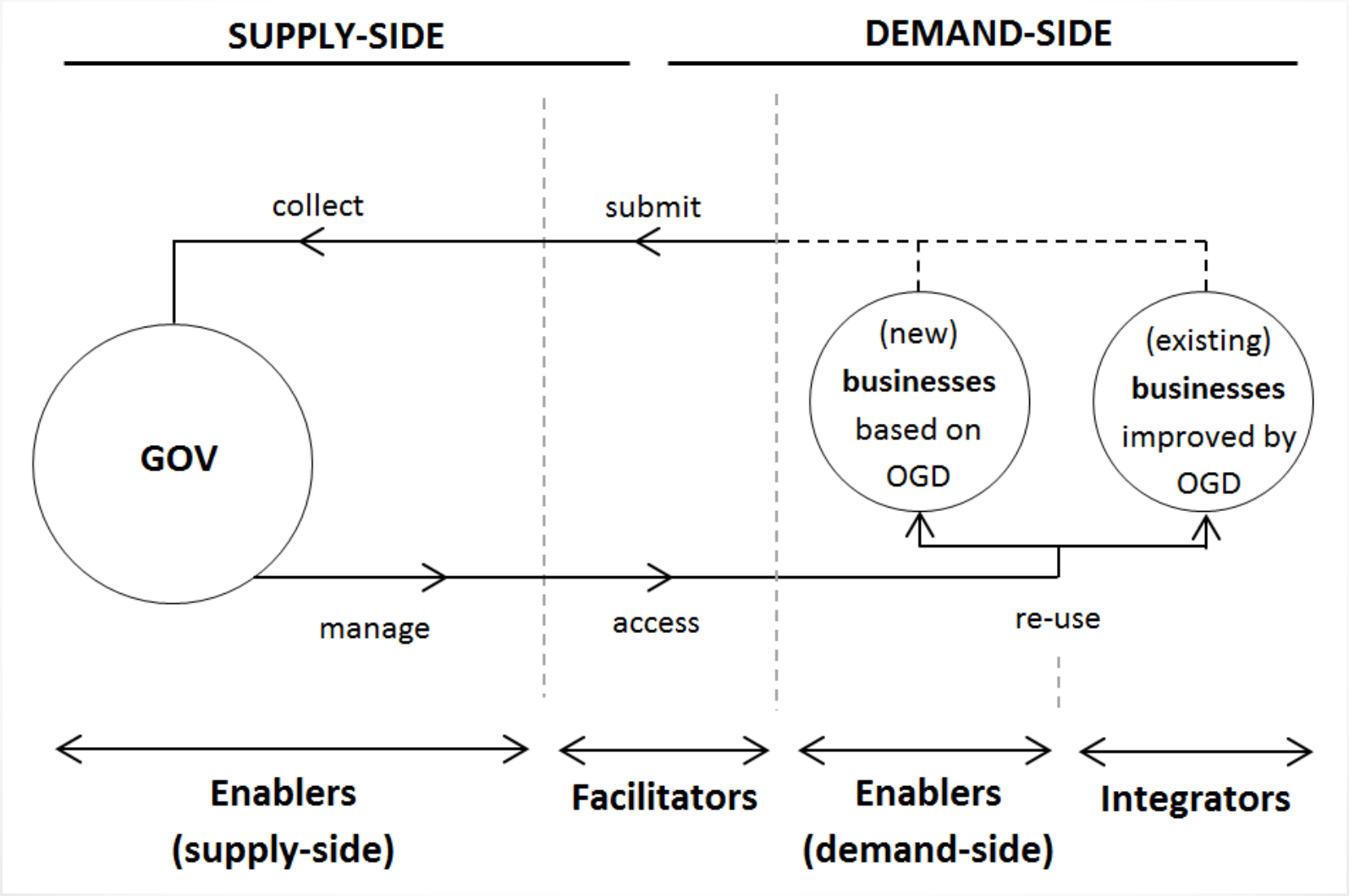
Research focus 1

- Government
- Citizens, hackers
- Non-profits (open government data advocates)
- Firms
  - Who are they?
  - What value do they create?

Research focus 1

- The study
- Content analysis to reduce list to a taxonomy
- Descriptive approach
- Main conclusions
  - Value craeate by private sector is not confined to economic value
  - 3 archetypes: *enablers*, *facilitators*, and *integrators*

Research focus 1



Research focus 2

- Barriers
  - What are the barriers encountered by firms that use open government data?
  - How do these barriers vary with use?

- Theoretical framework
- Interviews with different company archetypes

To be continued…

THANK YOU