

6A—Civic and Democratic Engagement #2

What's the Role of Libraries in Open Government Data?

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In 2016, governments at all levels may release more previously locked data to the world than ever before. In theory, open government data should create a more informed citizenry. Yet often, large dumps of government data appear as the equivalent of large piles of paper files dumped into a room without order, extremely inaccessible in raw form. This presentation provides an overview of open data, what libraries are currently doing to help in their access, and what tools exist to work with open data. It also explores why some government are not making data open (e.g., for lack of money or capacity) and strategies for working with governments—of local government—to open things up.