RACO: Collaborating Across Boundaries: Government Records and Social Media

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Office of Science and Technology Policy

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Wednesday, January 21st, 2009 at 12:00 am

Transparency and Open Government

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Transparency and Open Government

My Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government.

Government should be transparent. Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their Government is doing. Information maintained by the Federal Government is a national asset. My Administration will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use. Executive departments and agencies should harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public. Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public feedback to identify information of greatest use to the public.

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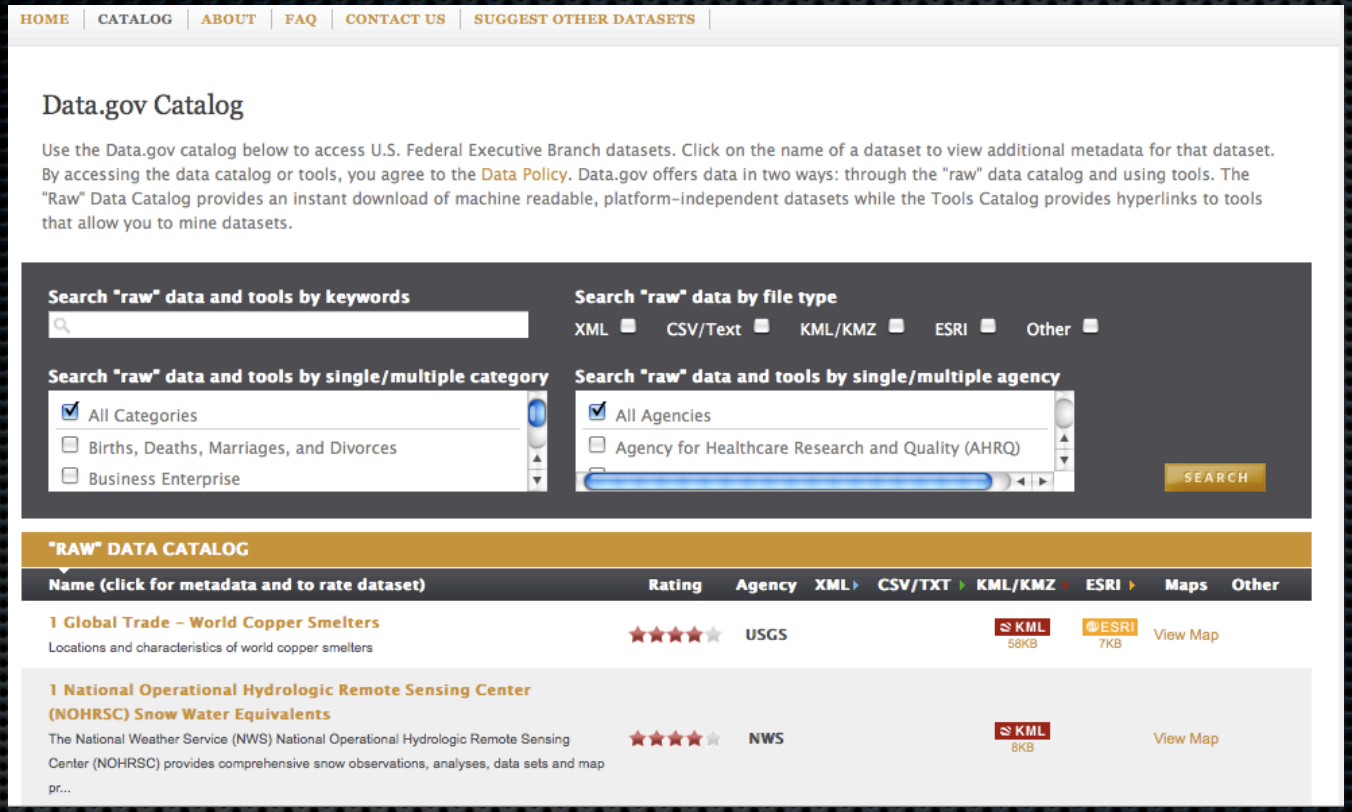
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

VIEW SLIDESHOW

Open Government Principles: Transparency

“ While the Government must be able to prevent the public disclosure of information where such disclosure would compromise the privacy of American citizens, national security, or other legitimate interests, a democratic government accountable to the people must be as transparent as possible and must not withhold information for self-serving reasons or simply to avoid embarrassment.” (Presidential Memorandum on Classified Information and Controlled Unclassified Information, May 27th, 2009)



data.gov

catalogue of executive branch data sets

Participation

"Our commitment to openness means more than simply informing the American people about how decisions are made. It means recognizing that government does not have all the answers and that public officials need to draw on what citizens know. And, thats why as of today Im directing members of my Administration to find new ways of tapping the knowledge and experience of ordinary Americans, scientists and civic leaders, scientists and entrepreneurs. Because the way to solve the problems of our time as one nation is by involving the American people in the policies that affect their lives." (President Obama, January 21, 2009)

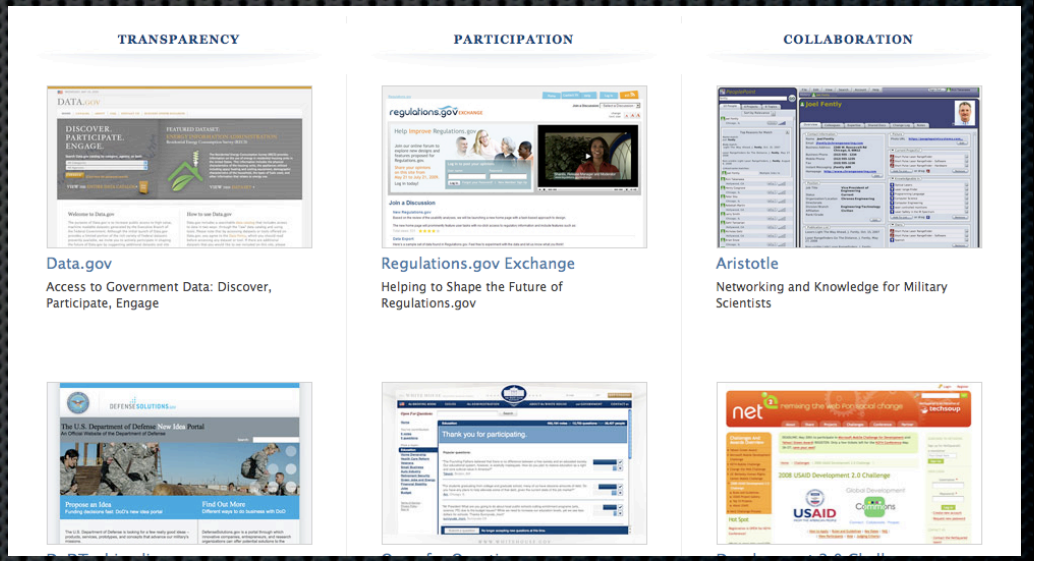
Regulations.gov Exchange

Collaboration

"I ran for President because I believe that we cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together." (National Archives, May 21st, 2009)

Innovations Gallery

- Demonstrating Open Government in practice
- Showcasing innovators across the government
- Championing change in government
- Enabling platforms for innovation



Generating Innovations: Idea Factory

TSA engages 50,000 employees

Description

Benefits

- # mployees are engaged and have higher morale because they have a voice and a meaningful way to suggest ideas and provide feedback.
- # Senior Leadership and TSA Program Managers get meaningful input

Case Study

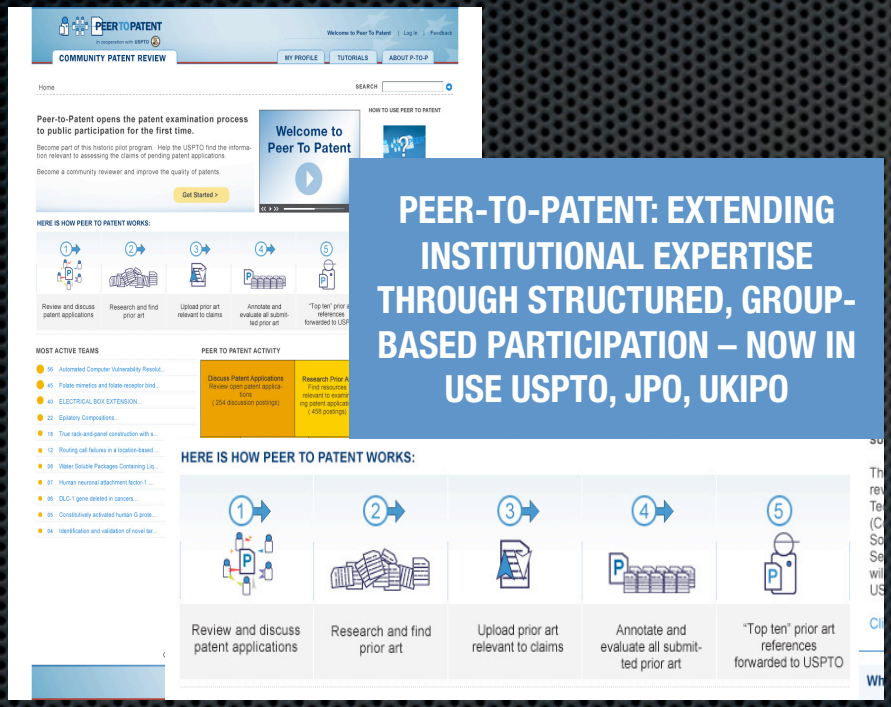
- Employees post ideas, and rate and comment on those that interest them. They participate in two-way communication with agency leadership, TSA program offices, and each other.

Implementation

- 40 innovative ideas implemented in two years

Obtaining Scientific Expertise: Peer-to-Patent Open Peer Review

Self-Selection for Manageable User Input

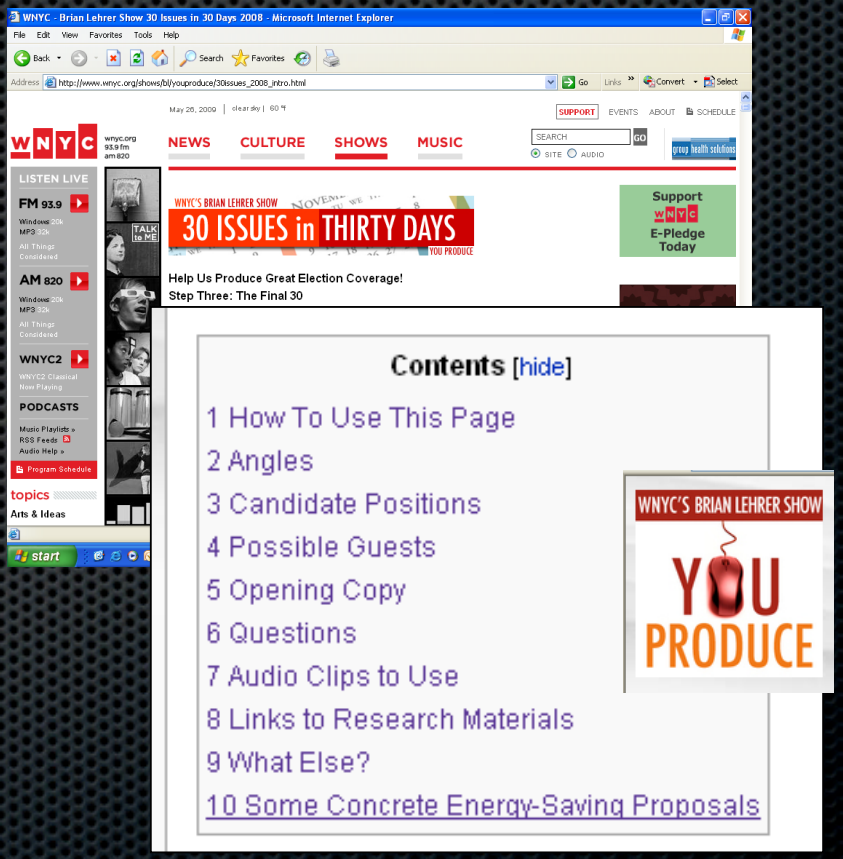


Description	
Benefits	• Decreases search costs • 89% of examiners found the public materials useful • 92% would welcome examining another application with public participation • 73% want implemented as regular office practice.
Case Study	• Agency, university, industry collaborative pilot • Connects volunteer scientists and technologists to Patent Office to aid with examination
Implementation	Conduct public review of NIH-funded patentable inventions using structured, web-based system • Group-based participation decreases workload

USPTO Examiner Survey/NYLS P2P 1st Anniversary Report

Open Government Platform

- Law and policy
- Process
- Technology

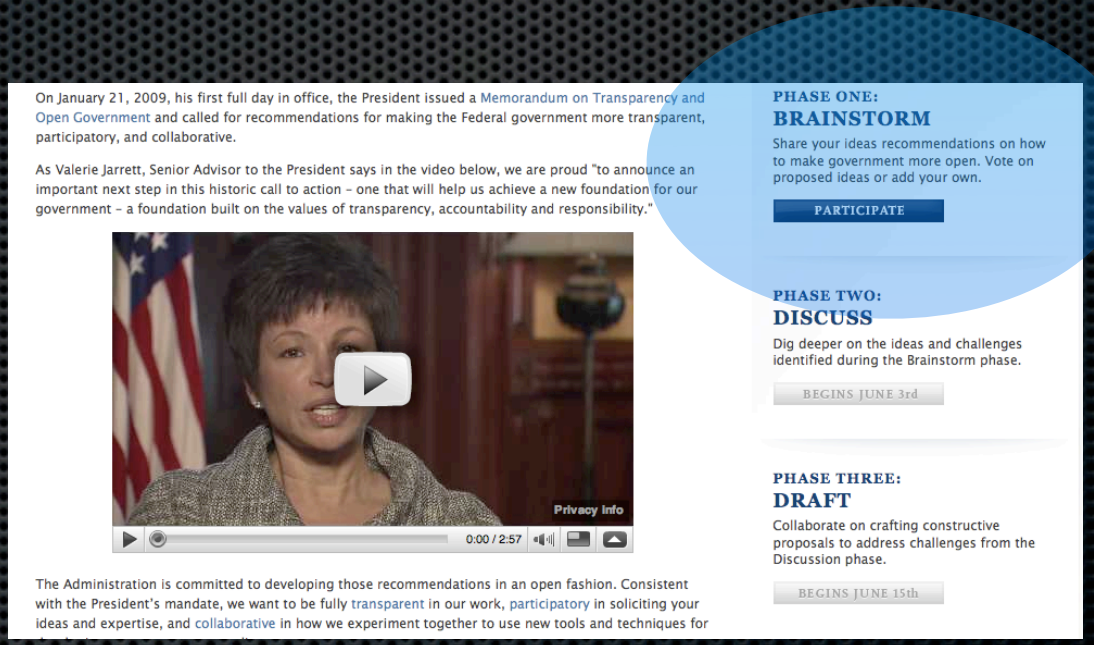


Open Government Initiative

www.whitehouse.gov/open

Open Government Policymaking

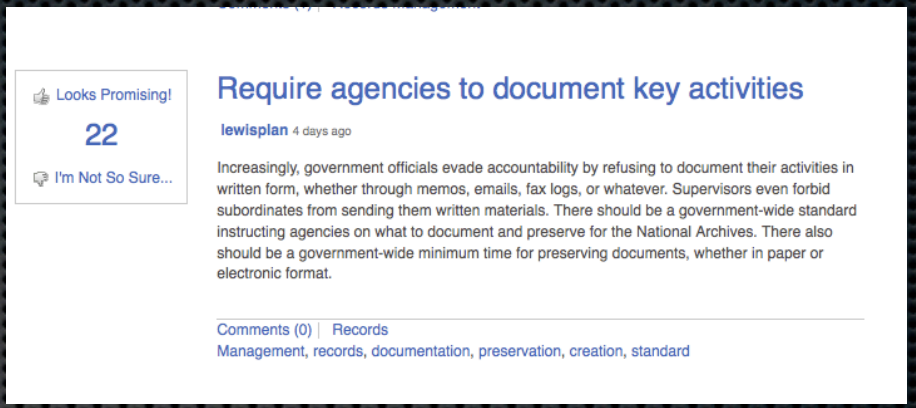
- Brainstorming
- Discussion
- Drafting

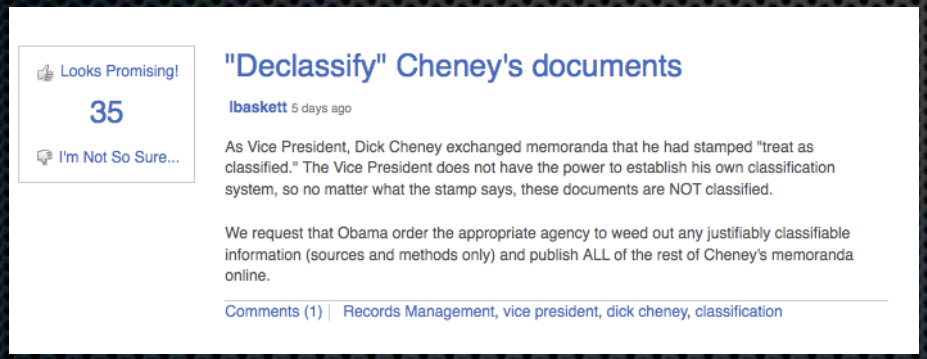


Structured Brainstorming

Records Management

Looks Promising!
6
I'm Not So Sure...
Ban or open the no-fly list and surveillance list
gnu 4 days ago
DHS claims that hundreds of thousands of people are too dangerous to allow on airplanes, but too innocent to arrest. There should be NO people who fall into that category! Yet this abomination has persisted for most of a decade, largely because of its secrecy.
There is a second, more secret list, which are people who TSA lets airlines board as passengers, but the airlines must secretly report to the government every time they appear in an airport.
Open up the no-fly list. This remnant of McCarthyism should either be public, and should be challengeable in public by the individuals listed, under the Privacy Act -- or should be eliminated.
Eliminate the surveillance list. The government has no business spying on the travel habits of hundreds of thousands of Americans -- without warrants!
There should be no place in a transparent America for a secret "enemies list" of people who by some secret process have been banned from exercising basic civil rights like moving from one place to another in the country. Or who are considered suspicious merely because they are moving from place to place.
Comments (3) | Records Management, dhs tsa no-fly surveillance

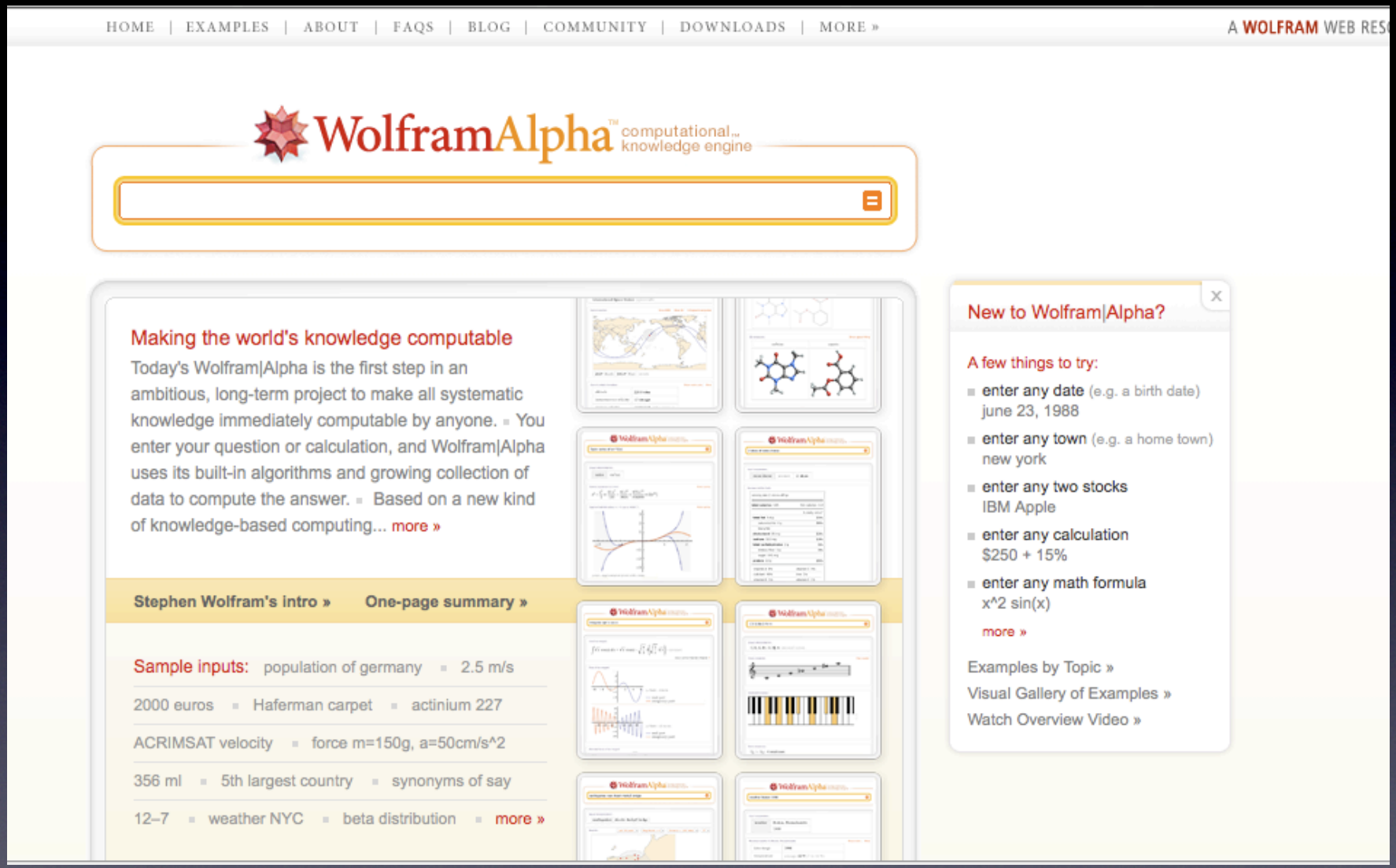

Looks Promising!
22
I'm Not So Sure...
Require agencies to document key activities
lewisplan 4 days ago
Increasingly, government officials evade accountability by refusing to document their activities in written form, whether through memos, emails, fax logs, or whatever. Supervisors even forbid subordinates from sending them written materials. There should be a government-wide standard instructing agencies on what to document and preserve for the National Archives. There also should be a government-wide minimum time for preserving documents, whether in paper or electronic format.
Comments (0) | Records Management, records, documentation, preservation, creation, standard


Looks Promising!
35
I'm Not So Sure...
"Declassify" Cheney's documents
lbaskett 5 days ago
As Vice President, Dick Cheney exchanged memoranda that he had stamped "treat as classified." The Vice President does not have the power to establish his own classification system, so no matter what the stamp says, these documents are NOT classified.
We request that Obama order the appropriate agency to weed out any justifiably classifiable information (sources and methods only) and publish ALL of the rest of Cheney's memoranda online.
Comments (1) | Records Management, vice president, dick cheney, classification

Looks Promising!
21
I'm Not So Sure...
Transform Federal Depository Libraries into regional data centers
solorzanomilton 5 days ago
If we're aiming for full transparency there's going to be a lot of data. And accompanying will be high-demand for book/document scanning, content management (tagging/annotation, normalizing data), and an overall scope that includes federal agencies scattered across the country. To help build a quick infrastructure to handle this work why not modernize the existing Federal Depository Library Program?
Establishing depository libraries as the local service center of government accessibility will require infrastructure investment (to update, make efficient library buildings) and technology resources (specialty scanning/printing machines, broadband lines, computers, etc). But if all 1,250 are turned into local reference points for government data, a few servers and data storage sites will reasonably accommodate a computing cloud architecture.
Decentralizing data collection and storage throughout the United States will allow for quicker, less burdensome, and hopefully more thorough content generation. At the very least, local librarians will have a sharper eye for local resources than a DC-based office. Also, duplicating online storage will hopefully prevent the sort of catastrophic data losses seen when a well-intentioned federal agency simply runs out of storage or accidentally deletes critical documents.

Open Government and Records Management

- Cloud Computing
- Search technologies and Unstructured information management
- Visualization
- Data Standards
- Incentives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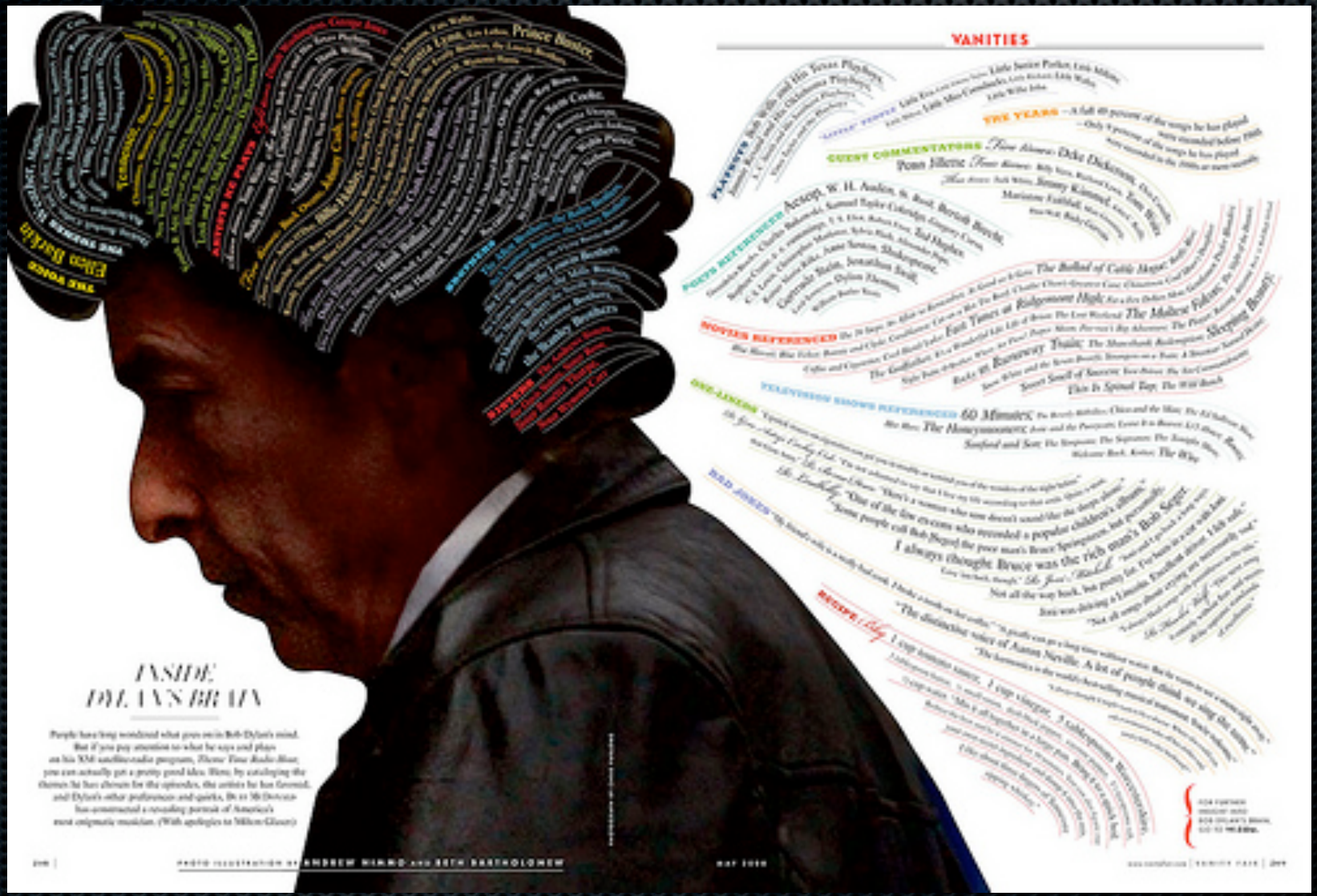
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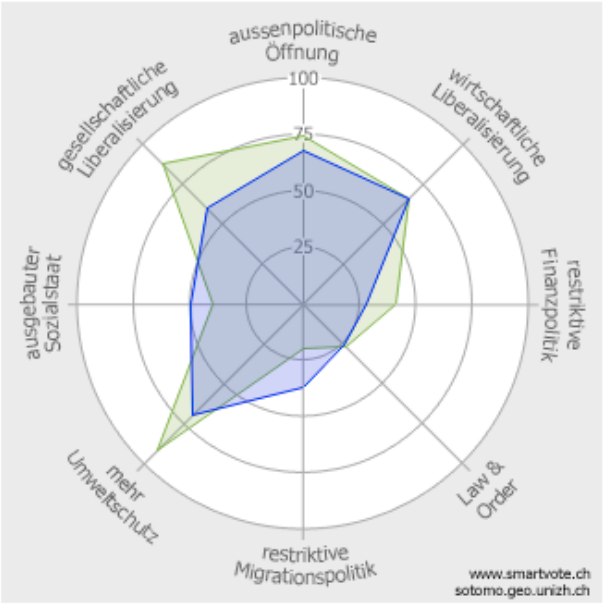
Jacqueline Gasser-Beck



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Die Kandidatin

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