

# Understanding the Value and Limits of Government Information in Policy Informatics: A Preliminary Exploration

Natalie Helbig, Manabu Nakashima, Sharon S. Dawes

Proceedings of the 13th Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research (dg.o2012) , June 4-7, 2012,

Policy informatics is an emergent area of study that explores how information and communication technology can support policy making and governance. Policy informatics recognizes that more kinds, sources and volumes of information, coupled with evolving analytical and computational tools, present important opportunities to address increasingly complex social, political, and management problems. However, while new types and sources of information hold much promise for policy analysis, the specific characteristics of any particular government information resource strongly influences its fitness and usability for analytical purposes. We therefore contend that information itself should be a critical research topic in policy informatics. This poster presentation shows how different aspects of information conceptualization, management, quality, and use can affect its “fitness” for policy analysis.