

Statipedia: a platform for collaboration across statistical agencies

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... and very much advice from others.

This research does not represent the
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Intelink and Intellipedia

After 9/11, the U.S. intelligence agencies reviewed their communication tools and processes.

- Added web tools to their joint network (intelink)
 - “Intellipedia” – an interagency wiki
 - blogs, tagging, search, instant messaging, videos
- Moved communication flows
 - From point-to-point, hierarchical **channels**
 - To searchable, accessible, unfiltered **platforms**
- Content on platforms gives analysts more capability
 - To search, copy and collaborate

Imagine a statlink/Statipedia platform for methodology

- A computer network across statistical agencies
 - For access to joint source material
 - For collaboration among analysts
 - Not for the general public
- With a set of Web 2.0 tools
 - Wikis and blogs
 - Version control system for source code
 - Search engine
 - Tagging, video content
 - Statistical programming

Wiki uses

- Repository for definitions and manuals
- Topical exposition and discussion
 - ▶ Seasonal adjustment methods
 - ▶ Occupation and industry classification
 - Translation and harmonization
 - “Green jobs,” “high tech jobs”
 - ▶ Thinking through “systemic risk”
 - How to measure such risks?
 - Reduce future risks

Search capability

- Must search over many sites
 - ▶ based on access rights of different users
- You find specialists by their contributions!
 - ▶ Their comments, blogs, articles
 - ▶ Content they provide on wiki pages
- Communities of users will emerge

Source code control

- Stores source code of computer programs
 - ▶ in any language – SAS, Stata, R, MATLAB, Gauss, PHP, Python, C, Fortran, . . .
- Tracks relationships among files
- Supports study and fixing of bugs
- Allows joint development over distances and across computer platforms

Other tools for analysts

- Blogs
- Discussion forum / Q&A site
- Videos – for training, special presentations
- Tagging of visited web sites
- Geographic information systems
- Repository of documents
- High speed computing access

Policy recommendations and issues (1)

- Users may need control over their own writings
 - ▶ Allow comment on authored content
 - ▶ Other pages are in the commons, editable by all
- Enable and encourage users, but do not require participation
- Official agreement / constitution among the statistical agencies
 - ▶ Other government agencies?
 - ▶ Open to non-government organizations?
 - ▶ Consultants, contractors, academics?

Policy recommendations and issues (2)

- “What’s new” page may add energy
 - ▶ Upcoming events and new content
- Do not post copyrighted content
- Materials on this platform will be subject to freedom-of-information requests
- Technical recommendations
 - ▶ Opportunities, capabilities, requirements, security aspects – contact us.

Norms to encourage among the user community

- Anchor discussions to sources, evidence, theory
 - ▶ Hyperlinks, equations, footnotes, source code
 - ▶ Enable delving in and drilling down
- Make wikis and blogs topic oriented
 - ▶ Not organization-specific
 - ▶ Support cross-talk and communities of practice
 - ▶ Example: “green jobs” both labor and environmental
- Develop expectation of searching past source materials

Long run effects

- Better knowledge management
 - ▶ Enable finding specialists and experts
 - ▶ Prepare better for retirements and turnover
 - ▶ Encourage reproducibility of scientific results
 - ▶ Reduce overwhelming flows of email
 - Less “dissemination”; more “discoverability”
- Continued redesign by interested people

Send your thoughts!

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