

Week 4: Open Government

PAD 507 - Information for Decision Making

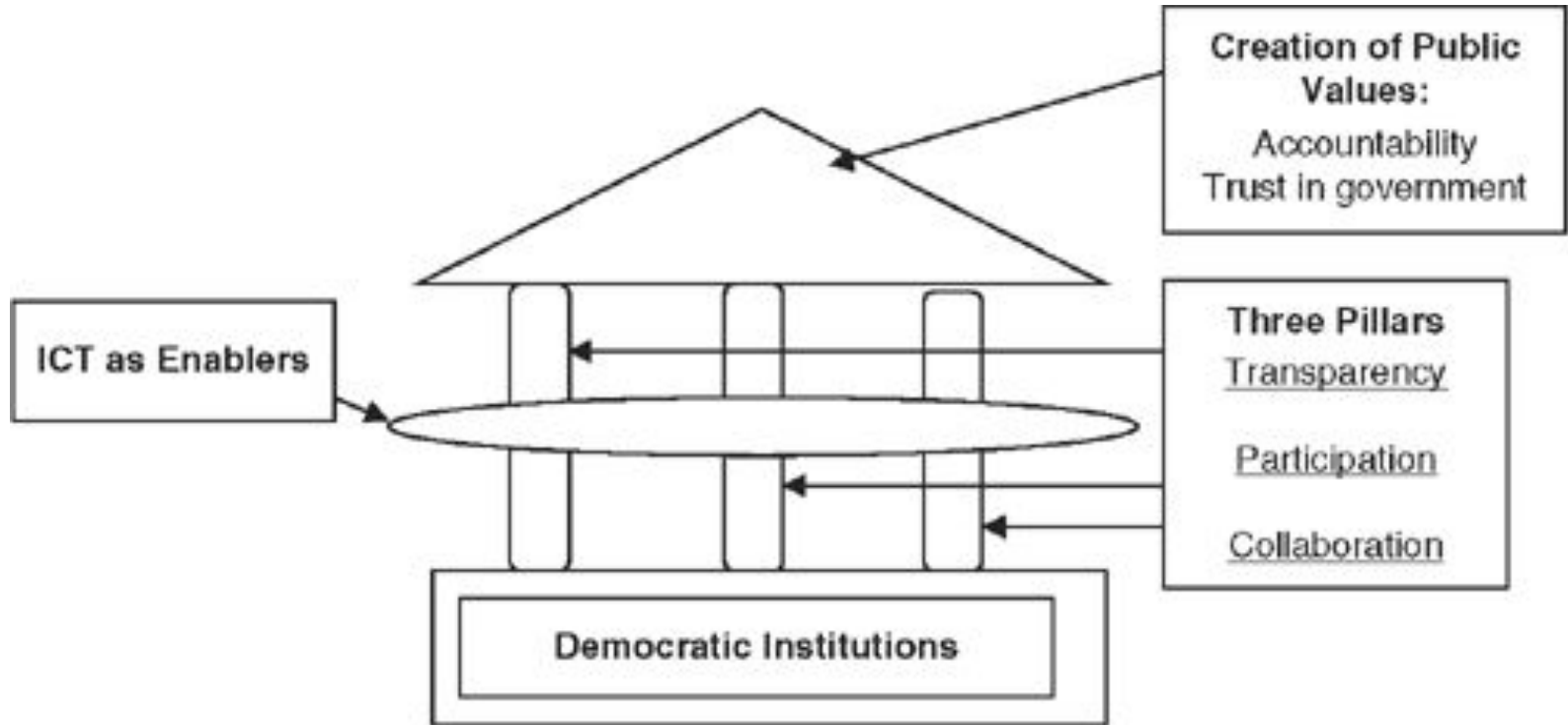
Reading Material: Chen, Y. (2017). *Managing Digital Governance: Issues, Challenges, and Solutions*. New York, NY: Routledge. Chapter 4.

Aaron Swartz Quote

“Information is power.
But like all power, there
are those who want to
keep it for themselves.”

-The Boy Who Could Change the
World: The Writings of Aaron Swartz

Open Government Concept



Pillar 1: Transparency

- Making information about governments readily available (online)
- Benefits
 - Reduces corruption
 - Empowers citizens
 - Provides policy-watch organizations with needed information
 - Reduces information asymmetry
 - Increases trust in government (maybe)
- Requires decisions about what kinds of information should be made available

Types of Transparency

- Decision-making
 - Openness in the process of reaching a public policy/service decision and deliberation with rationales to reach such a decision
- Public policy and service information
 - Information regarding objectives, rationales, and plans for public policies
- Policy and service outcome information
 - Information on the impact and extent of policies and service provision

Pillar 2: Participation

- Citizen communication and engagement with government
 - Completes two-way communication loop
- Advancement of ICTs have lowered the cost and increased the speed of participation
 - Enhances input into the public policy and service provision decision-making process
- Quality information = quality participation

Types of Participation

- E-consultation
 - Citizens provide their input on public policy or public service issues electronically to advance public values
 - Most involves the generation of policy ideas
 - Example: Omaha citizen input website
 - A small part is about discussing or ranking existing proposals
 - Issues with representativeness due to digital divide
- E-policymaking
 - Citizens provide input to the actual policy-making process
 - Examples: E-rulemaking, E-petitioning
 - Important to be able to show how citizen input shaped the process

Pillar 3: Collaboration

- Deepens the two-way online communication loop to include organization and various sectors of society
 - Extends to all stakeholders
- Types:
 - Generating, deliberating, and ranking policy ideas
 - Electronic forums and social media for posting ideas, commenting, and rating them
 - Providing feedback to each other and using the results for reference
 - Producing applications
 - Governments make data available along with technical standards and tools (APIs)
 - Individuals, non-profits, for-profits develop value added applications

Oscar Wilde Quote

“Cecil Graham: What is a cynic?

Lord Darlington: A man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.

Cecil Graham: And a sentimentalist, my dear Darlington, is a man who sees an absurd value in everything and doesn't know the market price of any single thing.” -Lady Windemere's Fan

Some Open Budget Portals

- <https://openbudget.ny.gov/>
- <https://www.nc.gov/government/open-budget>
- <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb/openbudget.html>
- <http://budget.douglas.co.us/#!/year/default>