

INPLASY

Practices related to open government platforms and their functionalities: a rapid review

INPLASY202680057

doi: 10.37766/inplasy2026.8.0057

Received: 13 August 2026

Published: 13 August 2026

Kesse, TS.

Corresponding author:

Tanoa Sephora KESSE

tanoa.sephora.kesse@uqtr.ca

Author Affiliation:

Université du Québec à Trois-rivières.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Fonds de Recherche du Québec (PERSEIS Call for project).

Review Stage at time of this submission - Preliminary searches.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202680057

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 13 August 2026 and was last updated on 14 August 2026.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective The main objective of this study is to determine the requirements that a digital platform must meet to be relevant within the framework of practices related to government open data portals. To this end, we will identify best practices associated with digital platforms and open data published in open data initiatives by governments using a digital portal, as well as the conditions under which they achieve their objectives in an open government context.

Rationale Partly motivated by an ideal of transparency and data reuse, within a global socioeconomic context plagued by corruption, several open data initiatives emerged in various countries well before the establishment of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2011. Despite their great diversity, the values underpinning their implementation remain common, namely: “(...) the principles of

transparency, integrity, accountability, and stakeholder participation in support of democracy and inclusive growth.” Among the main initiatives are open data portals, which allow the dissemination of government information to civil society and various stakeholders within the constituency or country concerned. These portals are intended to improve transparency while stimulating citizen participation and innovation. However, several authors note that user participation and collaboration remain insufficient, as only 1% of users are highly engaged and contribute significantly, while 90% of users passively observe. Other authors also report the lack of usefulness of publicly available data, and despite the growing willingness of public organizations to make their data public, obstacles to achieving this goal remain due to the heterogeneity and dispersion of the data, its apparent low usage, and challenges related to data confidentiality and protection. These concerns highlight the importance of better understanding

the parameters governing its use, for greater participation and involvement of stakeholders. Well before the Quebec government joined the Open Data Program (ODP) in 2020, open data portals had been created (donneesquebec.ca; consultation.quebec.ca), allowing users to disseminate open data from public administrations and contribute to the smooth functioning of the province by participating in surveys on projects implemented there. However, none of these portals appears to offer a comprehensive directory of all health innovations in Quebec. The REFRACTION project, funded by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec, aims to address this need by creating a dynamic and collaborative platform to track the emergence, deployment, and use of health innovations across Quebec. Given the broad target audience of this directory, the successful design and sustainability of the REFRACTION digital platform raise the question of whether to make it an open data portal or integrate it into an existing government open data platform, and the related challenges within the context of open government.

Condition being studied N/A.

METHODS

Search strategy The literature revealed a lack of relevant publications on this topic from 2002 to the end of 2009. Consequently, our search will focus on works published between 2010 and 2026. Depending on the database, keywords will primarily be sought in the title and abstract. Given that the Search, Evaluation, Synthesis, and Analysis (SALSA) framework dictates the level of exhaustiveness of the search based on time constraints, we will prioritize systematic reviews, as they will have already allowed us to assess the quality of the primary studies they have synthesized. If necessary, we may use a snowball sampling technique to include additional resources. We will favor Scopus for its broad coverage of major scientific fields, including technology; the specialized database Business Source Complete (EBSCO) for its focus on management; and the online library IEEE Xplore for its specialization in computer science and electrical engineering. We will consult the online library of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a source of grey literature, given the relevance of its contribution to open government recommendations. We will use a set of keywords and a basic search equation, which we will adapt according to the database and the evolving procedure. A librarian will participate in the development and validation of the search strategy

to reduce the risk of error. We will substitute certain words with those listed below as needed.

Basic search equation: open government AND open data AND open initiatives

Potential adaptation considered: open government data initiatives AND open government AND open data AND (best practices OR guidelines)

List of keywords and synonyms to use: Open government; Open government data initiatives; Public consultation; Open data; Platform; Digital platforms; Open government; Data portals

Several extraction iterations will be carried out; this study will be conducted from June 2026 to the end of August 2026.

Participant or population N/A.

Intervention N/A.

Comparator N/A.

Study designs to be included Systematic reviews, primary studies, gray literature.

Eligibility criteria The inclusion criteria are as follows:

Articles in French and English published from 2010 onwards;

Articles that describe the characteristics and/or functionalities of open data published by major institutions (city or government), and/or government open data portals, as well as the associated best practices;

Articles that present the obstacles and/or opportunities associated with the deployment of government open data initiatives.

The exclusion criteria are as follows:

Articles that focus on government initiatives that do not use online consultation platforms;

Articles that present the methods of data opening by public entities without directly referring to the open government context;

Articles that present the conditions for success of open government initiatives that do not specifically relate to the use of digital portals.

Information sources N/A.

Main outcome(s) Not applicable.

Data management Zotero, Rayan, Standardized Title and Abstract Forms.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Risk of bias assessment will not be carried out for primary work and other types of data. Regarding systematic reviews, methodological quality will be

assessed using the AMSTAR 2 grid. Included gray literature documents will be assessed using the AACODS checklist. Declarations of conflicts of interest will also be examined. This step will only concern the corpus of 10 works that we will select and will be carried out by the research assistant. A second evaluator will verify the judgments.

Strategy of data synthesis We will adopt a narrative and tabular synthesis of the data. We will describe the included studies at the beginning of the synthesis, then group them according to their common characteristics to highlight the essential elements for answering our research questions. To synthesize the systematic reviews we will include in our review, we will look for overlaps between the collected primary studies. Since a formal analysis of this overlap is not necessary in the context of a rapid review, we will list all the systematic studies in a table and identify the relevant primary studies. This step will allow us to identify agreements and disagreements between authors regarding the main findings.

Subgroup analysis N/A.

Sensitivity analysis N/A.

Country(ies) involved Canada, Ivory Coast.

Keywords Open government/gouvernement ouvert ; Open government data initiatives/initiatives de gouvernement ouvert ; Open data/données ouvertes ; best practices.

Authors

Author 1 - Tanoa Sephora Kesse
Email: tanoa.sephora.kesse@uqtr.ca