

INPLASY

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

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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 13 August 2026.**INTRODUCTION**

Review question / Objective What conditions must a digital platform meet to be relevant within the framework of practices related to government open data portals? More specifically, what are the best practices related to digital platforms and open data published within the framework of government open data initiatives in an open government context? Under what conditions do these initiatives succeed?

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 (Attard et al., 2015). Despite their considerable 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” (OECD, 2025).

Among the main initiatives are open data portals (Lourenço, 2015), which allow the dissemination of government information to civil society and various stakeholders within the country concerned (Attard et al., 2015). These portals are expected to improve transparency while stimulating citizen participation and innovation. However, several authors note that user participation and collaboration remain insufficient (Attard et al., 2015), as only 1% of users participate extensively and contribute significantly, while 90% passively observe (Attard et al., 2015). Other authors also report the lack of usefulness of publicly available data (Matheus et al., 2023), and despite the growing willingness of public organizations to make their data public, obstacles to achieving this goal persist due to data heterogeneity and dispersion, low apparent usage, and challenges related to data confidentiality and protection (Attard et al., 2015). These concerns highlight the

importance of better understanding the parameters governing data use, in order to improve stakeholder participation and involvement (Attard et al., 2015).

Well before the Quebec government joined the Open Data Program (ODP) in 2020, open data portals had been created (donneesquebec.ca; consultation.quebec.ca). These portals allow 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. Therefore, 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. In an ideal of transparency and with a view to improving access to information, given the large target audience of this directory, the success of the design and sustainability of the REFRACTION digital platform raises the question of the relevance of making it an open data portal, or of its integration into an existing government open data platform, and therefore the issues that are linked to it, in the context of open government.

Condition being studied Non applicable.

METHODS

Search strategy We will prioritize 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 may also 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 recommendations on open government (OECD, 2025).

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 minimize the risk of errors. We will substitute certain keywords 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/ gouvernement ouvert; Open government data initiatives/initiatives de gouvernement ouvert; Public consultation; Open consultation; Open data/ données ouvertes; Platform; Digital platforms; Open government; Data portals.

Our search will focus on OECD scientific articles and institutional documents in French and English covering the period from 2010 to August 2026. Indeed, a systematic review of primary journals on open government initiatives, evaluating the literature between 2002 and 2014, revealed a lack of relevant literature on the subject from 2002 to the end of 2009 (Attard et al., 2015). Depending on the database, keywords will be searched throughout the text, or only in the title and abstract, if provided. Given that the Search, Evaluation, Synthesis, and Analysis (SALSA) framework conditions the level of research exhaustiveness to time constraints (Moons et al., 2021), we will prioritize systematic reviews since they will have already allowed us to assess the quality of the primary studies they synthesized (Moons et al., 2021; Nambima et al., 2021). If necessary, we will use a snowball sampling technique (Fortin and Gagnon, 2022) to include additional resources. Several extraction iterations will be performed; this study will be conducted from June 2026 to the end of August 2026.

Participant or population Not applicable.

Intervention Not applicable.

Comparator Not applicable.

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 Scopus, Business Source Complete (EBSCO), IEEE Xplore, and the online library of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD for grey literature).

Main outcome(s) Not applicable.

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 (Pallot and Rostagno, 2019). Included gray literature documents will be assessed using the AACODS checklist (INESSS, 2016). Declarations of conflicts of interest will also be examined. This step will only concern the corpus of 10 works that we will select (Moons et al., 2021) and will be carried out by the research assistant. A second evaluator will verify the judgments (Moons et al., 2021; Garrity et al., 2024).

Strategy of data synthesis We will adopt a narrative and tabular synthesis of the data (Moons et al., 2021). We will describe the included studies at the beginning of the synthesis (Garrity et al., 2024), 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 (Garrity et al., 2024). Since a formal analysis of this overlap is not necessary in the context of a rapid review, we will list all 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 (Garrity et al., 2024).

Subgroup analysis Not applicable.

Sensitivity analysis Not applicable.

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.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Tanoa Sephora Kesse - The author has drafted the protocol and will synthesize the data, and will write the final manuscript.
Email: tanoa.sephora.kesse@uqtr.ca