

DATA STEWARDSHIP ACADEMY

Tools & Resources

Facilitating and Seeking Access to Data in a Systematic, Sustainable and Responsible Manner

This companion guide brings together selected tools, frameworks, methodologies, publications, and repositories from The GovLab, the Open Data Policy Lab, and DataStewards.net that complement the data stewardship offerings. It is organized around the flow of the session so learners can move from concepts to resources.

datastewards.net

GENERAL RESOURCES

Foundations & Reference

Cross-cutting toolkits, repositories, and knowledge platforms that underpin every stage of the stewardship journey.

Data Governance Toolkit: Navigating Data in the Digital Age

A modular UNESCO toolkit for designing and assessing data governance systems using the 4Ps framework — Why, How, Who, What — with self-assessment, lifecycle checklists, principles, and role definitions.

ACCESS unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000394518

Data Governance Innovations

A companion primer mapping emerging governance practices to the data lifecycle and distinguishing them from structural trends such as AI deployment, data sovereignty, and the data winter.

ACCESS tools.opendatapolicylab.org/files/data-governance-innovation-report.pdf

The Living Library

A curated knowledge platform surfacing timely research, tools, and case studies on data, AI, governance, and public innovation.

ACCESS thelivinglib.org/

Open Data Policy Repository

A living repository of global policy developments related to open data, data reuse, and data collaboration — useful for tracking and comparing international approaches.

ACCESS repository.opendatapolicylab.org/

MODULE 1

Why Data Stewardship, Why Now?

Framing the case for stewardship: the value of non-traditional data, crisis-driven reuse, and the growing enclosure of data at a time of AI.

The Re-Use of Non-Traditional Data for Public Interest Purposes: 100 Use Cases (2024–2026)

A curated compilation of 100 concrete examples of non-traditional data re-used for public-interest purposes across sectors, geographies, and data types.

ACCESS docs.google.com/document/d/19ojoRQgzRZk5WNxG6m62ZHEGgelbH0pqSZaxKY5pLAU/edit

The #Data4COVID19 Review

A review of how non-traditional data was used during the COVID-19 pandemic, with lessons for future crisis response.

ACCESS review.data4covid19.org/

Data Collaboratives Canvas

A step-by-step canvas outlining eight phases for designing and implementing a data collaborative.

ACCESS datacollaboratives.org/canvas.html

Social Data for Health: Advancing Health and Wellbeing Research Across Disciplines

A landscape review of how social data is used in health research — 55 sources across eight categories — examining access, governance, infrastructure, legitimacy, and funding challenges.

ACCESS wellcome.org/insights/reports/social-data-for-health

Data Responsibility Journey

Practical guidance for applying the lifecycle-based data-responsibility framework, identifying opportunities and risks throughout the data lifecycle.

ACCESS dataresponsibilityjourney.org/using

Facilitating Data Flows through Data Collaboratives

A guide framing data collaboratives as a response to market failures around data access, quality, incentives, and oversight.

ACCESS publications.iadb.org/en/facilitating-data-flows-through-data-collaboratives-practical-guide-designing-valuable-accessible

Data Innovation Toolkit

A four-stage toolkit for public-sector teams to design and manage data projects — from planning and collection to sharing, analysis, implementation, and evaluation — with hands-on tools, templates, and exercises for responsible and effective data use.

ACCESS op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4e1b48bc-bb60-11ef-91ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

Open Data for Social Impact Framework

A framework for leaders to translate open and shared data into social impact by addressing five enabling areas: leadership, problem definition, skills, community governance, and technology and data.

ACCESS news.microsoft.com/open-data-social-impact-framework/

The Emergence of a Data Winter: The Growing Enclosure of Data at a Time of Rapid AI Advances

A paper examining the narrowing accessibility of data needed for science, governance, and equitable AI — identifying the forces driving enclosure and proposing strategic responses.

ACCESS papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5660451

A Fourth Wave of Open Data? Exploring the Spectrum of Scenarios for Open Data and Generative AI

A paper exploring how open data and generative AI intersect, introducing a spectrum of scenarios and requirements around quality, provenance, interoperability, accessibility, and ethics.

ACCESS arxiv.org/abs/2405.04333

MODULE 2

The Strategic Data Steward

Defining the steward's role — its competencies, manifestations, and distinction from traditional data management.

Wanted: Data Stewards

A report redefining data stewardship for the age of data collaboration, describing stewards as leaders empowered to create public value through responsible reuse, protection, and action.

ACCESS thegovlab.org/static/files/publications/wanted-data-stewards.pdf

The Case for Strategic Data Stewardship: Re-imagining Data Governance to Make Responsible Data Re-use Possible

A paper defining strategic data stewardship as an institutional function for making responsible reuse systematic, sustainable, and trusted — and why compliance-focused governance falls short.

ACCESS arxiv.org/abs/2601.06687

Data Stewardship Decoded: Mapping Its Diverse Manifestations and Emerging Relevance at a Time of AI

A primer clarifying stewardship across four manifestations: a set of competencies, an organizational role, an intermediary function, and a set of guiding principles.

ACCESS arxiv.org/abs/2502.10399

MODULE 3

Demand: Formulating Questions

Moving from broad public problems to prioritized, data-actionable questions.

Problem Definition Tool

A structured methodology guiding practitioners from a public problem through root causes and system mapping to research questions and a theory of change.

ACCESS incubator.opendatapolicylab.org/files/ODPLTool_ProblemDefinition.pdf

R-Search Methodology

A rapid research approach for mapping a problem area — its milieu, actors, and problem space — to inform topic maps and early problem definition.

ACCESS files.thegovlab.org/R-Search.pdf

The 100 Questions Initiative

A methodology for identifying high-impact, data-actionable questions through curated communities of bilinguals with both domain and data-science expertise.

ACCESS the100questions.org/

Open Data Demand Assessment and Segmentation Methodology

A methodology for identifying, prioritizing, segmenting, and engaging demand for data before releasing or sharing it.

ACCESS publications.iadb.org/en/toward-open-data-demand-assessment-and-segmentation-methodology

MODULE 4

Supply: Data Scouting

Identifying, mapping, and accessing the data assets and sources that make up an ecosystem.

RD4C Data Ecosystem Mapping Tool

A tool for identifying the data systems, stakeholders, governance arrangements, and assets that make up a data ecosystem.

ACCESS files.rd4c.org/RD4C_Data_Ecosystem_Mapping.pdf

Access to New Data Sources for Statistics

A discussion paper on how statistical institutes can access privately held data, introducing five generic data-access models and their incentives.

ACCESS papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3141446

The Re-Use of Non-Traditional Data for Public Interest Purposes: 100 Use Cases (2024–2026)

A curated compilation of 100 concrete examples of non-traditional data re-used for public-interest purposes across sectors, geographies, and data types.

ACCESS docs.google.com/document/d/19ojoROgzRZk5WNxG6m62ZHEGgelbH0pqSZaxKY5pLAU/edit

The #Data4COVID19 Review

A review of how non-traditional data was used during the COVID-19 pandemic, with lessons for future crisis response.

ACCESS review.data4covid19.org/

MODULE 5

Value Proposition & Business Case

Articulating why an organization should make data available for responsible reuse.

The 9Rs Framework: A Worksheet for Establishing the Business Case

A worksheet organizing nine motivations for data collaboration into three categories of return — knowledge and insights, brand equity, and license to operate — with definitions, cases, and a spider-chart template.

ACCESS

opendatapolicylab.org/articles/business-case-the-9rs-framework-establishing-the-business-case-for-data-collaboration-and-re-using-data-in-the-public-interest/

The Business Case for Data Collaboration

An interactive resource for constructing the business case for data sharing, complementing the 9Rs framework.

ACCESS businesscase.opendatapolicylab.org/

MODULE 6

Matching Demand & Supply

Selecting operational and governance models that connect data holders with public-interest use.

Data Collaboratives Explorer

A searchable collection of real-world data collaboration examples for comparing operational models and access approaches.

ACCESS datacollaboratives.org/explorer.html

Leveraging Private Data for Public Good: A Typology of Existing Practices

The foundational analysis developing the typology of six operational models for responsibly re-using private-sector data.

ACCESS datacollaboratives.org/existing-practices.html

A Blueprint to Unlock New Data Commons for AI

A four-module blueprint for designing, governing, building, and iterating data commons that support public-interest AI.

ACCESS incubator.opendatapolicylab.org/files/data-commons-for-ai-blueprint.pdf

Operationalizing Data Collaboratives for Migration

A handbook applying the data-collaborative model to migration through a four-step framework for cross-sector collaboration.

ACCESS papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4444762

MODULE 7

Data Governance & Risk Assessment

Establishing accountability, social license, due diligence, and fit-for-purpose governance across the lifecycle.

Data Governance Without the Jargon

A plain-language Q&A organized around the four governance questions — Why, How, Who, What — translating principles into roles, processes, and tools.

ACCESS datastewards.net/news/data-governance-without-the-jargon-30-questions-and-answers-to-clarify-terms-and-trends

Reimagining Data Governance for AI

A framework for governing data re-use in AI through social licensing, with participatory tools for documenting community preferences.

ACCESS www.afd.fr/en/ressources/reimagining-data-governance-ai

The Data Assembly

A methodology and case for soliciting diverse, inclusive public input on the responsible re-use of data, grounding the social-license discipline; its Responsible Data Re-Use Framework distills design principles from deliberations with three New York City mini-publics.

ACCESS thedataassembly.org/

Operationalizing a Social License for Data Re-Use

A facilitator's guide and worksheet, organized around six dimensions, for establishing and documenting a social license with affected communities.

ACCESS tools.opendatapolicylab.org/files/Data-Re-Use-Worksheet.pdf

Trust but Verify

A due-diligence framework for evaluating the quality, provenance, governance, and fitness of non-traditional data before re-use.

ACCESS incubator.opendatapolicylab.org/files/TrustButVerify.pdf

RD4C 22 Questions Audit Tool

A concise audit instrument for assessing whether a data initiative involving vulnerable populations meets responsible-data principles.

ACCESS files.rd4c.org/22-Questions-to-Assess-RD4C-Audit-tool.pdf

RD4C Opportunity & Risk Diagnostic

A phased self-assessment weighing the opportunities and risks of a proposed use across the data lifecycle.

ACCESS files.rd4c.org/RD4C_Opportunity_Risk_Diagnostic_Tool.pdf

RD4C Decision Provenance Mapping

A steward-run worksheet mapping RACI roles and governing policies across the five lifecycle stages, with reflection questions to surface gaps in accountability.

ACCESS files.rd4c.org/RD4C_Decision_Provenance_Mapping.pdf

Data Sharing Agreements Toolkit

Three resources — principled negotiations, a readiness matrix, and the Contractual Wheel of Data Collaboration — to streamline data-sharing agreements.

ACCESS www.dsa.opendatapolicylab.org/

Contracts for Data Collaboration

A searchable library of real data-sharing contracts and clauses, a practical companion to the data-sharing-agreements toolkit.

ACCESS contractsfordatacollaboration.org/

Orchestrating and Designing Data Collaboratives: What Governance Model is Fit for Purpose?

A purpose-driven typology of seven governance archetypes — intermediaries, unions, trusts, commons, cooperatives, sandboxes, and spaces — and a theory of institutional orchestration.

ACCESS papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=6364718

Governing the Environment-Related Data Space

A governance framework for the responsible access, sharing, and reuse of environment-related data in support of climate action and environmental justice.

ACCESS papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4250166

MODULE 8

Technical Infrastructure

The technical and organizational building blocks that make data discoverable, interoperable, and reusable.

Periodic Table of Open Data Elements

A reference organizing the technical and organizational components — standards, metadata, identifiers, APIs, infrastructure — that make data discoverable, interoperable, and reusable.

ACCESS periodictable.opendatapolicylab.org/files/periodic-table_userguide.pdf

Data Sandboxes: Managing the Open Data Spectrum

A guide to designing and governing secure environments that enable responsible access to sensitive data.

ACCESS incubator.opendatapolicylab.org/files/DataSandboxesPrimer.pdf

MODULE 9

From Insight to Action

Translating data and evidence into decisions and public value.

From Data to Decision Intelligence: Decision Accelerator Labs

A framework for translating data and evidence into decisions through multidisciplinary labs combining expertise, participation, and AI.

ACCESS thelivinglib.org/from-data-to-decision-intelligence-the-potential-of-decision-accelerator-labs/

MODULE 10

Measuring Impact

Evaluating and communicating the value that data reuse creates.

Open Data's Impact

A global collection of case studies and frameworks on how open data creates value across governance, empowerment, opportunity, and problem-solving.

ACCESS odimpact.org/

FURTHER RESOURCES

Explore & Go Deeper

Additional toolkits and platforms for continued learning and practice.

The Third Wave of Open Data Toolkit

The toolkit accompanying the third-wave report, with practical guidance for publishing with purpose, building partnerships, and advancing responsible re-use.

ACCESS opendatapolicylab.org/images/odpl/third-wave-of-opendata.pdf

The Living Library

A curated knowledge platform surfacing timely research, tools, and case studies on data, AI, governance, and public innovation.

ACCESS thelivinglib.org/