actors?

Elements of an Effective Transparency Regime

An effective transparency regime could have various elements. Chronologically, it is often preceded by the mobilisation of support within and outside the government, and in the media, legislature, and judiciary. This is important not only to ensure that a law facilitating the exercise of the right to information is passed, but also to influence the nature of legislation and to ensure that the law, once passed, is used.

Concurrently, it might be desirable to mobilise expert groups who can engage with the government and influence the drafting of the proposed legislation, and who can help mandate it among different stakeholders. Lobbying groups could be useful to pressurise governments to quickly pass the law, in the form suggested, and to then fight for the implementation of the law.

Perhaps the most critical element of an effective transparency regime is the existence of a reasonable right to information law with provisions for an independent appellate mechanism, for stringent penalties, and with strong *suo moto* provisions. Equally important is the appointment of fair and independent functionaries, especially to the independent appellate authority.

The next step might very well be to raise awareness among the public, especially on how the law can positively affect their lives. Often there is the additional need to dispel cynicism (and fear of adverse consequences) from the minds of the people.

Equally important could be the orienting and sensitization of the information providers, especially within the government. There usually is a need to develop institutional and Finally, IPs could be

Transparency regimes appear to do best where people feel a sense of empowerment, especially in terms of holding their government answerable and, where necessary, of





Group Two

Structural and Cultural Context: creating an environment for transparency

List of Participants

Facilitator: Shekhar Singh Rapporteur: Suzanne Piotrowski

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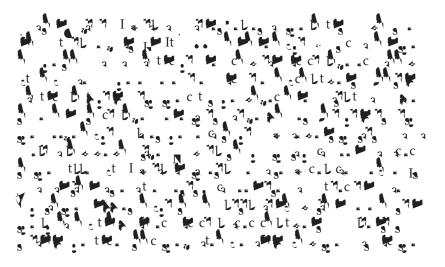
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The Challenges of Implementation

Laura Neuman and Richard Calland

P lg e: U rea hig he G ble



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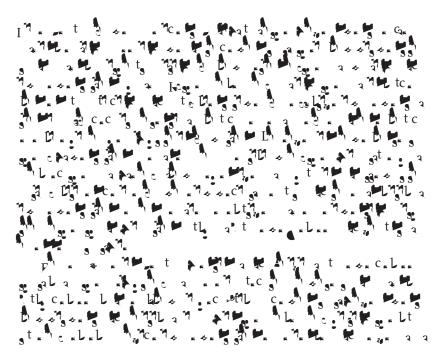


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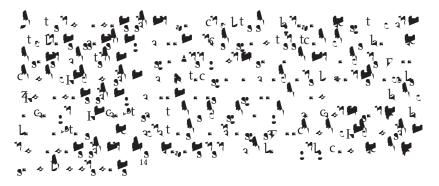


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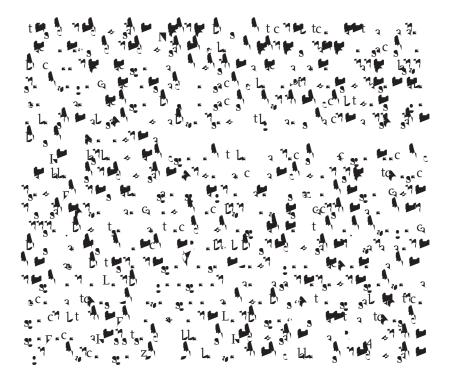
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The Politics of Implementation

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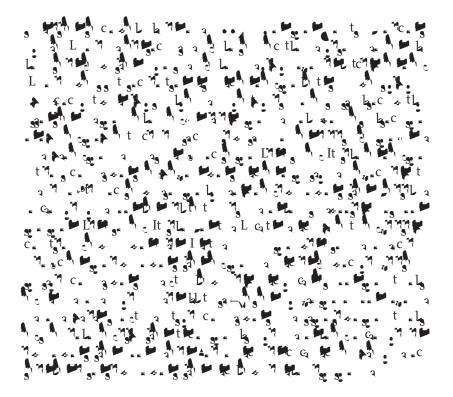




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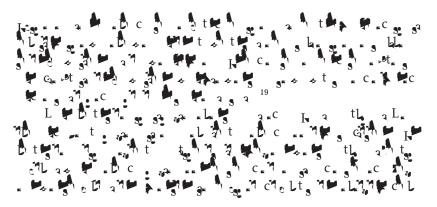
PUBLIC SERVANTS: ON THE FRONT LINE



Government System Building: Developing the Supply Side



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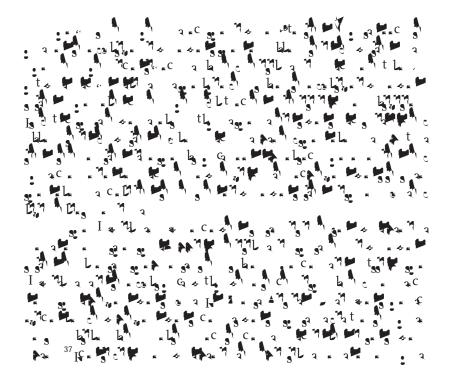


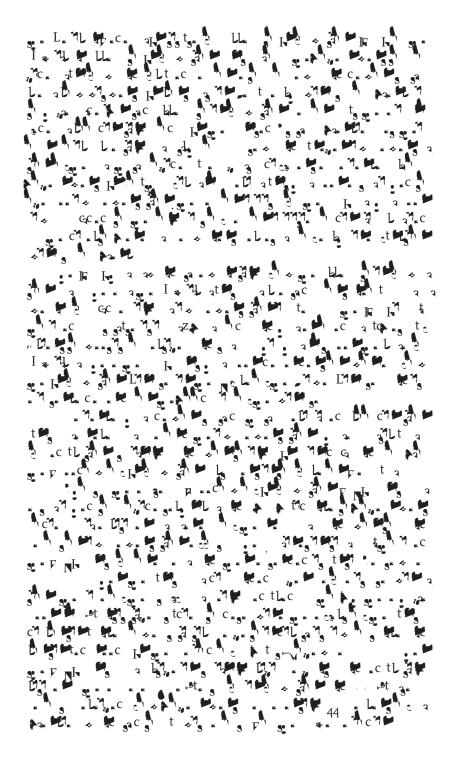
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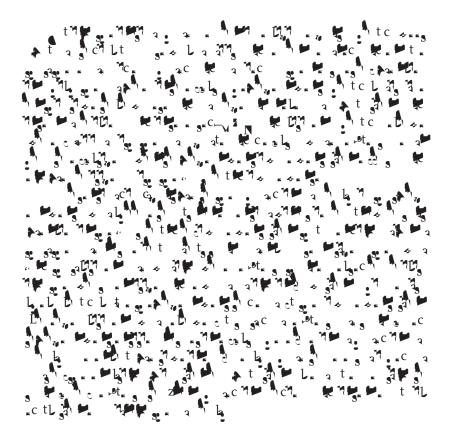
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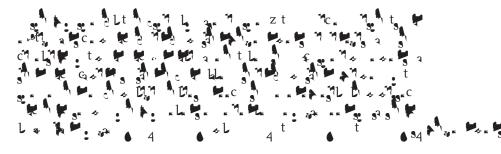
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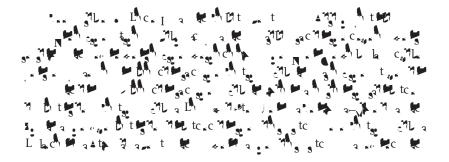


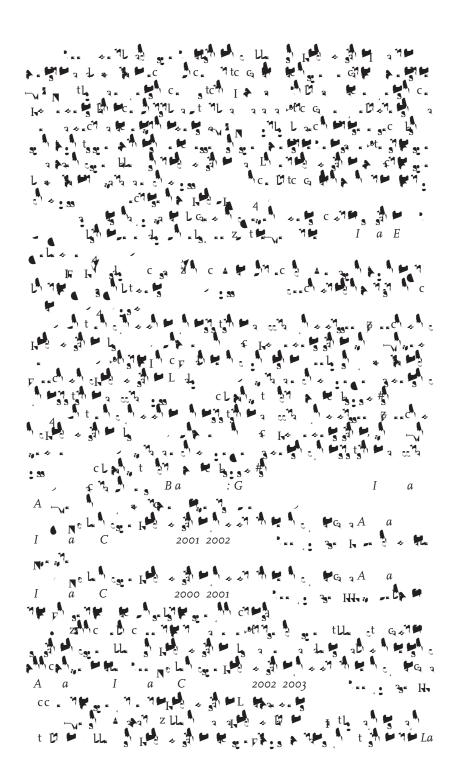
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E-government around the world: Lessons, challenges, and future directions

Paul T. Jaeger*,

uture h llenges for government

Though this symposium issue has presented discussions of interesting and innovative e-government initiatives, e-government still faces many challenges as it continues to develop. In designing and implementing e-government sites, a government must consider elements of policy, including regulatory issues, economic issues, and the rights of users.² One U.S. General Accounting Office report specifically listed the

succeed, there must be both universal service, which indicates

- reventing e government from lessening responsiveness of government offi i ls In many ways, it is easier to ignore a piece of email than it is a human being. Electronic interaction with a government cannot be allowed to become a way for government employees to be less responsive to citizens. If government officials become less responsive because they are not physically seeing or speaking to the citizens they serve, then e-government would be serving to make government administration less transparent and responsive.
- reventing e government from lessening responsi ility of government offi i Is E-government creates ways in which government officials could use technology to avoid taking responsibility for their duties. As anything available on an e-government site can be taken down or altered with little evidence that corrections were made, there may be

unaddressed. Studies such as those in this symposium issue are valuable to the conceptualization and application of current and future e-government projects, regardless of where the projects occur.

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ALASDAIR ROBERTS

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GOVERNMENTAL ADAPTATION TO TRANSPARENCY RULES 109

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GOVERNMENTAL ADAPTATION TO TRANSPARENCY RULES 115

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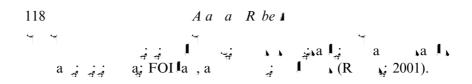
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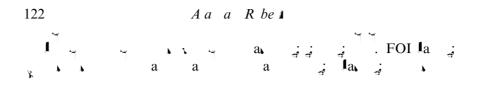
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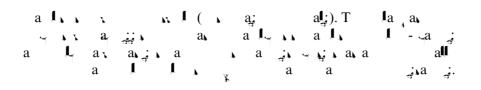
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4. IS THERE A CASE FOR FOI LEGISLATION?

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