An Overview of Data Governance, Information Governance, and IT Governance

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Data, Information, and IT as Assets to be Governed

• Khatri & Brown (2010) defined information assets (or data) as “facts having value or potential value that are documented.” (p. 148)

• To derive value from information, organizations need to invest in technology and systems.


IT governance, focusing on information and IT assets, specifies the decision rights and accountability in the use of IT (Weill and Ross, 2004).


Information Governance is:
The activities and technologies that organizations employ to maximize the value of their information while minimizing associated risks and costs.

93% of respondents agreed
96% of practitioners agreed
95% of providers agreed
95% of analysts agreed

Source: https://iginitiative.com
Information Governance in Practice

Source: Bennett, S. (2017). What is information governance and how does it differ from data governance? Governance Directions, 69(8), 462.
The DGI Data Governance Framework
from The Data Governance Institute

Definition:
Data Governance is the exercise of decision making and authority for data-related matters.
It's a system of decision rights and accountabilities for information-related processes, executed according to agreed upon models which describe who can take what actions with what information and under what circumstances, using what methods.

Processes for governing how data is used, and when, and by whom:
1. Aligning Policies, Requirements & Controls
2. Establishing Decision Rights
3. Establishing Accountability
4. Performing Stewardship
5. Managing Change
6. Defining Data
7. Issue Resolution
8. Specifying Data Quality Requirements
9. Building Governance into Technology
10. Stakeholder Care and Support
11. Stakeholder Communications
12. Measuring and Reporting Value

Source: http://www.datagovernance.com/the-dgi-framework/
The Ignored but Critical Role of Information Governance

• Aims to manage sensitive and proprietary information.

• A subset of IT governance and is defined as “a collection of capabilities or practices for the creation, capture, valuation, storage, usage, control, access, archival, and deletion of information over its life cycle.” (Tallon et al., p. 142)

• While the dominant focus of IT governance literature has been on the IT artifacts, with the advent of big data analytics, the focus has been shifted to the information artifacts.

The Core Disciplines of Information Governance

• Smallwood (2014) views information governance as a “rather new multidisciplinary field that is still being defined” (p. 6).

• Core disciplines of information governance (Soares, 2012; Ballard et al., 2014)
  • These disciplines are organization (structure), metadata management, security and privacy, data quality, business process integration, master data integration, and information lifecycle management.

Source:
Figure 2-1  IBM Information Governance Capability Maturity Model

A Framework for Big Data Governance

Data (Science) Work in Context

Three Main Themes of Information Governance

- While there is no commonly agreed definition of information governance, three themes emerge:
  - **Who is responsible**, that is, who holds the decision rights and who is accountable?
  - **How is it carried out**, for instance, via policy, procedures, processes, and standards for life cycle management of information?
  - **To what** is it being directed, that is, “**value**” to the organization and its stakeholders, which encompasses value in the sense of compliance and risk management.