# Digital Government Theory: Development and Application

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Digital government, initially referred to as electronic government, has evolved tremendously both as a field of study and in practice over the last few decades. The Digital Government Reference Library contains more than 13,500 peer-reviewed publications, marking am 8% increases in references from December 2019. This multi- disciplinary study domain benefits from researchers and practitioners from diverse fields, including but not limited to public administration, information systems, information science, and political science.

As the domain matures, it is useful for scholars and other stakeholders to examine the state of the body of knowledge. To this end, several key questions emerge:

- Given the applied nature of digital government, what is the role of theory?
- What are the fundamental theoretical contributions to or from the digital government discipline, if any?
- Does the field have any foundational theoretic frameworks? Given its interdisciplinary nature, does the field need to develop its own set of theories?
- What is the appropriate balance of theory and practice in this domain of study? What are the reference disciplines for digital government, if any?
- Does digital government have, or shall digital government have, a "home" (anchor) discipline?
- Is digital government (can, or shall, it evolve into) its own discipline?
- What relevance does the digital government body of knowledge have to practice?

The purpose of this mini-track is to explore the role of theory development in this applied discipline. This mini-track has one paper, "Understanding determinants of adoption and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for emergency management: Proposing a research agenda based on existing academic literature" which finds multiple determinants of adoption at the individual, organizational, and contextual levels. The authors also discuss potential future research in rural areas where the needs of emergency management are unique.

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