A bit about my background

- Started working in Civic Tech and Open Data when I joined Phandeeyar in Yangon in 2014
- Started organising Data Journalism Trainings in 2015
- Became project manager for Open Development Myanmar in 2016
- Joined School of Data Fellowship in 2017 focusing on natural resource data in Myanmar
- Founded Thibi, a data and design consultancy in 2018, that focuses on human centered design, data visualization and data literacy

OPEN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
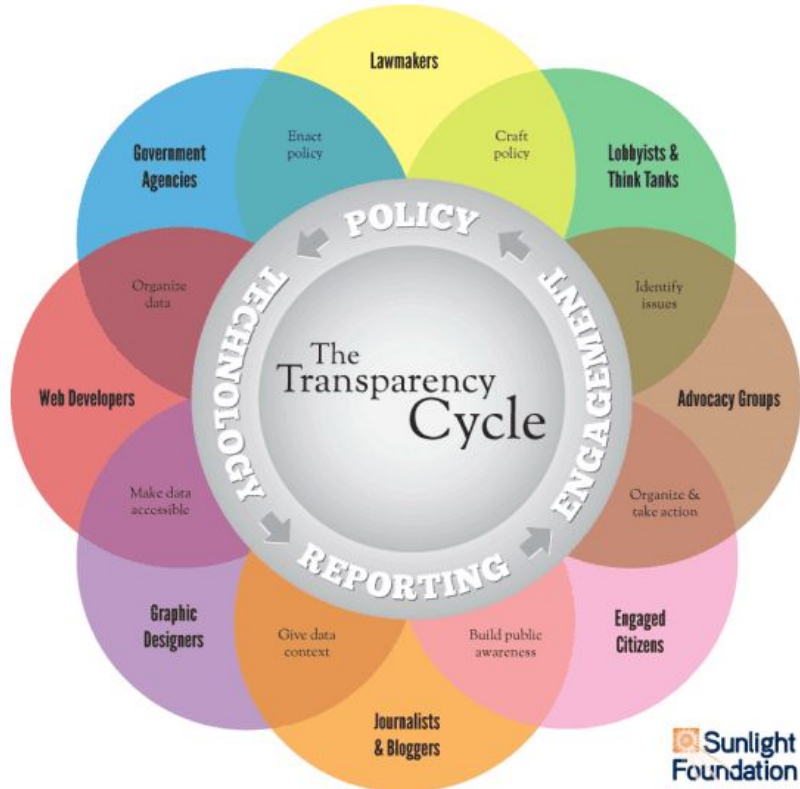A PROJECT BY EAST-WEST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, INC

Data Literacy Training Experiences

Data Journalism Trainings in Myanmar

Data Journalism Training and Mentorship for a small group of Myanmar Journalists

3 Month Data Literacy Certificate Program in Myanmar

2016

2018

2020

2015

2017

2019

First Mekong Data Literacy Training Workshop in Yangon

Planning and fundraising for a longer-term data literacy training

3 Month Data Literacy Certificate Program in Cambodia and Follow-Up Trainings in Myanmar

OPEN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
A PROJECT BY EAST-WEST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, INC

The Transparency Cycle

The Transparency Cycle

Lawmakers · Enact policy · Craft policy · Government Agencies · Lobbyists & Think Tanks · Organize data · Identify issues · Web Developers · Advocacy Groups · Make data accessible · Organize & take action · Graphic Designers · Give data context · Build public awareness · Engaged Citizens · Journalists & Bloggers

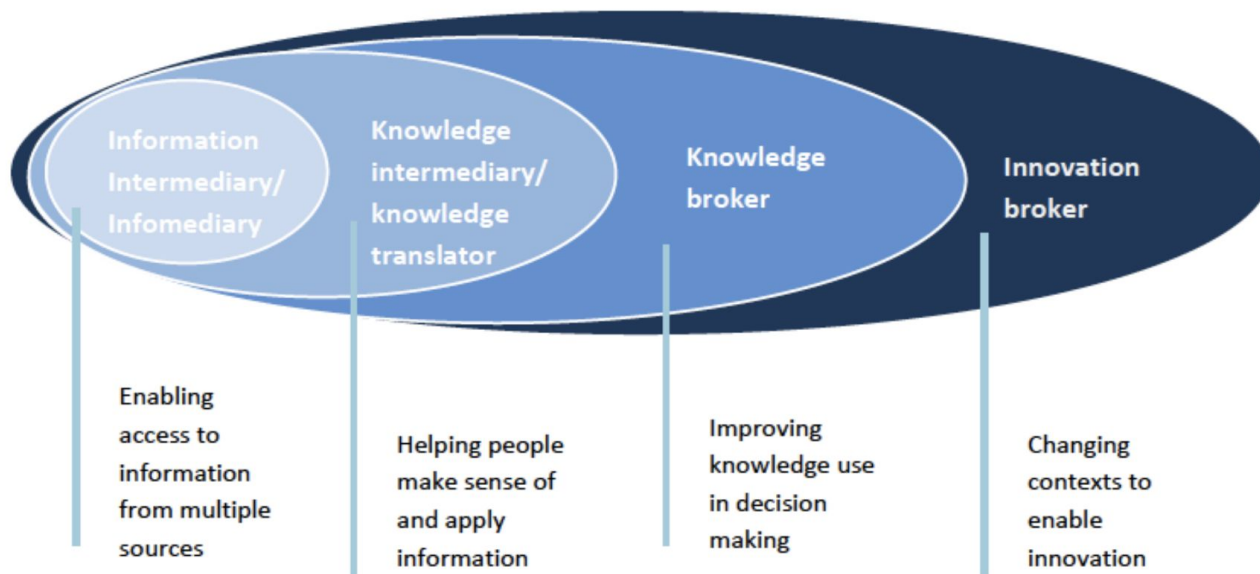POLICY · TECHNOLOGY · ENGAGEMENT · REPORTING

Sunlight Foundation

- How does data literacy fit into the broader work we do as civil society?
- There are multiple linkages in a chain of actors who all have to work together to make transparency and accountability a reality
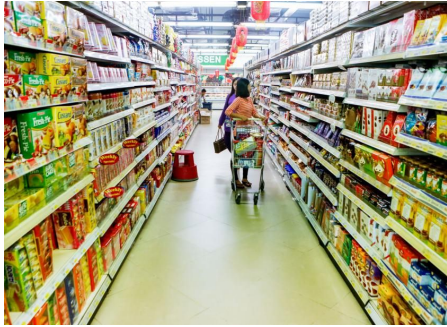
Source:
https://sunlightfoundation.com/2010/03/10/introducing-the-cycle-of-transparency/

We are Infomediaries

Information Intermediary/ Infomediary — Enabling access to information from multiple sources

Knowledge intermediary/ knowledge translator — Helping people make sense of and apply information

Knowledge broker — Improving knowledge use in decision making

Innovation broker — Changing contexts to enable innovation

"We help you cook the data so you just have to eat it"
-Bong Try

Training Civil Society: Supermarkets vs Restaurants

Data Publishers
"Supermarkets"

Examples:
- Open Data portals
- Publishing research reports or survey results
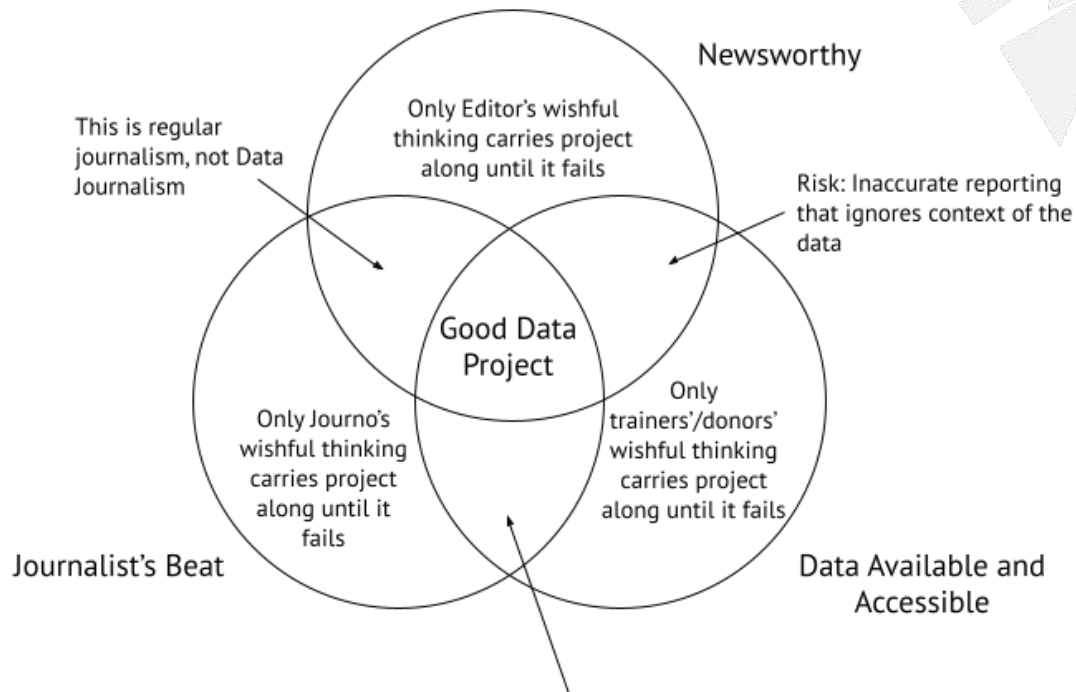- Website showing live election results

Data Users
"Restaurants"

Examples:
- Publishing a data driven news story or investigative feature story
- Using Infographics for a campaign
- Publishing a summary of research findings

Training Journalists: Finding the Sweet Spot

Newsworthy

Only Editor's wishful thinking carries project along until it fails

This is regular journalism, not Data Journalism

Risk: Inaccurate reporting that ignores context of the data

Good Data Project

Only Journo's wishful thinking carries project along until it fails

Only trainers'/donors' wishful thinking carries project along until it fails

Journalist's Beat

Data Available and Accessible

Classic situation of a donor funded project that forces journos to write about a certain topic without getting buy-in from the newsroom. Will produce one-off stories but won't build Data capacity in the newsroom

Reflections on Trainings in Myanmar

What worked

- An incredible support team from Phandeeyar
- Many years of laying the groundwork building up trust among stakeholders
- Our training team knew the relevant data inside and out
- Was able to build capacity for support team to deliver subsequent trainings

What needed improvement

- Need to ensure continuity - you can't train and forget
- Advanced levels of training will require more customization for each trainee
- Pivoting to remote in 2020 needed more thought and design
- Need to think beyond what you promised to the donor

Reflections on Trainings in Cambodia

What worked

- An incredible support team from Open Development Cambodia + Trust form Stakeholders + Team Knew the Data
- Was able to build capacity for support team to deliver subsequent trainings
- Civil Society participants came in with strong foundations
- Extended mentorship period for participants to finish their projects

What needed improvement

- Journalists had weaker capacity to absorb the content
- How do we support whole organizations beyond just individual trainees?
- How to bridge the technical gaps for advanced topics?

Thank you!

Please feel free to reach out to me at yan@thibi.co

or check out thibi.co and thibi.recipes for our learning content hub