

Information Governance and Asset Management

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INFORMATION

“Information is Information, neither matter nor energy.

No materialism that fails to take account of this can survive the present day.”

Norbert Wiener, MIT

INFORMATION IS AN ASSET

Information is a core resource and asset of modern public sector organisations, together with people and finance. The general principles and mechanisms for the effective governance and management of resources and assets are well understood – we now need to apply them to information.

INFORMATION IS AN ASSET

All assets, including information assets, have service potential.

Their potential is only realised through effective management, use and dissemination across their lifecycle.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

Information governance provides the appropriate context for decisions about the proper management, use and dissemination of information.

It encompasses leadership, authority, control, stewardship, direction and accountability.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

Organisations without effective information governance are characterised by 'implicit' information cultures, in which information roles, responsibilities, relationships, processes and capabilities are not clearly defined or understood, and information and data are treated as 'intangible'.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

Effective information governance creates an 'explicit' culture of information stewardship, with formal 'connected conversations' for information across executive, operational and technical levels of the organisation.

INFORMATION STEWARDSHIP

Information stewards are accountable for the integrity and security of information, and for ensuring that its quality meets the legitimate requirements of all stakeholders.

VALUING INFORMATION

The value of public sector information derives from its ability to meet the legitimate needs of stakeholders.

Its value is optimised when the legitimate needs of all stakeholders are met at the lowest cost.

START WITH REPORTING

Reporting is the natural candidate for early application of effective information governance and asset management approaches.

It consumes around 25% of agency effort and touches every dimension of the information issue.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Chief Information Officers must refocus their attention from technology to information, providing their organisations with the leadership, guidance and support necessary for the effective management, use and dissemination of public information.

ROLES OF THE CIO

- *NOW* Technology CIO (CTO)
- *NEXT* Information Resources CIO
- *FUTURE* Information Strategy CIO

Paul Strassmann: "Power Politics of the CIO", March 2003

FMA ACT & REGULATIONS

The FMA Act & Regulations provide Australian Government agency heads with the legislative imperative and means to give practical effect to information policy in their agencies.

The establishment of a consistent set of core CEIs for information across all agencies should be a priority.

“The central information issue facing the Australian Government is that it has no effective formal mechanisms for the consistent governance and management of public sector information across the government, its agencies and public stakeholders.”

“The practical implications of this serious deficiency are experienced every day at all levels of government, with significant impacts on the availability, quality, timeliness and costs of information.”

“Much of the investment in modern information technology over recent decades has been largely wasted because of the failure to manage information effectively as a core organisational asset.”

“The future ability of the Australian Government to effectively and affordably address complex policy issues through robust democratic processes is critically dependent on the implementation of information policy that can shape and drive a coherent approach to the management of information across and within Australian Government agencies.”