Dissertation Defense
Doctor of Philosophy in Library and Information Science

"**Toward a Model for Human Open Government Data (OGD) Interaction and an Application for OGD Literacy Taxonomy: A User-centered Perspective**" by
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Abstract:
Acknowledging the value of transparency and accountability, the development of open government data (OGD) and its portals have been rapidly proliferating around the world. Consequently, massive amounts of government data, from federal to state to local levels, are available via various OGD portals. Also, the emphasis of OGD projects has gradually shifted from a publisher-centered paradigm to a user-centered paradigm, as laws and regulations caught up with policies that make these resources more widely accessible to the public. Thereby, improving data use has become the new primary aim of OGD projects. However, extant studies show that users often experience difficulties in finding, understanding, and using government data. Low-level data literacy of individuals was also identified as a major obstacle to using OGD. Within the still-emerging field of human data interaction (HDI), very few studies focus on how users interact with OGD and the fundamental OGD literacy capabilities.

Therefore, motivated by the existing challenges of interacting with OGD and the corresponding research gaps in HDI and OGD literacy, this dissertation aims to take a user-centered perspective, relating the relevant models and previous research studies in the two areas, HDI and OGD, to empirically probe into OGD user online interactive behaviors and then to develop a model for human OGD interaction (H-OGD-I). This dissertation also aims to examine contextualized user challenges of interacting with OGD, pinpoint user literacy challenges and platform design barriers to identify the fundamental OGD literacy capabilities that enable users to use OGD based on the proposed H-OGD-I model, and finally develop a taxonomy for OGD literacy capabilities. This dissertation contributes to a holistic view and a deep insight into human OGD interaction and a corresponding application of OGD literacy capabilities, which makes theoretical and practical contributions.