

Newspeak House Library

The Civic Tech Field Guide

The Civic Tech Field Guide is the world's largest collection of political technology projects.

As Fellowship Candidates, we ask you to add projects you find over the course of your research to the Library. By doing so you'll not only contribute what you find to the digital commons, but also create a repository of the things you and your colleagues have discovered over the course of the year.

[Add a project](#) - include your name in the hat-tip section if you'd like credit for your finds

You can visit the front-end of the directory, with over 10,000 hand-curated entries, at

app.civictech.guide

[With this link](#), you can sign up for Airtable and access all of the data.

[With this link](#), you can export a CSV or PDF of your filtered view.

Taxonomy

[Background](#)

- [All categories](#)
 - [The Tech](#) – Categories describing the technical functions of civic tech: the digital tools, data, etc.
 - [The People](#) – The social side of the field, including funders, jobs, and impact evaluation.
 - [Adjacent Fields](#) – Digital rights, Cybersecurity for civil society, Civic literacy, Digital literacy, Assistive and Accessible tech...
 - [Social issues](#) and [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) organise projects cause
 - You can also [filter projects](#) by format, political level, tech platform, civic tech community, etc. This view allows you to export data slices in CSV or PDF.
- [Much of the data](#) is available here, and you can access all of the data after creating an Airtable account.
- [World map](#) view
- [Research](#) we've produced describing and chronicling this field over the years

Community Infrastructure

- We coordinate on Superbloom Design's Slack – ping Matt with your Slack email and we can invite you to the channel.
- [Community calendar](#) that you can add to your own calendar app, including global events and fundraising / fellowship opportunities.
 - If you'd like to share an event you're hosting, just send a calendar invitation to info@civictech.guide and we'll help promote it
- [Subscribe](#) to weekly newsletter updates for product launches, open jobs, fundraising deadlines, upcoming events, special research, and project updates
- [Bluesky Mastodon X Threads](#): Community events and deadlines
- [Github](#): Open source repo for our original Directory web app, and roadmap
- [LinkedIn](#): Sharing open jobs and major report publications

- [Slack Whatsapp](#): Coordinating with the Civic Tech Field Guide team
- [Civic tech sticker collection](#) on Instagram

Librarian: Matt Stempeck



- <https://www.mattstempeck.com/>
- matt@civictech.guide
- [LinkedIn](#)

Matt's professional background includes stints as Microsoft's Director of Civic Technology, Hillary Clinton's Director of Digital Mobilization, and Master's student at MIT Media Lab's Center for Civic Media. He's based in Lisbon, Portugal and will be at Newspeak House for Matriculation Weekend, plus October 2025 and April 2026.

Workshop: Introduction to the Civic Tech Field Guide, your library of Political Technology

Sat 11 Oct 2024 1-2:15pm

- ☐ Reading for Session 0: [Towards a taxonomy of civic tech](#)

Engaging with and benefiting from the Civic Tech Field Guide database.

Goal: Know what people have done and are doing. Learn from what's worked and *especially* what hasn't.

Find examples of political tech in the wild. Contribute to the world's largest open knowledge repository of our field.

Inform your prototype to ensure it's contributing something new, original, and better than what came before it.

Assignment: You will adopt a relevant domain and improve that collection as you research and learn about things. Choose one [category](#), [social issue](#), [UN SDG](#), or [place](#) that's most relevant to your research interests to curate this year. If none exists, suggest it to Matt and we can see about creating it.

[Confirm your selection here](#) by the end of the day Sat 11 October

By 31 October:

- ☐ [Update the category, tag, or place description](#) field in Airtable with at least three strong resources describing this domain of political technology. [Example](#).
- ☐ Contribute your research findings to improve this section of the database throughout the year.
 - ☐ [Sign up for a free Airtable account](#) (if you don't have one already)
 - ☐ [Add a new entry](#) to your category
 - ☐ [Update an existing entry](#) in your category

Spring Semester One-on-Ones:

Due by 31 January:

- [Schedule a 1:1](#) research discussion with Matt
- Send a 1-2 sentence description of your thesis topic to matt@civictech.guide

We will meet to discuss your prototype (whatever state it's in) and identify resources that might help you in your work.