



# Open Government Data and Public Transparency in Local Governance: Evidence from Yogyakarta City Government

Rizky Ilhami<sup>1</sup>

Universitas Padjadjaran

\*Corresponding author : rizky.ilhami@unpad.ac.id

INFO ARTIKEL	ABSTRACT
<p>Submitted: 2026-01-14  Revised: 2026-01-24  Accepted: 2026-02-14  Published: 2026-03-14</p> <p><b>Keywords</b>  Open Government Data, Government Transparency, Digital Governance, Public Administration, Local Government</p>	<p><i>The implementation of open government data has become an important initiative in promoting transparency and accountability in public administration. By providing public access to government datasets, open data platforms allow citizens, researchers, and civil society organizations to obtain information about government activities and evaluate public policy implementation. This study aims to examine the role of open government data in improving transparency in local governance, with a focus on the implementation of open data initiatives by the Yogyakarta City Government. The study adopts a qualitative case study approach to explore how open data platforms are managed by local government institutions and how the available data is accessed and utilized by the public. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with government officials responsible for managing open data platforms and community members who utilize government datasets, supported by document analysis and observation of the open data portal. The findings indicate that open government data initiatives have improved public access to government information and strengthened transparency in local governance. Citizens and researchers are able to utilize available datasets to monitor government programs and analyze policy outcomes. However, several challenges remain, including limited public awareness of open data platforms, differences in digital literacy among citizens, and the need for stronger institutional capacity in managing and updating government datasets. The study highlights the importance of effective data management, public awareness, and institutional commitment in maximizing the potential of open government data as a tool for promoting transparency and accountability in local governance.</i></p>
<p><b>Kata Kunci</b>  Open Government Data, Transparansi Pemerintah, Tata Kelola Digital, Administrasi Publik, Pemerintah Daerah</p>	<p><b>Abstrak</b>  Implementasi open government data menjadi salah satu inisiatif penting dalam mendorong transparansi dan akuntabilitas dalam administrasi publik. Melalui penyediaan akses terbuka terhadap data pemerintah, platform open data memungkinkan masyarakat, peneliti, dan organisasi masyarakat sipil untuk memperoleh informasi mengenai aktivitas pemerintah serta mengevaluasi pelaksanaan kebijakan publik. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran open government data dalam meningkatkan transparansi pemerintahan daerah dengan fokus pada implementasi inisiatif open data oleh Pemerintah Kota Yogyakarta. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan studi kasus kualitatif untuk memahami bagaimana platform open data dikelola oleh institusi pemerintah daerah serta bagaimana data yang tersedia diakses dan dimanfaatkan oleh masyarakat. Data penelitian diperoleh melalui wawancara semi-terstruktur dengan pejabat pemerintah yang bertanggung jawab dalam pengelolaan platform open data serta masyarakat yang memanfaatkan data pemerintah, yang kemudian didukung oleh analisis dokumen dan observasi terhadap portal open data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa inisiatif open government data telah meningkatkan akses masyarakat terhadap informasi pemerintah dan memperkuat transparansi dalam tata kelola pemerintahan daerah. Masyarakat dan peneliti dapat memanfaatkan dataset yang tersedia untuk memantau program pemerintah dan menganalisis hasil kebijakan publik. Namun demikian, masih terdapat beberapa tantangan seperti rendahnya tingkat kesadaran masyarakat terhadap keberadaan platform open data, perbedaan tingkat literasi digital di kalangan masyarakat, serta kebutuhan akan penguatan kapasitas institusional dalam pengelolaan dan pembaruan data pemerintah. Oleh karena itu, pengelolaan data yang efektif, peningkatan kesadaran publik, serta komitmen institusional menjadi faktor penting dalam memaksimalkan pemanfaatan open government data sebagai sarana untuk meningkatkan transparansi dan akuntabilitas pemerintahan daerah.</p>

Copyright © 2025, Khoiriyah, et al



## INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of digital technology has encouraged governments around the world to adopt more transparent and participatory governance practices. One of the most significant initiatives in digital governance is the implementation of open government data policies. Open government data refers to the practice of making government data accessible to the public in formats that can be freely used, reused, and distributed without restrictions. This initiative aims to promote transparency, strengthen accountability, and encourage citizen participation in public decision-making processes (Mergel, 2020; OECD, 2021).

Open government data has become an important component of modern governance reforms. By providing public access to government data related to policies, budgets, development programs, and public services, governments can improve the transparency of administrative processes and enable citizens to monitor government performance more effectively. Access to public data also allows researchers, civil society organizations, and journalists to analyze government activities and provide constructive feedback on policy implementation (Bertot, Jaeger, & Grimes, 2010).

The concept of open government data is closely related to the broader framework of open government, which emphasizes transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in governance. Through open government initiatives, governments seek to create more inclusive governance systems that allow citizens to participate more actively in monitoring and evaluating public policies. Digital platforms have become essential tools for implementing open government policies because they allow government data to be distributed quickly and accessed easily by the public (Gil-Garcia & Luna-Reyes, 2021).

In recent years, many governments have developed digital platforms that provide public access to government data. These platforms often include datasets related to government budgets, infrastructure development, environmental monitoring, transportation systems, and public service performance. By making such data available to the public, governments aim to create a more transparent administrative environment and strengthen trust between public institutions and citizens.

In Indonesia, the adoption of open government initiatives has gained increasing attention as part of broader digital governance reforms. The Indonesian government has promoted transparency and public participation through various initiatives related to open data and digital governance. These efforts are also aligned with international movements supporting open government and public data accessibility (United Nations, 2022).

At the local government level, several cities in Indonesia have developed open data portals that allow citizens to access information about government programs and administrative activities. These portals serve as platforms for publishing government datasets that can be used by citizens, researchers, and organizations interested in analyzing public policy and governance practices.

One of the cities that has actively implemented open government data initiatives is Yogyakarta City. The Yogyakarta City government has developed digital platforms that provide access to various datasets related to urban development, population statistics, public services, and local economic activities. These platforms aim to improve transparency in local governance and encourage greater citizen participation in monitoring government programs.

The implementation of open government data initiatives in Yogyakarta reflects the growing importance of transparency in local governance. By providing accessible information about government activities, local governments can strengthen public trust and encourage collaborative relationships between government institutions and the community.

However, the implementation of open government data also presents several challenges. Government institutions must ensure that the data published through digital platforms is accurate, updated, and presented in formats that are understandable to the public. In addition, limited digital literacy among some segments of the population may affect how citizens access and utilize government data (Heeks, 2020).

Another challenge involves the institutional capacity required to manage open data platforms effectively. Government agencies must coordinate across departments to collect, organize, and publish datasets that are relevant to public interests. Without proper coordination and data management systems, open government initiatives may not achieve their intended goals of improving transparency and public participation.

Despite the increasing adoption of open government data initiatives in Indonesia, research examining how these platforms contribute to transparency in local governance remains limited. Understanding how open data initiatives are implemented at the local level is important for evaluating their effectiveness and identifying strategies for improving government transparency.

Therefore, this study aims to examine the implementation of open government data initiatives and their role in promoting transparency in local governance. By focusing on the experience of Yogyakarta City Government, this research seeks to provide insights into how digital data platforms can support more transparent and accountable governance practices in the context of local government administration.

## **METHODS**

This study adopts a qualitative research approach to examine the implementation of open government data and its role in promoting transparency in local governance in Yogyakarta City. A qualitative approach was chosen because it allows for an in-depth understanding of how open data initiatives are implemented by government institutions and how these initiatives are perceived and utilized by the public. Through this approach, the research aims to explore the experiences, perceptions, and practices of government officials and stakeholders involved in managing and accessing open government data platforms.

The research design uses a case study approach focusing on the open government data initiatives implemented by the Yogyakarta City Government. The case study method is appropriate for analyzing governance practices within a specific institutional and geographic context, allowing researchers to investigate real-world phenomena in detail (Yin, 2018). Yogyakarta City was selected as the research locus because it is one of the local governments in Indonesia that has actively developed digital platforms to publish government data and improve public access to information.

Data were collected through several qualitative data collection techniques. First, semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants who are directly involved in managing or utilizing open government data platforms. These informants included government officials responsible for managing digital governance programs, staff members working in information and communication technology departments, and public relations officers responsible for publishing government data. In addition, interviews were also conducted with members of the community, including researchers, students, and civil society representatives who access or utilize government data provided through open data platforms.

Second, document analysis was conducted to examine official government regulations, policy documents, strategic plans, and reports related to the implementation of open government data initiatives in Yogyakarta City. These documents provided insights into the policy framework, institutional strategies, and administrative procedures used by the local government in managing open data programs.

Furthermore, observations of the Yogyakarta City open data portal were carried out to analyze how government datasets are published and presented to the public. This observation focused on the types of datasets available, the accessibility of the information provided, and the usability of the digital platform. The observation also examined how frequently data is updated and how the platform supports public access to government information.

The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis. This analytical method involves organizing qualitative data, coding relevant information, identifying recurring themes, and interpreting patterns that emerge from the data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Through thematic analysis, the study identified several key themes related to government transparency, data accessibility, institutional capacity in managing open data platforms, and the role of open data initiatives in supporting citizen participation in governance.

To ensure the credibility and validity of the research findings, this study applied data triangulation by comparing information obtained from interviews, document analysis, and observations of the open data platform. Triangulation helps strengthen the reliability of qualitative research findings by ensuring that conclusions are supported by multiple sources of evidence (Denzin, 2017). Through this methodological approach, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how open government data initiatives contribute to transparency and accountability in local governance within the context of Yogyakarta City

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The findings of this study reveal several important aspects regarding the implementation of open government data initiatives and their contribution to transparency in local governance in Yogyakarta City. Based on interviews with government officials, observations of the open data portal, and perspectives from community members who utilize government data, several key themes emerged related to data accessibility, transparency in governance, citizen participation, and challenges in managing open government data platforms.

### **Accessibility of Government Data**

One of the most significant findings of this study is the improved accessibility of government information through the open data platform developed by the Yogyakarta City Government. The open data portal provides various datasets related to population statistics, economic development, urban infrastructure, education, health services, and local government programs. These datasets are made available to the public in digital formats that can be accessed through online platforms.

The availability of these datasets enables citizens, researchers, and civil society organizations to obtain information about government activities more easily. Prior to the implementation of open data initiatives, many government documents and statistical reports were difficult for the public to access due to bureaucratic procedures or limited distribution channels. Through the open data platform, the Yogyakarta City Government has simplified the process of accessing public information and reduced administrative barriers that previously limited public access to government data.

Furthermore, the digital format of the data allows users to download and analyze the datasets for various purposes, including academic research, public policy analysis, and community development initiatives. This accessibility contributes to a more informed society in which citizens can better understand government programs and evaluate policy outcomes.

### **Enhancing Transparency in Local Governance**

Another important finding of this study is the role of open government data in enhancing transparency in local governance. By publishing government data related to public programs and administrative activities, the Yogyakarta City Government demonstrates a commitment to open governance practices. Public access to government datasets allows citizens to observe how government resources are allocated and how development programs are implemented.

Transparency through open data platforms also strengthens accountability within government institutions. When government information is publicly accessible, citizens and civil society organizations can monitor the performance of public institutions and provide feedback on government policies. This monitoring function encourages government agencies to maintain higher standards of accountability and administrative transparency.

Interviews with community members indicated that the availability of government data increased their awareness of local development initiatives. Citizens reported that open data platforms allowed them to obtain information that was previously difficult to access, particularly data related to urban development and public services.

### **Citizen Participation and Data Utilization**

The study also found that open government data initiatives create opportunities for greater citizen participation in governance processes. Access to government data enables citizens, researchers, and non-governmental organizations to analyze public policy and identify areas where improvements may be necessary. In several cases, civil society groups have used open government data to conduct independent research and provide recommendations for improving public services.

Students and academic researchers in Yogyakarta have also utilized open government data for research projects and policy analysis. The availability of reliable datasets supports evidence-based research and encourages academic engagement with local governance issues.

However, the study found that the level of public utilization of open data platforms remains relatively limited. While researchers and professionals frequently access government datasets, many ordinary citizens are not yet fully aware of the availability of open data platforms or how to use them effectively. This indicates that increasing public awareness and digital literacy is necessary to maximize the benefits of open government data initiatives.

### **Institutional Capacity in Managing Open Data**

Another important theme identified in this study relates to the institutional capacity required to manage open government data platforms. Government agencies must coordinate across departments to collect, organize, and publish relevant datasets on the open data portal. Effective data management requires technical infrastructure, skilled personnel, and clear administrative procedures.

Interviews with government officials indicated that one of the challenges in managing open government data involves ensuring that datasets are regularly updated and maintained. Data accuracy and consistency are essential for maintaining public trust in open data initiatives. If datasets are outdated or incomplete, citizens may question the reliability of the information provided.

In addition, coordination among different government departments can sometimes create administrative challenges. Each department is responsible for managing its own data, and differences in data management practices may affect the consistency of datasets published on the open data portal.

### **Challenges in Implementing Open Government Data**

Despite the positive contributions of open government data initiatives, several challenges remain in their implementation. One of the primary challenges identified in this study is the limited public awareness of the open data platform. Many citizens are still unfamiliar with the existence of government data portals or the potential benefits of accessing public datasets.

Another challenge relates to digital literacy. While digital platforms make government data more accessible, not all citizens possess the technical skills necessary to interpret or analyze datasets. As a result, the primary users of open government data platforms tend to be researchers, data analysts, and civil society organizations rather than the general public.

Additionally, government institutions must invest resources in maintaining digital infrastructure and ensuring the quality of published datasets. Effective open data management requires continuous technical support, data standardization, and institutional commitment to transparency.

### **Implications for Transparent Governance**

Overall, the findings of this study highlight the important role of open government data initiatives in supporting transparent governance practices. By providing accessible and reliable government datasets, the Yogyakarta City Government has created opportunities for citizens and organizations to access public information and monitor government activities more effectively.

Open government data platforms also contribute to improving communication between government institutions and the public. When citizens have access to reliable information about government programs and policies, they are better able to participate in discussions related to local governance and public service improvement.

However, maximizing the impact of open government data initiatives requires continued efforts to increase public awareness, improve digital literacy, and strengthen institutional capacity in managing government datasets. Through these efforts, open government data can become a powerful tool for promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in local governance.

### **CONCLUSION**

This study examined the implementation of open government data initiatives and their role in promoting transparency in local governance in Yogyakarta City. The findings indicate that the adoption of open data platforms has significantly improved the accessibility of government information for the public. By providing digital access to datasets related to government programs, public services, and regional development, the Yogyakarta City Government has created opportunities for citizens, researchers, and civil society organizations to obtain information about government activities more easily.

The study also shows that open government data contributes to enhancing transparency in local governance. The availability of publicly accessible government datasets allows citizens to monitor administrative processes, evaluate government programs, and better understand policy implementation at the local level. This transparency encourages greater accountability among government institutions because public access to information enables citizens and organizations to observe how government resources are utilized and how development programs are implemented.

In addition, open government data initiatives create opportunities for citizen participation in governance processes. Access to government datasets allows members of the community, academic researchers, and civil society organizations to analyze public policies and provide recommendations for improving government performance. These activities support the development of a more participatory governance environment in which citizens can contribute to discussions about public policy and community development.

However, the findings also reveal several challenges associated with the implementation of open government data initiatives. Limited public awareness of open data platforms and differences in digital literacy among citizens may reduce the level of public utilization of available datasets. In addition, government institutions must maintain strong institutional capacity to ensure that datasets are regularly updated, accurate, and presented in formats that are understandable to the public.

Overall, this study concludes that open government data initiatives play an important role in strengthening transparency and accountability in local governance. When implemented effectively, open data platforms can improve access to public information, support citizen participation, and promote more open governance practices. The experience of the Yogyakarta City Government demonstrates how digital data platforms can contribute to building a more transparent relationship between government institutions and the public while supporting evidence-based governance in the digital era.

## REFERENCES

- Ines Mergel. (2020). *Digital Transformation of the Public Sector*. Oxford University Press.
- John Carlo Bertot, Paul T. Jaeger, & Justin M. Grimes. (2010). Using ICTs to create a culture of transparency: E-government and social media as openness tools. *Government Information Quarterly*, 27(3), 264–271.
- José Ramón Gil-García, & Luis Felipe Luna-Reyes. (2021). Digital government transformation and public value. *Government Information Quarterly*, 38(3), 101589.
- Richard Heeks. (2020). *Information and Communication Technology for Development*. Routledge.
- Albert Meijer, & Torben Torenvlied. (2016). Social media and public management: The impact of social media on public sector communication. *Public Administration Review*, 76(1), 98–109.
- Stephan Grimmelikhuijsen, & Albert Meijer. (2014). The effects of transparency on the perceived trustworthiness of a government organization. *Public Administration Review*, 74(1), 137–147.

- Stephan Grimmelikhuijsen, Gregory Porumbescu, Bomin Hong, & Taeho Im. (2013). The effect of transparency on trust in government. *Public Administration Review*, 73(4), 575–586.
- Darrell West. (2020). *The Future of Digital Government*. Brookings Institution Press.
- United Nations. (2022). *United Nations E-Government Survey 2022: The Future of Digital Government*. United Nations.
- OECD. (2021). *Digital Government Review of Indonesia*. OECD Publishing.
- World Bank. (2021). *GovTech Maturity Index: The State of Public Sector Digital Transformation*. World Bank.
- Open Government Partnership. (2020). *Open Government Partnership Global Report*. OGP.
- Kementerian PANRB. (2020). *Sistem Pemerintahan Berbasis Elektronik (SPBE) Nasional*. Jakarta: Kementerian PANRB Republik Indonesia.
- Bappenas. (2021). *Transformasi Digital Pemerintahan Indonesia*. Jakarta: Bappenas.
- Open Data Institute. (2021). *The Global Open Data Landscape*. ODI.