Information Management in Political Environments

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SPP Conference „Parliamentary, Party and Politicians‘ Archives and their Neighbouring Institutions“
Corfu, 1 November 2007
The political system

• Functional sub-system of the societal system
• Function: obtaining legitimation for decisions (Luhmann)
• Two types of legitimizing decisions: legitimization by procedure and/or adoption of content (procedural vs. substantial legitimation)
Two columns of democratic legitimation

- Fiction of representation (*Kelsen*)
- Fiction of deliberative politics: „interplay of the public sphere based on civil society with the institutionalised structures of opinion- and decision-making in the parliamentary complex“ (*Habermas*)
Democratisation vs. rationalisation

- Democracy as an emotionally based model of public decision-making
- Democratisation and rationalisation: concurring parallel evolution since 18th century
- „Governmentality“ (Foucault) as intermediary: public decision-making structures between the claim of the „bureaucratic-industrial complex“ to rationality and the claim to democratic legitimation
Rule of law in a democratic system

• Knowledge of laws as a prerequisite for acceptance of laws and law enforcement
• Transparency of the legislative process as a prerequisite for the acceptance of this process and its output
• Crucial function of publicity of laws and legislative processes
Substantial vs. procedural legitimation

- Substantial legitimation of public decision-making would require democratic participation, based on information and communication.
- Procedural legitimation requires transparency, brought about by information and communication (public sphere).
- NICT are offering both options (openness of technology).
Decision-making processes and E-business/government functions

- Information
- Communication
- Transaction
- Communication and transaction functions have been made large-scale available through the WWW and through intranet applications
The IT impact on public decision-making processes

- 1970s: law documentation (mainframes)
- 1980s: documentation of legislative processes (mainframes … PCs)
- 1990s: electronic availability of data (metadata, full texts of documents, audio/video streaming) to the general public, two-way communication (PCs … Internet)
- Today: “electronification” of legislative processes, first steps towards electronic involvement of NGOs and the general public, networking capacity (Rheingold: “smart mobs”)
Five steps of electronic support for public decision-making processes

• Information management
• Workflow management
• Improving the procedural quality
• Improving the output quality
• Improving the participatory quality
Terminology (1)

e-government i.t.w.s ("system of government")

- e-administration (e-government i.t.n.s.)
- e-democracy
- e-justice
Terminology (2)

- e-democracy
  - e-participation
  - e-voting
  - e-Parliament
Terminology (3)

- e-participation i.t.w.s.
  - e-information (one-way communication)
  - e-communication (two-way communication)
  - e-participation i.t.n.s. (e-consultation, e-petition)
- e-voting
  - e-election
  - e-referendum
  - e-initiative
- e-Parliament
  - e-transparency
  - e-legislation
  - e-balloting
Definitions of „e-democracy“

• „Technically“: use of NICT for performing functions of the democratic political system
• „Politically“: range from „bringing people closer to their government“ *(Clift)* to „bringing people together to help themselves“ *(Crabtree)*
Examples: E-Information
E-Communication
E-Participation i.t.n.s.
E-Election
E-Referendum

Site officiel de l'État de Genève

1. Navigateur
   Pour que vous puissiez utiliser l'application de vote par internet, vous devez avoir activé l'option de script/JavaScript de votre navigateur. En général, elle est par défaut et ce dernier doit offrir un niveau de chiffrement de 128 bits. 
   Le niveau de sécurité sera contrôlé automatiquement à l'entrée de la procédure de vote.
   Tenter sous-même le niveau de sécurité intégré dans votre navigateur. Vous trouverez la liste des navigateurs dont la compatibilité avec notre application a été vérifiée, sous l'onglet "Matériels".

2. Carte de vote
   Disposer de sa carte de vote

3. Délai
   Voter dans le délai, soit du vendredi 8 au samedi 23 avril 2005 à 13h00.
E-Transparency
E-Legislation

Regierungsvorlage

Bundesgesetz, mit dem das Apothekengesetz und das Gehaltskassengesetz 2002 geändert worden

Artikel

Änderung des Apothekengesetzes

Das Apothekengesetz, ROE Nr. 5/2000, zuletzt geändert durch

Am einfachsten weisen Sie dem aktuellen Absatz (es genügt, dass Sie mit dem Cursor im Absatz stehen, eine Markierung ist nicht notwendig) eine Formatvorlage über einen Formatvorlagensymbolleiste zu.
E-Balloting
Trends in information management

• NICT are allowing easier as well as customized access to information relevant to public decision-making

• Improved information services: easier retrieval, SDI services, clear document structures, abstracts

• Adding semantic information for sake of contextualizing (automated tagging, ontologies)

• Information as a prerequisite for participating in the public sphere!
(Future) trends in political communication policy

- Modified understanding of the parliamentary communication function: activating and responsive
- One-way communication (information) to be more and more supplemented by two-way communication
- Political parties supplemented by less formal networking structures
- Particular ways of participation: consultation (top-down) and petition (bottom-up) (as abstract concepts for procedural instruments)
Archives and information management

- „Information flood is information desert.“
- „The information flood of today is the information desert of tomorrow.“
- Data – information – knowledge
- Knowledge-based public decision-making: bridging democracy and rationality
- Sustainably warranting the informational context for public decision-making is a core responsibility of information management structures in general and archives in particular.
Thank you for your attention!

Further information:

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