ABOUT US:
The National Center for Digital Government (NCDG), housed in the Center for Public Policy and Administration in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is a National Science Foundation national center. The NCDG works to build global research capacity, advance practice, and strengthen the network of researchers and practitioners engaged in building and using technology in government. The goal of the NCDG is to apply and extend interdisciplinary social science research at the intersection of governance, institutions and information technologies.

RESEARCH:
Some of the NCDG’s current research projects include:

Building Cross Agency Initiatives: Jane Fountain, NCDG Director, investigates the structural, behavioral, and political antecedents of sustainable cross-agency relationships in the federal government. Fountain examines the implications of these relationships for state structure and the policymaking process.

Collaborative Principles of Open Source and Open Content: Charles Schweik, NCDG Associate Director, conducts research on factors that lead to the success or failure of open source programming and emerging “open content” projects. Schweik’s ultimate goal is to identify design principles that can inform other “on-line commons” efforts, such as collaborative scientific research.

FELLOWSHIPS:
Each year, the NCDG hosts Doctoral and Post-doctoral Research Fellows. These fellows help to advance the mission of the NCDG and strengthen its ability to collaborate both nationally and internationally. The NCDG fellows for 2007-2008 are:

- Bob English, Research Fellow, Center for Public Policy and Administration, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Maria Fernandez, Doctoral Research Fellow, Natural Resources Conservation, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Michael Hamel, Research Fellow, Center for Public Policy and Administration, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Meelis Kitsing, Doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Sreela Sarkar, Doctoral Fellow, Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst

The NCDG also provides opportunities for research experience to qualified undergraduate students and graduate research assistants each semester.

SERVICE/OUTREACH:
Affiliated NCDG researchers have designed, developed, and currently maintain the “Open Research System,” an Internet-based collaboration tool. Groups utilizing this system include: the Baltimore Ecosystem Study Long Term Ecological Research program, the Urban Ecology Collaborative, and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

Collaborative research projects are currently underway in Japan, through the University of Tokyo, and in Mexico, through the Universidad de las Américas – Puebla, to replicate NCDG e-government findings internationally.

The NCDG has built a strong reputation for local collaboration by partnering with organizations like the IT Program; the Science, Technology and Society Initiative; the Center for Online Dispute Resolution; the Open Source Computing Laboratory; and the Commonwealth Information Technology Initiative.

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