





PUBLICATION PRACTICES FOR TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT: BUDGETING, APPROPRIATING, AND SPENDING

How well can the Internet access data about the federal government's budgeting, appropriating, and spending? The Cato Institute rated how well the government publishes information in terms of authoritative sourcing, availability, machine-discoverability, and machine-readability.

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENTS
Agencies	 D-	<i>This grade is generous. There really should be a machine-readable federal government "organization chart."</i>
Bureaus	 D-	<i>The sub-units of agencies have the same problem.</i>
Programs	 D	<i>Program information is obscure, incomplete, and unorganized.</i>
Projects	 F	<i>Some project information gets published, but the organization of it is so bad...</i>
Budget Documents	 Congress D  White House B-	<i>The president's budget submission and congressional budget resolutions are a mixed bag.</i>
Budget Authority	 F 	<i>Legal authority to spend is hidden and unstructured.</i>
Warrants, Apportionments, and Allocations	 F	<i>Spending authority is divided up in an opaque way.</i>
Obligations	 B-	<i>Commitments to spend taxpayer money are visible some places.</i>
Parties	 F	<i>A proprietary identifier system makes it hard to know where the money is going.</i>
Outlays	 C-	<i>We need real-time, granular spending data.</i>