

About The Project	The Strategic Management Problem/Solution	User Guide/Resources	Solution Model - 1	Solution Model - 2	Course-based Analysis
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This visualization (prototype) is my semester project for #JSGS882: Strategic Management in the Public Sector (fall 2018), taken at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina, Saskatchewan.

Course Instructor: Prof. Justin Longo.

Course Objectives

This course aimed at equip students to:

1. describe concepts and theories in strategic management, and its application to the public sector;
2. apply methods for thinking strategically when confronting organizational challenges
3. apply Artificial Intelligence AI (computer) technics to achieve strategic management objectives;
4. approach conflict situations with confidence and empathy;
5. assess and respond to change forces;
6. identify organizational culture markers and consider ways to influence cultural change;
7. consider opportunities for pursuing higher-level organizational goals; and
8. understand themselves better, and apply that self-awareness for better organizational performance.

Of the listed objectives, this project combines lectures from 1-3 to re-imagine ways of improving access to, and reporting on bills in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. The focus here is use of computer technology to build public bill tracking models with a target to:

1. improve management, reporting and feedback on legislative bills;
2. reduce cost of services and man-hours spent managing bills by automating the process;
3. enhance public trust on government by providing instantaneous reports on bill status;
4. provide transparency to individuals, public and private strategists whose management decisions depend on outcome of policies and regulations introduced by a bill.

Solution

In this project, I have adopted ideas three (3) readings, discussed under the "Course Content Analysis" tab.

An Integrated Business intelligence Computer Program, Tableau, was exploited to build a model to transform available data sets from the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly in an easy-to-access, manageable, interactive and shareable visualization. The result is published a website - such that every staff of the legislative assembly can have access to co-use them, refer public inquiries to them or allow the public themselves to get answers to their questions from there or more directly, track a bill of interest.

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Background

Activities of ministries, Crown Corporations and other government parastatals in Saskatchewan rely heavily on the Legislative Assembly calendar, as their mandates, approval of budgets and authority to operate comes from there. The Legislative Assembly is made of 61 elected members representing 61 ridings in the province of Saskatchewan.

One of the duties of the Legislative Assembly is to pass bills into law as a status of Saskatchewan and provide authority for their implementation and enforcement. It is the duty of the legislative assembly members to sponsor bills relating to their areas of portfolio and the allowing other members to debate on them and collectively decide whether or not a bill become a law of not. Statutes are formed from a process regarded as Saskatchewan Legislative Process.

The Strategic Management Problem

Administrative Staff at the Saskatchewan Legislative Library receive, process and respond to myriads of public inquiries regarding status of bills. Such requests come from government organizations, opposition parties, private organizations, potential investors, individuals and businesses; some of them from outside Saskatchewan. There is therefore a need for the administrative staff to have information on bills in a format that is readily handy, detailed and retrievable. Some of such questions focus on bills descriptions and current status in the process timelines. On some occasions, people want to know about old bills/statuses - who sponsored them, what party and when it passed through various stages in the legislative process or was signed into Law.

The Legislative Assembly do not sit everyday, government organizations and the people who depend on results of bills from the assembly therefore often worry that the right bills may not be sponsored, that bill processes are time consuming, sometimes politically driven and these puts both public and private organizations into states of uncertainty. Uncertainties arise because outcome of a bill do have influence on activities of government, businesses and individual living in the province. It is important to improve on reporting, transparency and feedback on public inquiries in order to strengthen the Legislative Assembly's accountability to their electorates.

Expected Outcome

1. improve management, reporting and feedback on legislative bills;
2. reduce cost of services and man-hours spent managing bills by automating the process;
3. enhance public trust on government by providing instantaneous reports on bill status;
4. create an information resource where Library Staff of the Legislative Assembly can fall back on for answers to trivial inquiries and the ability to collaborate on bill tracking;
5. provide transparency to individuals, public and private strategists whose management decisions depend on outcome of policies and regulations introduced by a bill.

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Bill Tracker User Guide

1. The **DOTS** (points A - R) represent various steps of the Government of Saskatchewan Legislative Process.
2. Bills enter the process from point A (1st reading) and progress through to R (Royal Assent). Or fails.
3. Hover Mouse on a **DOT** or **LINE** to see status of a bill, focus area, the sponsor, date of last action, and other public information.
4. Bills can be sorted by categories, sponsor and by period/legislative session.



Note: For More Information on the Legislative Process, please see the Legislative Assembly Website in reference below.

Limitations in the study

Time, available of data placed a limit on this project. Hence some datasets included are fictitious. Caution should be applied in the use of the result of data from the model.

References

George, G., Haas, M. R., & Pentland, A. (2014). Big Data and Management. *Academy of Management Journal*, 57(2), 321-326.

Government of Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. "How Laws are made" Retrieved December 5, 2018. Url: <http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/about/how-laws-are-made/>

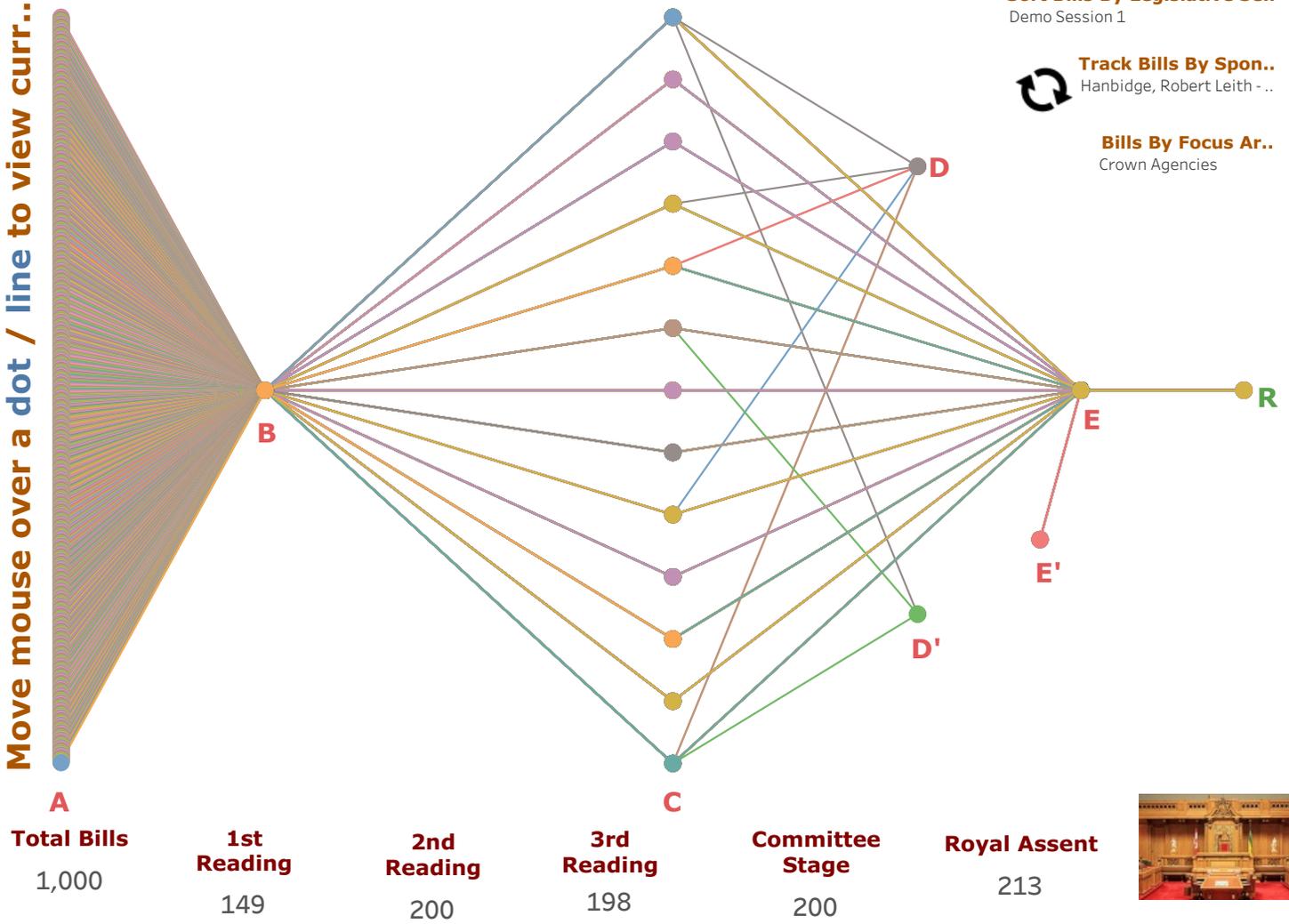
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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan Bill Tracker

Move mouse over a dot / line to view curr..



Sort Bills By Legislative Se..
Demo Session 1

Track Bills By Spon..
Hanbidge, Robert Leith - ..

Bills By Focus Ar..
Crown Agencies



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Dot Location Plot

Sort By Category

All



Total Bills
1,000

1st Reading
149

2nd Reading
200

3rd Reading
198

Committee Stage
200

Royal Assent
213



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Analysis with course materials

1. Managing in a political environment: responsible strategic management.

Poister, T. H. (2010) in his paper, "The Future of Strategic Planning in the Public Sector: Linking Strategic Management and Performance" discovered that one of the most important functions of strategic management is information monitoring that shapes and reshapes strategic planning. Keeping individuals, ministries, private and public organizations abreast with timely information on progress of bills affecting them (their lives, jobs, businesses and investment activities) correlate with possibility of good planning.

2. Foresight and scenario analysis.

In line with the thoughts Linneman, R. E., and Kennell, J. D. (1977) shared in their "Shirt-sleeve approach to long-range plans", it is important that Heads of Government Ministries and Crown Agencies track progress of bills affecting their mission, policies and goals in order to proactively develop strategies to tackle scenarios that passage of such bills may pose.

3. Collective intelligence and artificial intelligence.

Mergel, I., & Desouza, K. C. (2013) in "Implementing open innovation in the public sector: The case of Challenge Governance" talked about "Open Government Initiative" and suggested that problem solvers be channeled toward solving complex social and technical public management problems. Bill tracking is one of such projects that do not only promote open government, but solve an otherwise complex problem of public accountability and transparency on progress of bills.

As a caution to closely monitor replacement of humans by Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence tools, George, G., Haas, M. R., & Pentland, A. (2014) warned that technology will not solve all of human problems. It is still therefore the duty of employees to explain functionalities of the proposed bill tracking model to the public.

Acknowledgement

To our instructor, Justin. Thank you for being exceptional. To fellow participants, it was nice learning with you. Special thanks to Ken, my mentor in Tableau.