

Opening Doors to Data

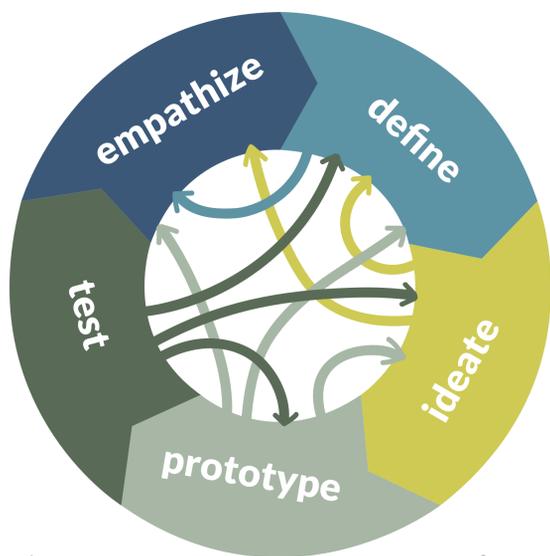
Using Design Thinking to Improve Data Literacy

How can open data, made available by the province of Ontario, be used to improve citizen engagement?

We considered the public's current understanding of the capabilities of open data. Collectively, we saw the need to **educate** in order to **inspire** the public to **use datasets** to their fullest extent.

Using design thinking

Over 12 weeks, through an **iterative** approach, we repeatedly cycled through each of these steps, often in a nonlinear fashion:



The project formed with 3 major phases

Phase One: Initial Pitch

We **presented the concept** of a data literacy program that educates the public on how to understand and manipulate Ontario open data sets, and **received feedback** from a panel of provincial representatives and peers.

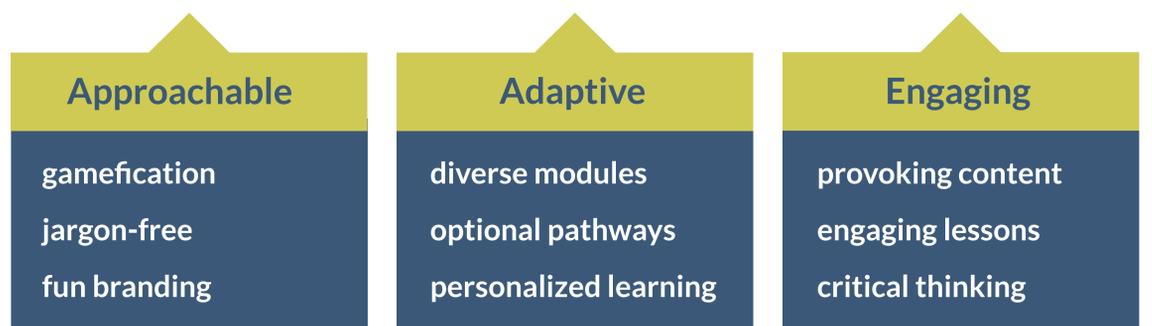
Phase Two: Workshop

We **conducted a focus group** with provincial representatives to gain insight around our **prototypes**: a website, a list of modules, names, a course handout, and a lesson plan for a 2-hour introductory course.

Phase Three: Development

We **reiterated our ideas** by building on existing strengths, incorporating feedback and suggestions, and addressing gaps and weaknesses.

Key elements of an effective data literacy program



Next Steps

1. **Explore partnerships** with educational and tech organizations, as **collaboration** would be key to success
2. Explore potential for **online course offerings**, to maximize audience
3. **Develop and test lesson plans** with a real audience, to discover gaps
4. **Seek consultation** on curriculum with domain experts (education, data science, open data), for quality assurance
5. **Research funding options**, to ensure **feasibility** and **sustainability**

