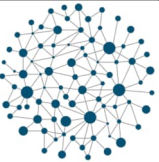




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|  CaribData | 20240924 CaribData Project Steering Committee Meeting Summary* ¹ |
| Date: | 24-September-2024 |

Heading 2

Normal text

Quick recap

The team discussed project activities aimed at increasing data access across the Caribbean: a data science and journalism course, and the development of an interactive AI interface named Evangeline. Lastly, they discussed the potential use of AI-driven storytelling and the development of a new AI-driven storytelling approach using Midjourney and GPT.

Next steps

- Chris to develop personalized Evangeline AI news reports for each country's upcoming events.
- Each NSO to provide name and contact details for the voice of Evangeline
- Selvi to send survey questions to NSO representatives for review before approval request and distribution.
- NSO representatives to facilitate survey distribution within their organizations and to other data producers in their national statistical systems.
- Chris to complete the interview with Guyana and compile information from all four regional interviews.
- Angry Health team to launch the Red Cap survey within 10 days and complete the landscape report.

Summary

Bruce Spencer introduced himself as the new acting director of CSO, replacing Satee Boodoo. He would receive further information separately to get up to speed.

Caribbean Data Project and Open Data Initiatives

Ian and Selvi discussed the university side of the project with two groups – one focused on the university perspective and another on data communication. Ian provided an update on the Carib Data project, a 3-year IDB-funded initiative aimed at increasing data access across the Caribbean through storytelling and an online data collection platform linked to the University of the West Indies. This platform will soon have a public-facing website for training resources and utilize Zenodo for dataset sharing. A special issue on open data usage in health research is being developed with PAHO. Chris discussed the 'Angry Health' project on data communication and storytelling, mentioning completed interviews and an upcoming questionnaire to create a landscape report for NSO leaders. The next deliverable is dynamic data science training.

¹ This summary was generated by Zoom





Developing Data Science and Journalism Course

Chris discussed the development of a data science and journalism course, focusing on the verification of data and stories. The course, which has been running in a healthcare setting in the United States, is expected to launch in February or March. Chris also mentioned a "Storython" event and expressed interest in having a small group of participants test the course before its full launch. He suggested an ideal cohort size of 10 to 12 people for efficient running and the possibility of running the course multiple times a year. Chris emphasized the importance of real-world projects for students and the potential for a mentorship and coaching program at the end of the course. He also discussed the development of a new course module, which would be flexible and self-guided, with a focus on practical exercises and assessments. The continuous assessment was highlighted as a critical component.

Data Visualization Infrastructure for IDB Project

Chris discussed the development of a data visualization infrastructure for the IDB project, with a focus on storytelling and stakeholder engagement. He outlined three phases for the project: Phase 1, a functional basic website with essential content delivery and data visualization tools; Phase 2, a more dynamic website with enhanced user engagement and multimedia features; and Phase 3, a fully personalized storytelling integration platform. Chris also mentioned the need for a flexible model to accommodate a wide range of stakeholders, including the public. He expressed hope for the project to become self-sufficient and eventually fully realized, with seamless end-to-end processes. Lastly, he mentioned the possibility of creating a stakeholder engagement event for the Caribbean Statistics Week, using the project's future vision as a test.

Evangeline AI Interface Development

Chris discussed the development of an interactive AI interface named Evangeline, which would serve as an interface between their data and the outside world. He mentioned that Evangeline was created on mid-journey and is owned by Caribdata. Chris also mentioned that due to intellectual property challenges, he couldn't use Cate Blanchett's voice for Evangeline, but he would like to have representative voices by October. He also discussed the potential use for Evangeline, including virtual civic education hubs, virtual town hall meetings, and a digital crisis communication hub. Chris also demonstrated Evangeline's capabilities, showing how she could compile news stories within 24 hours of breaking news. He mentioned that the voice for Evangeline would be provided by a volunteer, with the possibility of using Rihanna's voice.

Exploring AI-Driven Storytelling for Communication

Chris discussed developing a new AI-driven storytelling approach using Midjourney and GPT to generate scripts from data input, with region-specific voices. Miriam, Kayla, and Bruce expressed interest, with Kayla suggesting using it for internal bank communication. The project progresses non-linearly with multiple deliverables. Chris proposed providing a regional tool, which Kayla found beneficial for NSOs. Bruce saw potential in various sectors like education and research.

Admin

Selvi raised administrative matters, inquiring about the approval process for surveying NSOs and data producers, which Miriam and Seon agreed to facilitate

