

# DATA GOVERNANCE

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## OVERVIEW

In the “Watch” section we examined elements of knowledge commons research as they have been used to study cases of data and information governance. Those cases highlighted three features of a dataset in context that can be understood and, sometimes, shaped by the community to enhance the value of the data in use.

In this “Do” section, we ask you to apply that approach to a [Zooniverse](#) project. You’ll practice knowledge commons analysis on your own. We expect that this exercise will take you about 30 minutes to complete.

“Zooniverse” is a large collection of “citizen science” data collection and analysis projects. The Zooniverse got its start with the creation in 2007 of Galaxy Zoo, a citizen science project in astronomy that was the subject of one of the case studies mentioned in the “Watch” section. Some of the governance rules and systems for the Galaxy Zoo project have carried over to other “Zoo” projects, but each Zoo project has its own, independent governance that is tailored to the challenges and goals of that project.

## DIRECTIONS

- 1) Select a [Zooniverse](#) project.
- 2) Explore that project using three key tools identified in the “Watch” section, treating the contents of that entry as the collection of data that you’re examining.
  - a) Where did the data come from, and how was it collected and assembled?
  - b) Who are the groups of data producers, stewards, and users involved in collecting and editing the data?
  - c) What threats and opportunities are associated with producing, collecting, and editing the data?
  - d) What rules and standards exist within the project setting, developed and monitored by groups that you identified in (a), to address and mitigate those threats and to assure that those opportunities can be realized?
  - e) Which of those are formal, documented rules and standards?
  - f) Which of them are informal or undocumented rules or standards?

- 3) Reflect on your research and our guiding realizations.
  - a) Were you able to access information via the project page that answered your questions?
  - b) Were some features of data governance in this context difficult to access or interpret?