Information & Democracy Semantic Landscape
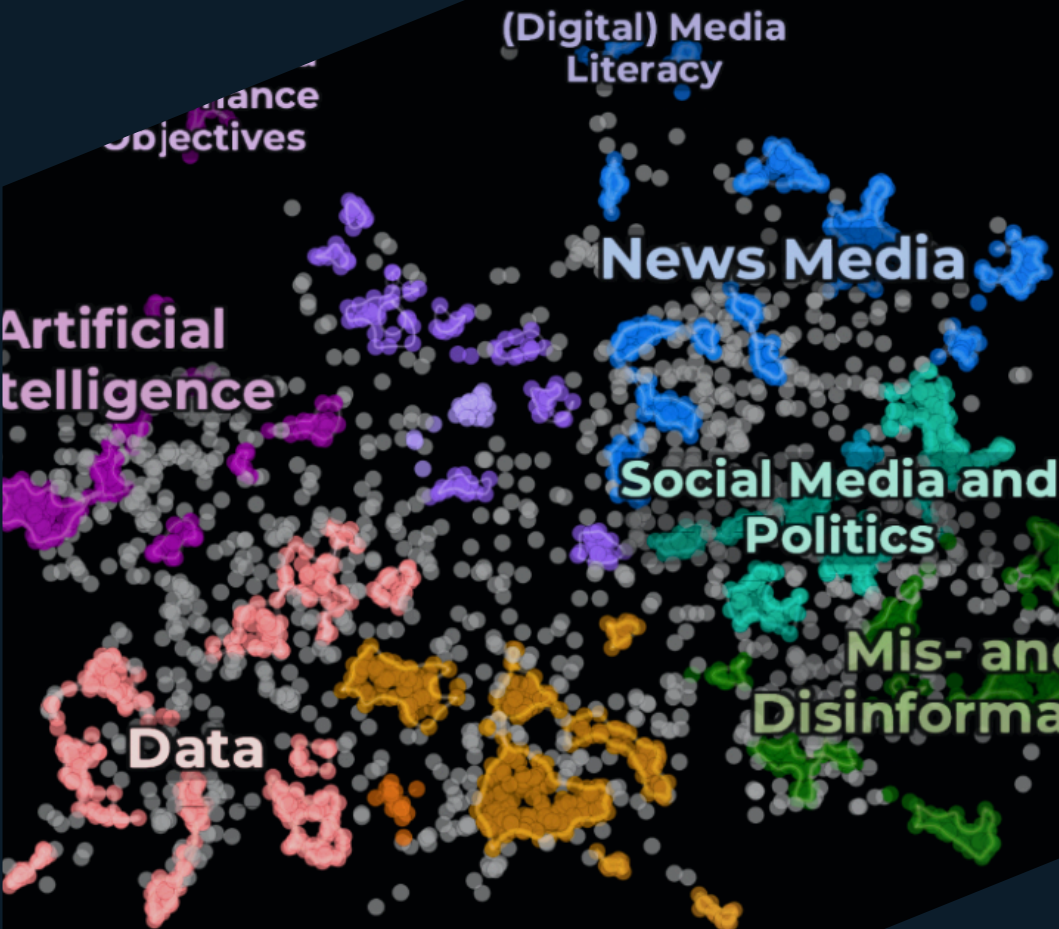
About the Observatory on Information and Democracy

OID | OBSERVATORY ON INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY

The Observatory on Information and Democracy is a **global research to policy interface** gathering scientific evidence to inform future-proofed policies, empower civil actions, and stimulate research globally.

We provides states and society with periodic reports based on **scientific assessments of the state of academic research on information ecosystems** and their impact on democracies worldwide.

The Observatory is an initiative of the Forum on Information and Democracy,

Access our reports here.

See our experts and governance.

About The Map

The **OID semantic landscape** is an **interactive visualization** of the topics covered in the **literature** analysed by the Observatory on Information and Democracy first research cycles. It can be used to **efficiently explore**, **search and filter the sources we cited**, and find academic evidence for research, communication, and policymaking.

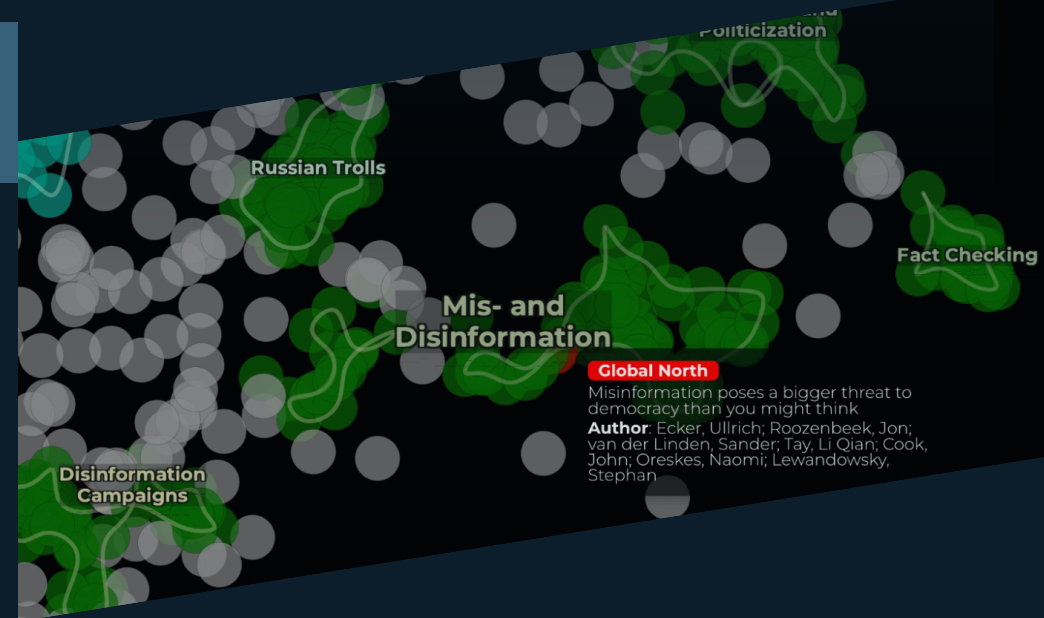Each point of the map represents a paper that the OID analyzed, organized by topic and subtopic.

It is an **alternative tool** to **visualise and search** our interactive library containing the **literature on information ecosystems and democracy**.

This data map makes it easy and intuitive to access our expert-curated literature.

How does it work ?

You can explore the map by **zooming in and out** and **dragging it around**. The more you zoom in, the more sub-topics you will be able to see.

The **colours** represent **macro-topics** and are supposed to help you orient yourself and find what you need.

Politicization

Russian Trolls

Fact Checking

Mis- and Disinformation

Global North
Misinformation poses a bigger threat to democracy than you might think
Author: Ecker, Ullrich; Roozenbeek, Jon; van der Linden, Sander; Tay, Li Qian; Cook, John; Oreskes, Naomi; Lewandowsky, Stephan

Disinformation Campaigns

Hover over any point to **see the titles, authors, and region**, and click to open the resource in a new google tab.

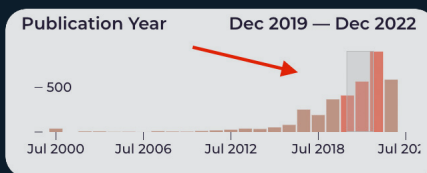OID | OBSERVATORY ON INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY

Filters and Search

Another way to interact with the map is by using the **filters** and **search bar**. When activated they highlight those sources that correspond to the selected parameters.

Select Region
- ■ Global
- ■ Global North
- ■ Global Majority
- ■ Other

The **regional filter** allows you to select sources based on the **origin of the study**. You can select more than one area.

The **publication year** filter, which allows you to select sources based on **when they were published**. You can drag the filter to **dynamically** select more years and move the window through time.

Publication Year   Dec 2019 — Dec 2022

― 500

Jul 2000   Jul 2006   Jul 2012   Jul 2018   Jul 20

The **search bar** is present on the top left. Type a word or sentence you are interested in and **the map will display those sources containing the word in their title.**

How did we get the sources and how was the map made?

We created the map by representing the text of all our sources we gathered in a **multidimensional embedding space** and then projecting it to **two dimensions**.

The closer two sources are, the more they talk about the same thing, the farther apart they are the less they do so.

Colours represent statistically significant **clusters** which can be interpreted as topics.

For more details visit our **GitHub repository** at: giomagg/OID_semantic_landscape

Data Collection Step

Keyword based approach searching bibliographic databases, academic journals; Individual contributions and **two global calls for contributions** aimed at gathering global majority literature.

3,095 sources **collected**

Data Revision Step

Review of the quality of the source based on internal guidelines and funding information

2,739 sources **selected**

Drafting Step

Summarisation of all sources and in-depth assessment of source content. Report drafting and evaluation

1,664 sources **cited**

See our full data collection methodology here.

At the top of your screen, buttons allow you to change between **data map versions**.

Two Data Map Versions

1

Paragraph-based (Full Text) – Default

Each point represent a paragraph of the **source's full text.** It captures the nuances of the text regardless of the source's overarching topic, and is great way to find texts including a paragraph dealing with a specific topic.

The **default map shows the literature we included in our first report (1,664 sources),** A second version including all the literature gathered by the OID (2,739 sources) will be available soon.

2

Abstracts-based

Rather than paragraphs in the full-text, **each point** in the abstract version **represents the source's abstract.** As such, this is a great tool to explore sources based on the main topics they discuss. However, it misses out on nuances and specific topics that the full text map picks up on.

This map is available for the literature included in the OID first report (1,664).

Where can I find the data map?

You can access the map by visiting our resources page and clicking on the visualization button.
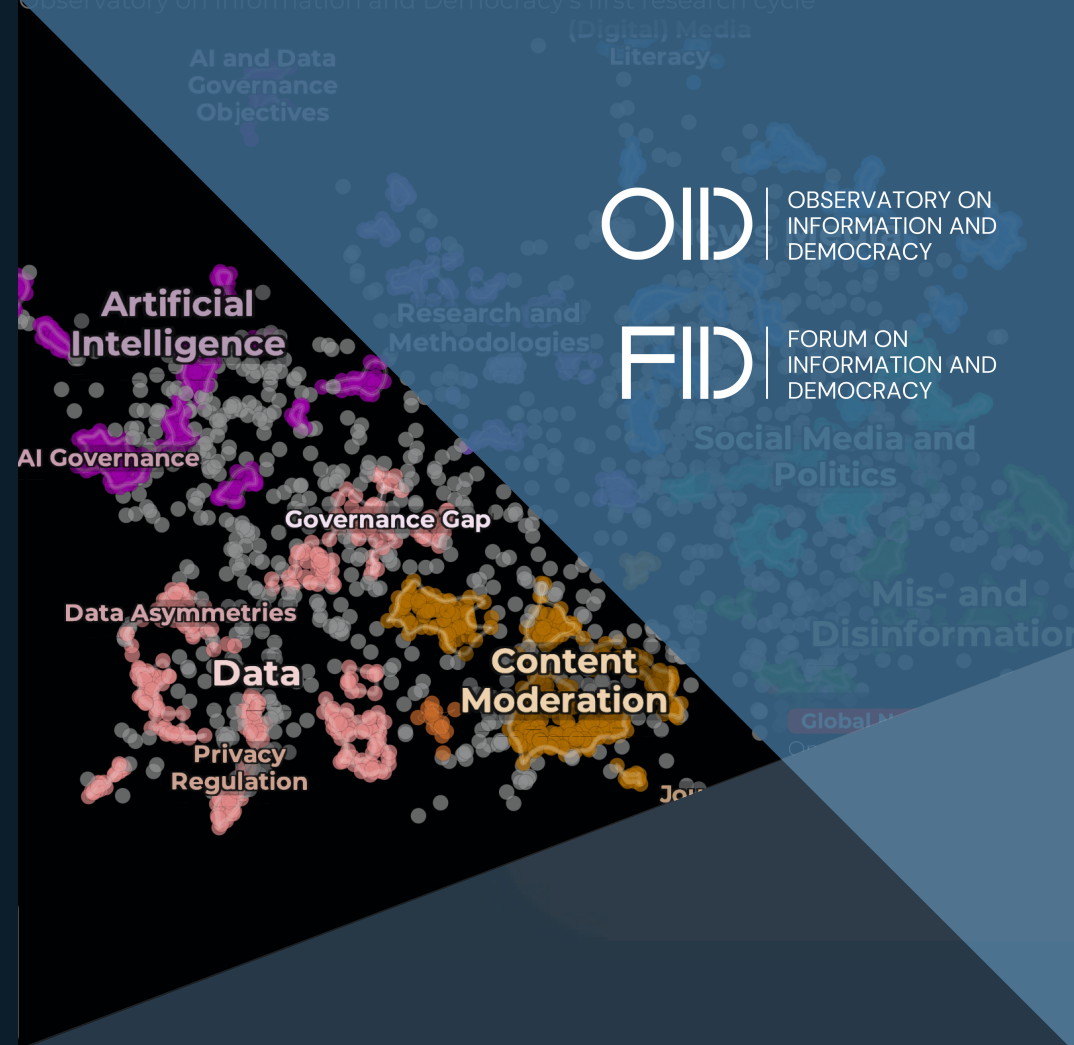
🌐 Visit our resource page

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🌐 observatory.informationdemocracy.org

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Governance Gap

Data Asymmetries

Data

Content Moderation

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AI and Data Governance Objectives

(Digital) Media Literacy

Research and Methodologies

Social Media and Politics

Mis- and Disinformation

Let us know what you think

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