

Study on the Path to Improve the Quality of Government Information Disclosure in China

Xiang Li

Cooperative Economics Research Center, Anhui University of Finance and Economics, Bengbu
233030, China

Abstract

The newly promulgated Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Government Information Disclosure in 2019 have put forward higher requirements for the quality of government information disclosure. This article starts from defining the connotation of the quality of government information disclosure, and deeply analyzes the main problems of the legal system guarantee system for the quality of government information disclosure in China, such as the incomplete content of public information, the lack of security of public information, and the lack of public information platforms. From the institutional, technical, organizational, and management levels, it proposes further paths to optimize the quality of government information disclosure in China.

Keywords

Government Information Disclosure; Quality; Improvement Path.

1. Introduction

In order to protect the people's right to information and enhance their participation in policy formulation and implementation, the Chinese government has implemented a government information disclosure system and has successively issued relevant regulations to maintain it. In the process of government information disclosure, relevant departments should not only release important information related to the public to cope with tasks or to respond to inspections from superiors, but also to perfunctorily do so, The good or bad of their information dissemination work cannot be measured solely by the quantity of information released, but should focus on the quality of information released. They should achieve "accuracy" in information release, that is, timely release of information, refined content of information release, and accurate grasp of key points of information release. Only by achieving "accuracy" can the information released by the government be of high quality and level Information that is useful to the public.

However, in the current government work, there are some local governments and their subordinate departments that fail to release government information in a timely manner due to various reasons, and the content of the information released is incomprehensible to the public. This phenomenon results in the inability of the public to easily understand the real situation in a timely manner. Moreover, there are individual local governments and departments, At the time of government information disclosure, important information related to the vital interests of the general public is deliberately hidden, making it impossible for the people to understand or even completely unaware of these matters. As a result, some favorable policies of the country for the people are privately divided and enjoyed by a very small number of others. This not only steals the fruits of national development, but also seriously damages the credibility of the Chinese government. Therefore, in order to prevent such incidents from happening, In response to the call for anti-corruption in our country, we will further improve the quality of government information disclosure. In May 2019, the State Council issued the

"Regulations on Government Information Disclosure of the People's Republic of China", which further stipulated that people's governments at all levels should strengthen the standardization, informatization management of government information resources, strengthen the construction of internet government information disclosure platforms, and promote the integration of government information disclosure platforms and policy service platforms, Improve the level of online handling of government information disclosure.

Therefore, in the current era of the internet and the rapid development of the internet, how to better utilize the internet as a tool to further improve the quality of government information disclosure, make the information released by the government more relevant to the lives of the people, make it truly "convenient" and "beneficial" to the people, and play the role that government information disclosure should play has always been a research focus of government information disclosure.

2. The Meaning of the Quality of Government Information Disclosure

According to Article 2 of the Regulations on the Disclosure of Government Information of the People's Republic of China, government information refers to information produced or obtained by government administrative organs in the process of performing their duties, recorded and preserved in a certain form. It can be said that government information disclosure is not only a direct way for the people to understand the daily work behavior of the local government and its departments, but also an important basis for the people to supervise the behavior of the local government and its departments. In order to further implement the spirit of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council in comprehensively promoting government transparency, and enhance the strength of China's government information disclosure, relevant government departments are required to not only further increase the quantity of information disclosure but also continuously optimize the quality of information disclosure in the process of information disclosure, actively respond to the people's demands for information disclosure, and ensure that new progress and achievements in China's government information disclosure work in recent years are reflected, In response to this, the new Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Government Information Disclosure have revised the content of information disclosure: firstly, we must adhere to the principle of openness as the norm and non disclosure as exceptions, accurately define the scope of government information disclosure, and enhance the awareness of proactive disclosure; Secondly, we must adhere to the protection of laws, systems, and norms, consolidate and improve the legal procedures for information disclosure. While ensuring the legitimate rights and interests of applicants and relevant responsible persons, we must also provide necessary normative guidance to a small number of applicants who exercise their application rights improperly and affect the normal conduct of government information disclosure work; Thirdly, with the aim of strengthening the service requirements of "convenience" and "benefit", the effectiveness of government information disclosure should be further improved by enhancing the use of information service platforms, so that government information disclosure can truly play a service role in the daily production, life, and work of the people.

In the process of government information disclosure, there are mainly two subjects involved. One is the government department and its administrative agencies, who are the producers and public of government information, and the other is the people, who are the users and beneficiaries of government information. Therefore, this article will define the quality of government information disclosure from these two subjects.

Firstly, from the perspective of government departments and their administrative agencies, this article defines the quality of information disclosed by the government as that relevant

departments, as producers and managers of government information, must comply with regulatory and legal requirements in the production and disclosure of information. According to the definition of government information in the Regulations, government information is related to the powers and responsibilities exercised by government departments and their administrative agencies, And laws and regulations have clear provisions on the powers and responsibilities of government departments and their administrative agencies. Therefore, producers must follow certain norms and procedures in the process of government information production. In the disclosure of government information, from the first promulgation of the "Regulations" in 2007 to the new promulgation of the "Regulations" in 2019, there are clear provisions on the scope, methods, procedures, and supervision of information disclosure, And it is still being continuously improved, which is also the guideline that relevant departments should follow in the process of government information disclosure.

Secondly, from the perspective of the people, as users and beneficiaries of government information disclosure, only when the publicly available information meets the needs of the people and is useful for their daily production and life, can such government information be of high quality. Therefore, this article defines the quality of information disclosed by the government as the characteristic that government information can meet the expectations and needs of users, As users and beneficiaries of government public information, the people should be the center of government public information, and the quality of government public information can be defined as the characteristic of meeting the expectations and needs of the people for government information.

3. Problems in the Quality of Government Information Disclosure in China

Since the promulgation of the Regulations on Information Disclosure of the People's Republic of China by the State Council, the disclosure of government information in China has been greatly improved, with a significant increase in the number of information disclosures. However, the quality of publicly available information has not been optimized, and the main problems still lie in the inadequate legal system, incomplete content of publicly available information, lack of security of publicly available information, and lack of public information platforms.

3.1. Incomplete Legal Protection System

Although the State Council has issued the Regulations on the Disclosure of Government Information of the People's Republic of China and continuously improved them in recent years, providing effective guarantees for the smooth progress of government information disclosure work, so far only this relevant government regulation has been promulgated in China, which can only serve as the starting point rather than the end point of government information disclosure, In the process of government information disclosure, both the providers and users of government information lack many relevant legal provisions and systems to safeguard them. Firstly, from the perspective of China's highest Constitution, the latest Constitution does not clearly define citizens' right to information as a fundamental right, This has led the public to generally believe that the work of government information disclosure is only a system of government affairs, and is a power of relevant government departments themselves, rather than a right protected by the Constitution and laws that the masses enjoy. Secondly, China currently lacks a sound legal system to support it. This regulation is only an administrative regulation, although it can regulate the legislation of government information disclosure from a legislative perspective, Once there is a contradiction with the existing legal content of the supporting system, it is impossible to play the role of the benchmark legal norms for government information disclosure. Furthermore, the limited scope of the regulatory body of this regulation also reduces its regulatory role. The main reason is that this regulation is an

administrative regulation issued by the State Council, which effectively ensures that the State Council can constrain relevant government departments at lower levels. However, the subject of its regulation is only limited to the administrative organs of government departments, and the relevant units and departments related to the daily production and life of the people, as well as the organizations with the right to manage public affairs stipulated by current laws and regulations in China, are not included. This leads to the inability to disclose the trial, prosecution, and other work of these government departments and organizations, and the ultimate result is that, This regulation can only regulate the disclosure of information by a limited number of government departments, greatly weakening the role of government information disclosure. Therefore, this regulation can only serve as a transitional administrative regulation.

3.2. Lack of Comprehensiveness in Public Information

Government information is widely regarded as one of the most important sources of information in modern society due to its wide range of content, diverse forms, numerous quantities, and high social value. However, there are many problems in the form, effectiveness, and content of government information disclosure in China. Among them, the lack of comprehensiveness in the content is mainly manifested in the lack of comprehensive information disclosed, such as, Some local government departments have many forms of public disclosure of government information, but few in substance; Some only disclose the results of government information, but the process of decision-making and implementation is rarely made public; Some government information is only made public based on the principle of disclosure, but the specific content is not made public; It is also common for certain government departments to disclose mostly "positive" information, while the vast majority of "negative" information involved is not disclosed. Especially when it comes to information that the people are concerned about, such as land acquisition, demolition, prices, and the management and use of public funds, certain departments will selectively disclose or even deliberately hide this information. In addition, Due to the insufficient promotion of government information disclosure by some local governments, some regions have not truly incorporated government information disclosure into their daily work, which has led to intermittent phenomena in government information disclosure. The main reason for such situations is still due to the lack of attention paid by comrades in relevant government departments and institutions to the work of government information disclosure, Without truly realizing the importance of government information disclosure, I always worry that the disclosure of certain information will cause social unrest and result in punishment for myself and my unit. This is also a manifestation of laziness and inaction, coupled with the lack of a complete incentive mechanism, ultimately leading to incomplete disclosure of government information in terms of content.

3.3. Lack of Security in Public Information

The so-called security of government information disclosure mainly refers to the protection of government information stored in the software, hardware, and systems of the network, which will not be accidentally or intentionally leaked, changed, or even damaged due to external reasons, resulting in system malfunction and information service interruption. The security of government information disclosure mainly involves five points: confidentiality, integrity, authenticity The security and unauthorized inability to copy of the parasitized system, as an important window for government information disclosure, government portal websites reflect the external image of the government. The government information published on government portal websites is related to national economy and people's livelihood. Once the government's publicly available information is damaged and deliberately tampered with, it will not only cause restrictions on information dissemination, but also lead to leakage, loss of important data, and many other serious consequences, More importantly, it will seriously damage the image of the

Chinese government. Of course, Chinese government websites are often threatened by various external factors. According to data provided by the National Internet Emergency Center, nearly 5000 IP addresses in China were infected with Trojan viruses during 2015, posing security risks in operation and leakage. In addition, high-level and persistent threat attacks against China by foreign countries have also occurred from time to time, For example, the overseas "Hai Lian Hua" hacker organization has been carrying out advanced and sustained threat attacks on China's maritime institutions for many years. In addition to intentional damage by external criminals and hackers, there are also many vulnerabilities in China's government website portal. In 2015, the National Internet Emergency Center reported 24000 vulnerability incidents involving government agencies and important information system departments, and incidents of webpage counterfeiting have also occurred from time to time, The problems and threats from external factors that exist on these government portal websites have led to a lack of security in government information disclosure [6,7].

3.4. The Level of Government Information Disclosure and Intensification Platforms is not High

The current government information disclosure in China has obvious shortcomings in the overall planning of various service platforms and the collaboration between government departments. Although the number and scale of existing government websites and government clients are objective, there is still a phenomenon of "data silos" between departments and platforms, with insufficient communication between each other, making it difficult to achieve data sharing. In addition, Government websites have the function of promoting the intensification of government information disclosure. In theory, if government websites can be effectively utilized, the intensification of government information disclosure can be well achieved. However, in reality, some local government websites still have problems such as low usage and insufficient practical functions. According to a random inspection of government websites below the county level by the General Office of the State Council, In the first quarter of 2016, the failure rate of government websites at or below the county level in China reached 18.5%. Some government websites had extremely low or even no effect in terms of traffic. In addition, some grassroots websites have long had problems such as inaccurate information release, untimely updates, infrequent interaction with the public, and insufficient service practicality, The emergence of these problems has led to a loss of confidence and trust among the people in many government websites, especially in some grassroots government websites. With the integration and cleaning of local government websites from top to bottom by local governments, the above phenomenon has been significantly improved. However, how to further promote the information disclosure and intensive construction of service platforms at all levels of government while maintaining the current state, and quickly open up channels for government information sharing, is still an urgent problem to be solved.

3.5. The Development Quality of Government Apps Needs to Be Improved

At present, although government apps and government websites have achieved intensive upgrades together, some of which have changed the old impression of the "mobile version of government websites", there are still phenomena in government apps that only focus on promotion but not on services, uneven development of types, and many accompanying advertisements. Many government apps are more similar to mini versions of government websites, directly moving content from traditional government networks to government apps, There is no differentiated functional setting for government apps, and there is no innovation in website form. The column settings are mostly modeled after traditional government websites, without truly realizing the personalized and differentiated needs of users. The efficiency of website services needs to be further improved and perfected. In addition, there are also few deficiencies in the information content of government apps. Firstly, the content guarantee of

different government apps is not perfect, Some apps have rich content, while others appear empty. Secondly, the frequency of updating information varies greatly among different apps. Some are updated almost daily or regularly, while others are not updated for a long time, or are updated irregularly. Such government apps can make users feel like they are a pity to abandon and inconvenient to use.

4. Path to Optimize the Quality of Government Information Disclosure in China

The improvement of the level of government information disclosure not only requires improvement in quantity, but more importantly, optimization in quality. To enhance the quality of government information disclosure in China and enable it to play its due role, it can effectively enhance the supervision effectiveness of the people over the government, and play a significant role in the further deepening of China's current anti-corruption and integrity work. Therefore, this article focuses on institutional and technical aspects Starting from the organizational and management levels, four paths are proposed to further optimize the quality of government information disclosure in China.

4.1. At the Institutional Level, Establish and Improve Legal Systems

The law is the guarantee for all current behaviors. In order to strengthen institutional construction, the first thing to do is to establish a legal basis. Although the "Regulations on Government Information Disclosure of the People's Republic of China" have been promulgated and revised, its legal status as an administrative regulation is relatively low compared to other laws, so it can no longer adapt well to the needs of contemporary social development, The most obvious issue is that when it conflicts with other relevant laws such as the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of State Secrets and the Archives Law, the Regulations find it difficult to play their role. Therefore, legislative bodies should establish laws as soon as possible that can effectively ensure the transparency of government information. In the process of establishing relevant laws, legislative bodies should combine the characteristics of contemporary development, strive to break through traditional thinking limitations, eliminate the occurrence of political authoritarian culture, and step out of the "official centered" approach. In the future, a mutually coordinated legal system should be formed in government information disclosure, and the design of the system should achieve the unity and coordination of legislation, judiciary, and law enforcement. In addition, The concretization and clarification of laws and regulations are also important in the process of strengthening institutional protection. Arbitrary regulations can easily allow some unscrupulous public officials to take advantage of loopholes to seek their own interests. After all, the government has a wide range of publicly disclosed content and involves a wide range of fields. Therefore, the provisions of relevant laws must be comprehensive and specific.

4.2. On a Technical Level, Optimize Website Design and Interactive Functionality

The use of products should be designed according to the needs of users. Therefore, the webpage design of government department websites should be guided by the reading and browsing habits of the people, making it convenient for them to query and use the information on the website. In the webpage design, to attract more people to participate in public affairs and improve their interest in government information retrieval, the richness of the webpage should be increased, The homepage of a website should be concise and beautiful, with clear and organized columns. The information search bar should be placed in a prominent position on the homepage, so that the public can easily find it. The construction of the website is based on the principles of "usability, practicality, and adequacy". On the basis of user convenience, it

continuously enhances the public effect of the government information network. In addition, strengthening the interactive function of the website is also important, Only through in-depth communication with the public can we know what they need to know, what difficulties and problems they have. Therefore, government websites should establish smooth channels for communication between the government and the public, such as setting up a "face-to-face" section. The establishment of such communication channels can effectively increase public participation in public affairs, provide effective ways and methods for them to understand and inquire about government information, as well as for the government to receive their feedback, The design of government websites plays an important role in enhancing public trust in the government and facilitating the smooth achievement of administrative goals. Therefore, the design of government websites plays an important role in improving and protecting the public's right to information, expression, and supervision. It is not only a propaganda window, but also a convenient window for the people. It is necessary to continuously enhance and improve the construction of government websites, increase the efforts of government information network work, and give full play to the role of government websites, So as to better promote the government's legal construction process.

4.3. At the Organizational Level, Continuously Improve the Intensification and Standardization Level of E-government Platforms

The main way to improve the intensification level of government information disclosure in our country is to enhance the intensification level of e-government. In order to expand the scope of government information resource sharing and utilization, it is necessary to enhance the development and construction of collaborative sharing systems among regions and departments, promote the utilization and updating of information sources through further construction and promotion of collaborative sharing mechanisms, and establish a complete office business information system, Integrate the electronic government comprehensive application platform, the human information resource collection platform, and the government SMS platform, and unify the user system, permission system, office collaboration system, and office portal system to achieve good communication of office business information systems between departments and offices this evening. In order to improve the standardization level of government information disclosure in China, it is necessary to study and develop a government information resource catalog and exchange system and its standards, further optimize the process of government business development, ensure the effective development of various businesses, build a unified, safe and stable urban broadband network with unified standards, high speed and interconnectivity of universities, unify the management and storage of information data throughout the city, and guide various departments and agencies to improve transportation information databases Macroeconomic databases, archive databases, and other related public information resource databases prioritize the construction of standardized e-government information platforms, thereby promoting the development of government information disclosure in a better and faster direction.

4.4. At the Management Level, Establish and Improve a Supervision and Evaluation System for Government Information Disclosure

To ensure the effective operation of government information disclosure work, it is essential to establish a sound supervision mechanism. The supervision mechanism of government information disclosure mainly starts from two perspectives: internal and external. Firstly, relevant government departments should strengthen their internal supervision and management. This form of supervision is very important. To avoid the situation where this form of supervision is meaningless, relevant departments can establish corresponding specialized supervision and supervision institutions, Adopting a mutual supervision approach among various departments can not only timely identify problems in government information

disclosure work, but also listen to the opinions of various departments on issues related to public interests; Secondly, strengthening the effectiveness of external supervision is equally important. External supervision mainly includes various methods such as public supervision, multimedia supervision, and social organization supervision. Among them, the supervision of social organizations and major media is often limited by local administrative agencies, resulting in less obvious supervision effects. Therefore, The information disclosure department should expand the supervision channels of the public by setting up supervision mailboxes or cartoon supervision telephones, in order to enhance the supervision power of society.

In addition, the requirement for government information disclosure is not only an increase in quantity, but also an improvement in quality. In order to improve the quality level of government information disclosure by relevant departments, the performance of government employees in government information disclosure work should be included in the content of performance evaluation. A system for reviewing and updating government information disclosure content, supervision, inspection and evaluation, training and publicity, assessment and evaluation, and annual work reports should be established and improved, Promote the institutionalization and standardization of information disclosure work, and carry out government information disclosure work in depth, sustained, and efficient ways.

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