

# Empowering Local Communities through Data Analytics and AI

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# Digital Divide: Five phases of defining inequality

**1960s-1980s:** Information divide/poverty

**1990s:** Access (computers & internet)

**2000s:** Access, adaption, & effective use

**2010s:** Participation & governance

**2020s:** Smart decision making and AI

# What is KNEXT project?

- An attempt to bridge the fifth wave of digital divide for local communities
- Leveling the playing field
- A pilot project with a focus on:
  - Small businesses
  - Entrepreneurs
  - Community advocates

# What is KNEXT project?

- Supported by National Leadership Grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- Three years (2017-2020)
- Two recovering communities
  - Ohio
  - Maryland

# Example Scenarios

- Selling kitchen cabinets
- Identifying the next client for B2B
  
- Inventing the next cool gadget
- Social media data for predicting market
  
- Impact of new zoning law on our community
- Address housing insecurity

# Community Needs

- Access the key existing information
- Access the key existing analytics
- Customized analytics on the existing data
- Customized analytics on the data that needs to be collected

# A Community Centered Framework

- Through close partnership with communities
- EEE Framework
  - Engagement
  - Empowerment
  - Enablement
- Smart city is a place people make smart decisions to improve their community well-being!

# Four Questions

1. To what extent local communities can benefit from the recent advances in AI and data analytic?
2. What are the mechanisms to partner with local communities to learn about their needs?
3. Who is best positioned to provide such services to different actors in the local communities and how?
4. What is the role of local communities in defining the framework concerning the ethics and governance of these technologies and their use in shaping our communities?



# Thank You!

@seakha

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