LEARN MORE RESOURCES

The Stanford Digital Civil Society Lab curated these resources for people and organizations interested in learning more about Digital ID. They provide a range of perspective on digital IDs, democracy, and civil society.

Definitions

1. This article by Good ID covers key terms like identity, identification, and digital ID, and the differences between them, providing a framework of best practices to help decisionmakers design and manage ID programs.

Technological Challenges

2. Elizabeth Renieris, Dr. Sherri Bucher, and Christian Smith write about the dangers of blockchain-enabled immunity passports technology.

3. The Electronic Frontier Foundation outlines better ways Digital ID can be designed.

4. Ubisecure recorded this podcast episode with Grace Mutungu on the challenges for digital identity faced in Kenya, and what to consider when trying to create an inclusive national identification, including historical, social, and economic issues.

5. The Alexander von Humboldt Institute reviews their DECiDe project, in which digital identities and voting were combined in a technical prototype to examine a future where digital identity affects lottery procedures, voting, and polling. Based in Germany, the Institute focuses on internet and society.

Intersection of Corporate and Government Roles in Digital ID

6. The Commons Project is a public trust focused on creating a framework for vaccine passports. It is philanthropically funded and led by public health, technology, travel, and investment experts.

7. NPR covers how India’s digital ID system collects biometric data, specifically to distribute welfare, enable movement between states, and purge names from voter rolls. It also talks about how technical difficulties are leading people to starve.
8. Biometric Update reviews different governments and countries move towards Digital ID programs, again, collecting different sources.

9. Access Now covers an amendment bill in India that would undo the highest court’s adoption of several essential principles of privacy and data security for Aadhaar. Includes links to summaries of each bill, ordinance, and adoption mentioned.

Bias


11. Based in India, the Internet Democracy Project has articles on how body and gender are intertwined with data. A nuanced look at the digital ID conversation.

12. This piece discusses how India’s Digital ID system has put marginalized communities at a greater disadvantage during the pandemic.

Human Rights Implicated: Privacy, Assembly, Movement, Access to Services

13. This article answers common questions about tackling digital rights, how it impacts civil rights, and how continents (e.g. Africa vs. Europe) face Digital ID problems differently.


15. The Engine Room publishes research on the lived effects of Digital ID systems on marginalized communities in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Thailand.

16. In this article, the UN Refugee Agency discusses the problems, opportunities, and goals for Digital ID.
17. The Center for Global Development writes about India’s JAM trinity, particularly how mobile communications, biometric ID, and financial inclusion interact with one another.

18. Developing Data is a project organized by the Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA), Strathmore University’s Centre of Intellectual Property & Information Technology (CIPIT), and the University of Edinburgh’s Centre of African Studies (CAS). This article by Grace Bomu provides different points of view on Digital ID’s effect on surveillance and privacy.

19. Good ID talks about Lawyers Hub, a policy organization based in Kenya, focused on providing solutions to policy involving digital ID and addresses what good digital ID includes as well as the challenges faced in setting up good ID in Kenya.

20. “When should digital ID be avoided?” This article from the Omidyar Network (which supports the GOOD ID effort) is telling in the examples it uses as arguments against ID.

21. This report outlines the potential benefits of digital identity for women in developing world contexts by the GSMA Association, specifically going over how mobile journeys play a particularly nuanced role with gender.

22. This open letter to the leaders of international development banks, the UN, international aid orgs, funding agencies, and national government outlines the human rights issues embedded in digital ID, what the current problems are with digital ID programs, questions raised, and possible solutions.