

Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific

# The promises and pitfalls of big data

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# Big Data v Big Information

## Big Data:

“Big data is high volume, high velocity, and/or high variety information assets that require new forms of processing to enable enhanced decision making, insight discovery and process optimization”



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# Big Data v Big Information

- **Large data sets** (n=everything): mobile phone locational data, number of downloads
- **'Messy data'**: multiple, sometimes unstructured data sets of variable quality
- **Probabilistic**: correlations between variables – not specific details nor causation



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# Big Data v Big Information

## Big Data

- Lots of detail about similar things in no particular order



## Big Information

- Large amounts of information about individual topics



# *Promises* – what does it offer Parliamentary Libraries?

## Information

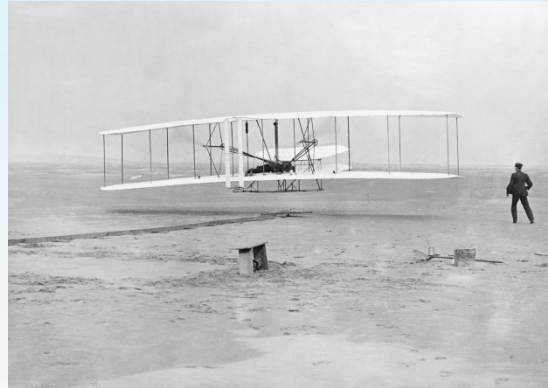
- Purchasing
- Analysing and advising
- Legislation

## Understanding our clients

- Downloads and page views
- Text analysis



# *Pitfalls* – what can go wrong?



\*Not to scale



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# *Pitfalls* – what can go wrong?

- Data quality
- Data formats
- Procurement risk





# Navigating the issues

- Project Management
- Skills development



# End



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