Access Regimes

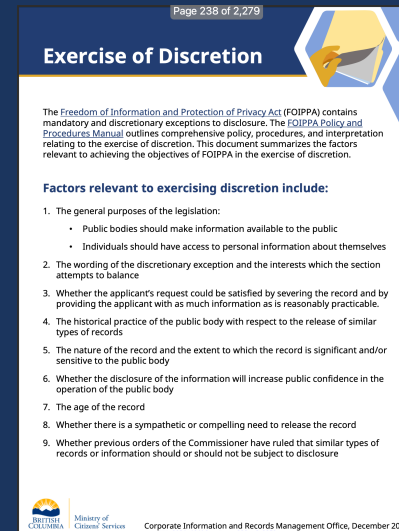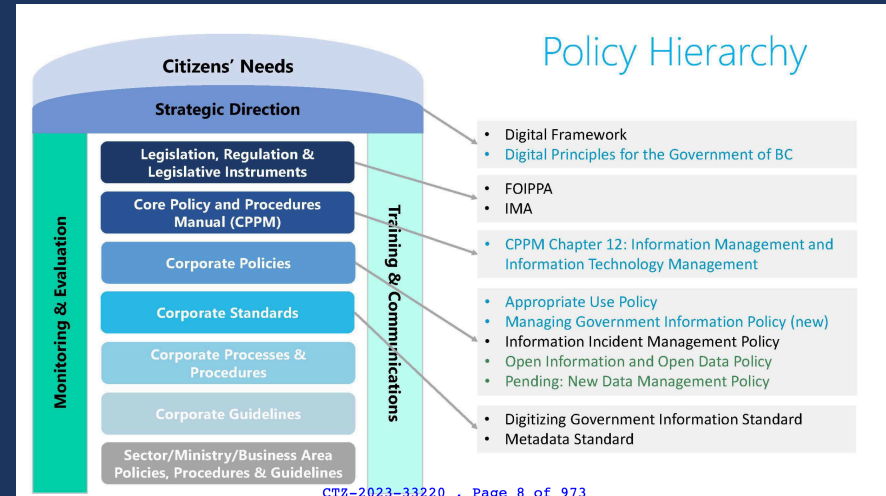## Social Studies of Recordkeeping, Bureaucracy, and Secrecy under Freedom of Information Law

Freedom of information laws notoriously underperform. This study seeks to unravel how freedom of information works as a **socio-technical** and **socio-legal system**, as a step towards figuring out why.

We're collecting documents as data from 66 public bodies subject to FOI legislation and the *Information Management Act* in British Columbia. We ask:

SQ1: How do texts coordinate the implementation of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Information Management Act in the access regimes under study?

SQ2: How do texts coordinate the practices of personnel performing their duties under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Information Management Act in the access regimes under study?

Adopting methodological and analytical pluralism, this study uses **Actor-Network Theory, Street-Level Bureaucracy Theory, Institutional Ethnography,** and **Implementation Theory** from Public Administration to work across disciplines and understand how recordkeeping technologies, records management policies, guides and checklists, strategic plans, approval processes, technical manuals, and legislation **coordinate and mediate access to government records.**

Screen-captures of Data collected from the Ministry of Citizens' Services.