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Autore	ARGUEDAS, Josè Maria
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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; 1 Online Consultation and Political Communication in the Era of Obama: An Introduction; A Utopian Scenario; The Ambiguous Reality of Online Consultations; Democratic Prospects: An Early View of the Obama Administration; From the "Obama Moment" to a Larger Perspective; I Online Consultation and the Flow of Political Communication; 2 Democracy, Distance, and Reach: The New Media Landscape; Political Distance; The Terms of Consultative Democracy; Media Transitions; Conclusion; 3 Web 2.0: New Challenges for the Study of E-Democracy in an Era of Informational Exuberance The Deliberative AssumptionAssumption Meets Realities; Politics: Web 2.0; Learning from Web 2.0: Citizens; Learning from Web 2.0: Government; Conclusion; 4 Online Consultations in Local Government: What Works, When, and Why?; The Case-Survey Method; A Framework for Understanding Online Consultations; Predicting the Odds for Success; Conclusions; 5 Neighborhood Information Systems as

Intermediaries in Democratic Communities; Neighborhood Information Systems and the Democratization of Data; National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership Projects; The Activities of Nonprofit Entrepreneurs
 Data Provision, Analysis, and Neighborhood Information Systems
 Stakeholder Mobilization and Collaboration; Neighborhood Information Systems and Democratic Discourse; II What Online Consultations Mean to Their Participants; 6 Playing Politics: The Experience of E-Participation; Deliberative Dilemmas; Online Opportunities; Empirical Examinations; Reading Results; Did Participation Foster Political Engagement?; Design Decisions; 7 The Participatory Journey in Online Consultations; Introduction: Participation as a Journey; The Digital Divide; The Digital Divide and Political Participation
 Inclusive Consultations
 Broader Barriers to Inclusive Online Consultations; The Domestic Violence Forum; Conclusion; 8 Democratic Consultation and the E-Citizen; Research Question and Robustness of Data; Attitudes toward Democracy; Support for e-Government and e-Democracy; Attitudes toward Online Consultation; Mobilizing the Potential of Online Consultation; Conclusions and Policy Implications; 9 The Technological Dimension of Deliberation: A Comparison between Online and Offline Participation; Public Debate on the Seine Aval Wastewater Treatment Facility
 Forms of Participation, Methodological Considerations, and Statistics
 Gender Participation; Participation by Social Status; Participation by Knowledge Levels; Discussion; Conclusion; 10 The Third Sector as E-Democratic Intermediaries; The Growing Role of Technology; The Downsides of New Media; Legitimacy and Internal Consultation; The Democratic Limitations of Online Government Consultations; Conclusion: Intermediary Spaces; 11 A Survey of Federal Agency Rulemakers' Attitudes about E-Rulemaking; Background on Rulemaking in the United States; The Survey; Conclusion; Appendix 12 The Internet and the Madisonian Cycle: Possibilities and Prospects for Consultative Representation

Sommario/riassunto

From the publisher. The global explosion of online activity is steadily transforming the relationship between government and the public. The first wave of change, "e-government," enlisted the Internet to improve management and the delivery of services. More recently, "e-democracy" has aimed to enhance democracy itself using digital information and communication technology. One notable example of e-democratic practice is the government-sponsored (or government-authorized) online forum for public input on policymaking. This book investigates these "online consultations" and their effect on democratic practice in the United States and Europe, examining the potential of Internet-enabled policy forums to enrich democratic citizenship. The book first situates the online consultation phenomenon in a conceptual framework that takes into account the contemporary media environment and the flow of political communication; then offers a multifaceted look at the experience of online consultation participants in the United States, the United Kingdom, and France; and finally explores the legal architecture of U.S. and E.U. online consultation. As the contributors make clear, online consultations are not simply dialogues between citizens and government but constitute networked communications involving citizens, government, technicians, civil society organizations, and the media. The topics examined are especially relevant today, in light of the Obama administration's innovations in online citizen involvement.

