

Identity Documents Information Privacy and Transgender People

John Otto, MLIS

- **Who I am...**

John Otto

- Master of Library and Information Science
- BA in multidisciplinary gender/sex studies
- former Privacy and Documentation Program Manager,
National Center for Transgender Equality
Washington DC
- activist

Introduction

- **Purpose/Goal**

**Demonstrate government intrusion
and regulation of trans lives**

“Canaries in the mine shaft”

Preparation for the Information Age

Introduction

- **Purpose/Goal**

“what is left out of academic accounts of transsexuality is any real understanding of what everyday life is like for transsexuals”

Vivian Namaste

Introduction

- **Terminology**

transgender
original meaning
umbrella

transsexual

trans

transpeople

Introduction

- **Overview**

1. Information Age and Information Privacy
2. Transgender Identity Documents
3. Intersection of the Information Age and Transgender Documents
4. What Can We Do?
5. Q & A

Introduction

- **Disclaimer:**

not legal advice

not a legal Q & A

Introduction

Information Age and Information Privacy

- **What is privacy?**

“the more general right of the individual to be left alone”

Warren and Brandeis, *The Right to Privacy* (1890)

Information Age & Information Privacy

- **What is the Information Age?**

databases
databases
databases
databases
databases
databases
databases
databases
databases
databases
Databases!

Information Age & Information Privacy

- **What is the Information Age?**

Unprecedented capacity to

access

store

retrieve

organize

copy

process

INFORMATION

Information Age & Information Privacy

- **What is the Information Age?**

Revolution!

Information Age & Information Privacy

- **Upside...**

Access to information

Connection with individuals & communities

- vast information grounds
- Trans community

Information Age & Information Privacy

- **Downside...**

“an ever-growing series of records is created about almost every facet of a person’s life”

Daniel Solove
The Digital Person: Technology and Privacy in the Information Age (2004)

Information Age & Information Privacy

- **Downside...**

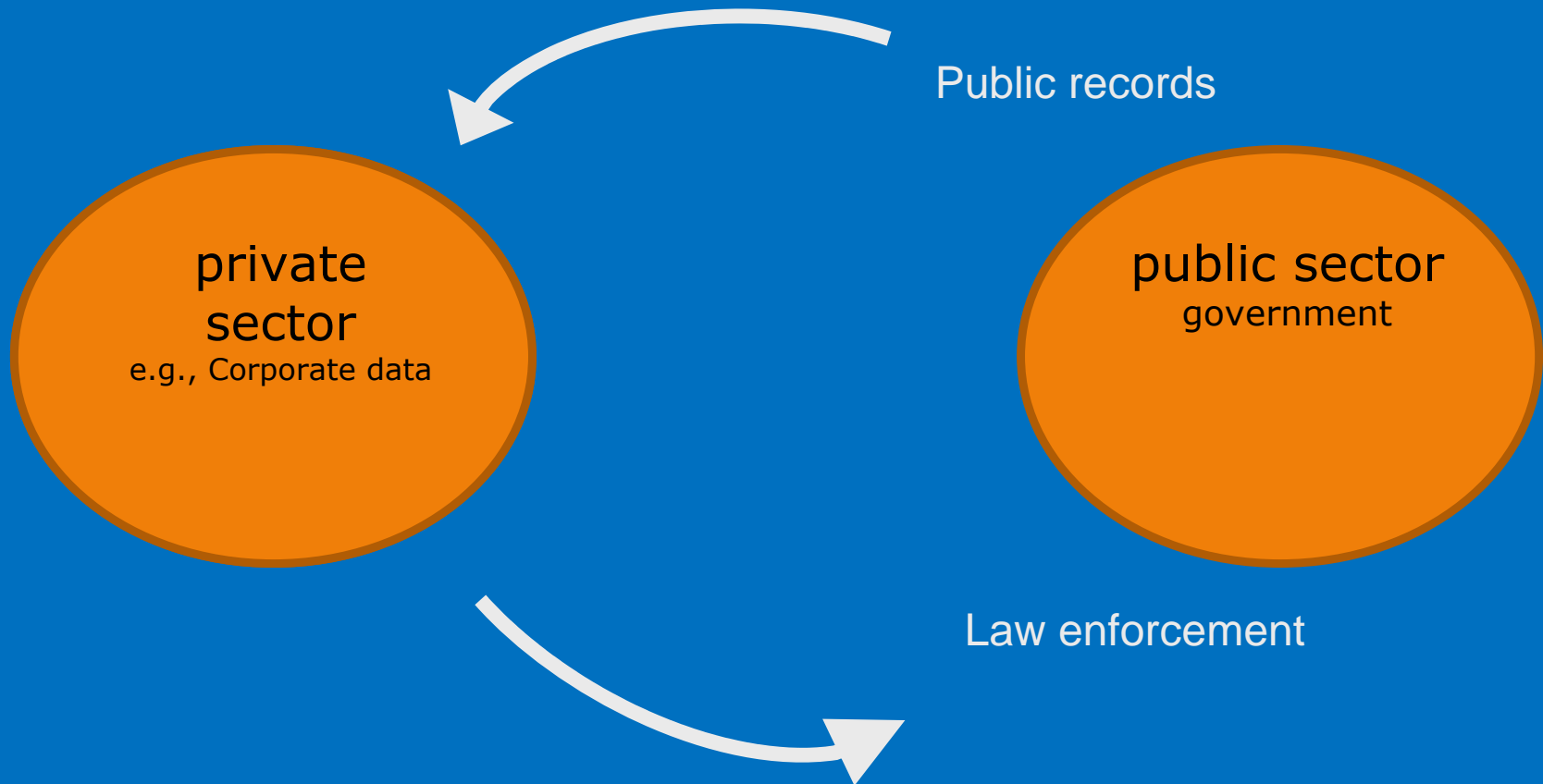
Digital biography

...or dossier

shards of data, assembled and analyzed

Information Age & Information Privacy

- **Information Flow**



Information Age & Information Privacy

- **Information Flow**

Conceptualizations of privacy

Orwell's *1984*

- malicious
- spying

Kafka

impersonal
bureaucracy gone
amuck

Panopticon

self-censored behavior

Information Age & Information Privacy

Transgender Identity Documents...

What are the rules?

- **What are the rules?**

Name changes

file name change petition with local court

Driver license/state ID

Birth certificate

Social Security records

Passport

Others

Transgender Identity Documents

- **What are the rules?**

Name changes

Driver license/state ID

policies vary by state

medical evidence often required

Birth certificate

Social Security records

Passport

Others

Transgender Identity Documents

- **What are the rules?**

Name changes

Driver license/state ID

Birth Certificate

policies vary by state

medical evidence always required (SRS)

court orders sometimes required

Social Security records

Passport

Others

Transgender Identity Documents

- **What are the rules?**

Name change

Driver license/state ID

Birth certificate

Social Security records

letter from surgeon confirming SRS completed

Passport

Others

Transgender Identity Documents

- **What are the rules?**

Name changes

Driver license/state ID

Birth certificate

Social Security records

Passport

letter from surgeon confirming SRS completed
provisional passport available

Others

Transgender Identity Documents

- **What are the rules?**

Name changes

Driver license/state ID

Birth certificate

Social Security records

Passport

Others

- School transcripts
- Bank accounts
- Professional certifications
- Military discharge papers
- Credit reports
- More...


Transgender Identity Documents

- **What are the challenges?**

Policies

- increasingly restrictive
- misunderstand gender transition

Transgender Identity Documents



**Intersection of The Information Age
and
Transgender ID Documents**

- **Databases**

Government data verification and data aggregation

- ❖ **REAL ID Act**
- ❖ **Social Security No-Match Letters**
- ❖ **Voter ID laws**
- ❖ **Department of Motor Vehicles (SSOLV)**

Plus...acquisition of data from private sector

intersection Transgender Identity Documents information age

- **Example: Indiana**

Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles

November 2007 – SSOLV

Indiana Voter ID Law

Supreme Court case requiring government ID for voting

intersection Transgender Identity Documents **information age**

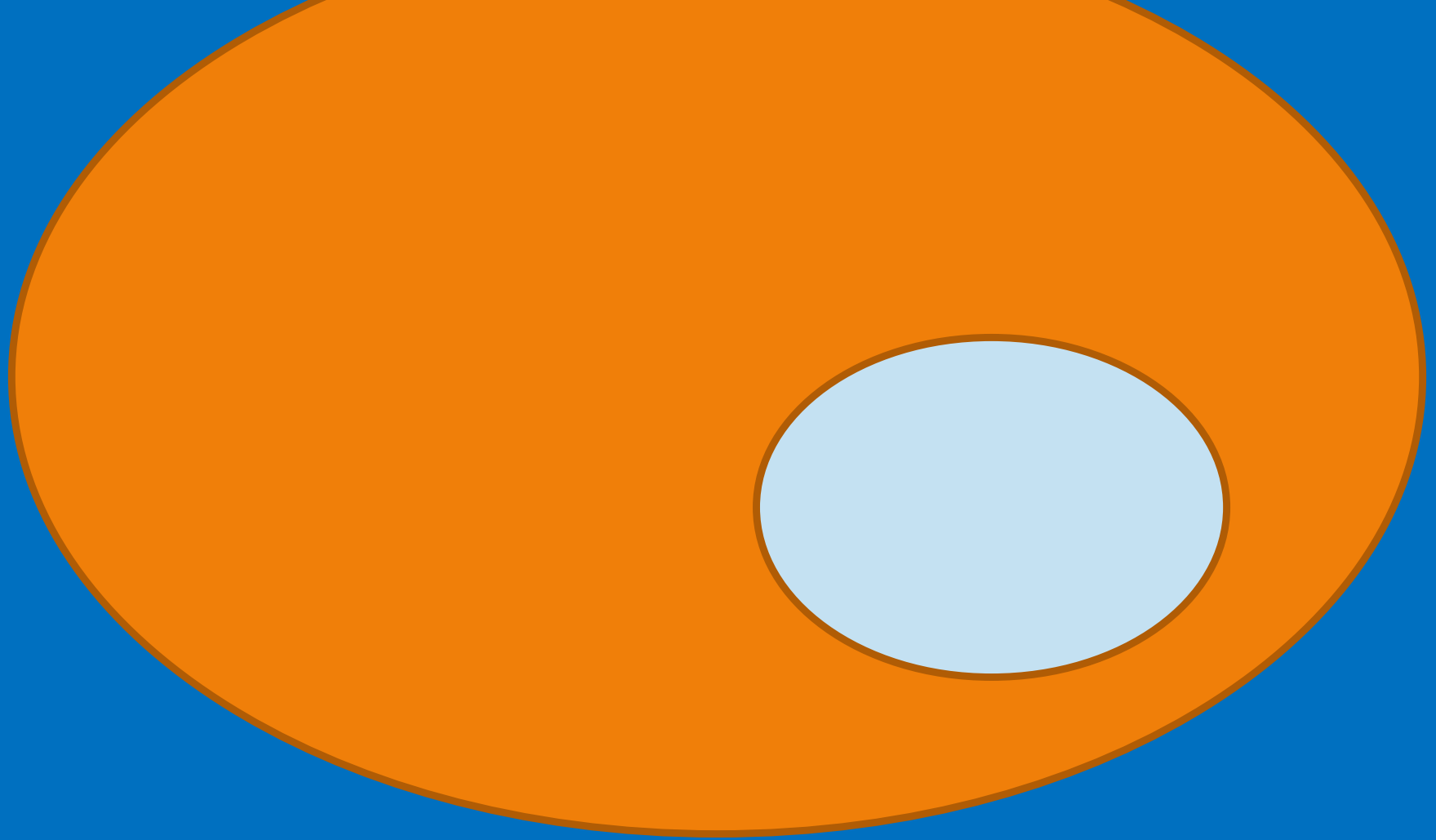
- **Air Travel**
& international travel

passports

full body scans

biometrics

intersection Transgender Identity Documents **information age**



What can we do?

- **Personal actions**

develop information savvy

control your information

- “loyalty” shopping cards (e.g., Safeway cards)
- product registration cards
- online registrations
- contest registrations
- opt-out and opt-in
- Facebook, etc.
- search engine results

What can we do?

- **Activist actions**

Urge your state to resist REAL ID

Work with local, state, and national organizations

Promote policies that protect info privacy

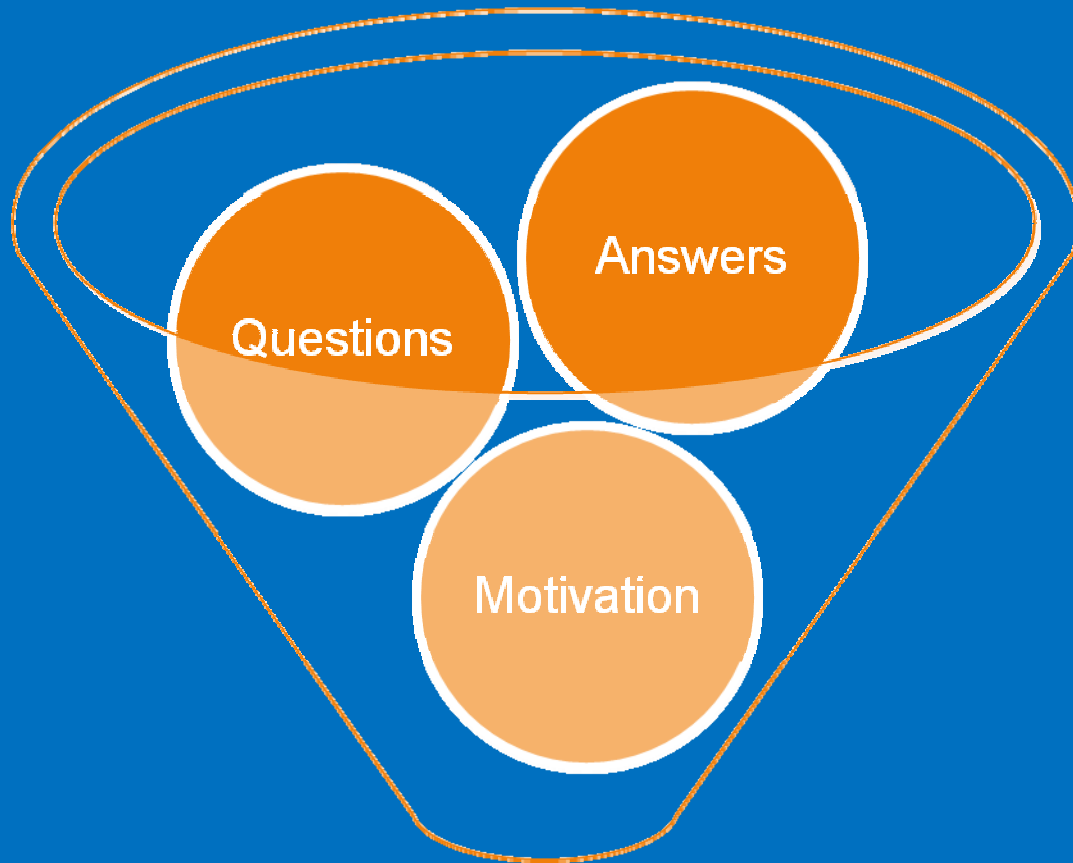
Research surveys, questionnaires, etc. (gratuitous data collection)

Regard gender data as private medical info

Get your ID documents in sync!

Know when NOT to act (avoid backlash)

What can we do?



Creating Change

Q & A