

MUCKROCK Assignments

Quickly organize supporters to gather and analyze data

When confronting journalistic and information challenges related to the COVID-19 epidemic, oftentimes researchers find that the problem isn't too little information but too much. With that, it can be hard to gather and analyze data on what you need to know when you need to know it, especially with governmental policies and recommendations changing on a weekly or even daily basis.

We've developed a platform, titled "Assignments," that helps tackle this challenge while giving the public more ways to contribute directly towards more vetted, accessible information. Assignments lets journalists, researchers, and community organizers define data "quests" that divvy up large information gathering and cleaning challenges. They then assign out the tasks to volunteers to complete the project.

A drag-and-drop interface makes it easy for journalists to pose a variety of questions, set standards for verification, and import a existing data sets to run against, such as gathering COVID-19 policies from every school district. User submissions are stored in a database researchers can export to CSV, search through a web interface, or access with a robust API.

We're facing new and challenging questions about how to inform our democracy, but with Assignments we bring a community together to answer them.

Massive data analysis made easy

For many tasks, nothing is better than a human pair of eyes – unless you can tap into hundreds of eyes. MuckRock's upgraded Assignments platform is designed to help organize and standardize projects that require parsing digital information at scale.

Engage your audience

Turn overwhelming challenges into a chance to build a relationship with your audience or supporters. Ask the public for help, and then easily follow up with your best contributors and let them know how their contributions made an impact.

Integrated with tools you use

We've designed Assignments to integrate seamlessly with [MuckRock](#), [DocumentCloud](#), and, coming soon, other tools that provide the key infrastructure of an informed democracy. We're excited about the future road map and finding new ways to involve and inform the public.