Category

Data & AI

Data Literacy for Board Committees (Audit, Risk, ESG) Playbook

Giving board committee members enough data fluency to provide genuine oversight, not just receive reports

- Executive
- Intermediate
- Template Included

- Mithun A. Sridharan

- 19 August 2021
- 4 minute(s)

Overview

A framework for building data literacy specifically for board committee members overseeing audit, risk, and ESG functions — enough working understanding of data quality, methodology, and metric limitations to provide genuine oversight and ask probing questions, rather than passively receiving management-prepared reports at face value.

Board members typically aren't data specialists — is deep data

literacy realistic for this audience? Not deep technical expertise, but sufficient working literacy to ask genuinely probing questions of management-prepared data and reports — the goal is oversight capability, not technical mastery, similar to how board members develop sufficient financial literacy without becoming accountants.

What's the biggest governance risk from insufficient board-level

data literacy? Board committees rubber-stamping management-prepared metrics and reports without probing their underlying data quality or methodology, reducing genuine oversight to a formality rather than a real check on management's own reporting.

{ "@context": "https://schema.org", "@type": "FAQPage", "mainEntity": [{ "@type": "Question", "name": "Board members typically aren't data specialists — is deep data", "acceptedAnswer": { "@type": "Answer", "text": "literacy realistic for this audience?\nNot deep technical expertise, but sufficient working literacy to ask\ngenuinely probing questions

of management-prepared data and reports —\nthe goal is oversight capability, not technical mastery, similar to how\nboard members develop sufficient financial literacy without becoming\naccountants." } }, { "@type": "Question", "name": "What's the biggest governance risk from insufficient board-level", "acceptedAnswer": { "@type": "Answer", "text": "data literacy?\nBoard committees rubber-stamping management-prepared metrics and\nreports without probing their underlying data quality or methodology,\nreducing genuine oversight to a formality rather than a real check on\nmanagement's own reporting." } }] }

Subscriber access

Unlock this playbook

This playbook — including every framework, template, and step-by-step section — is available free to Think Insights subscribers. Enter your email to unlock it instantly and get our weekly insights newsletter. No account needed, and access is remembered on this device.

First Name

Last Name

Email

Country - Select -

- I agree to data processing in accordance with GDPR

Submit

Leave this field blank

References

Related playbooks

Data & AI

Data Literacy for AI-Enhanced Knowledge Work (Co-Pilots) Playbook

A framework for building data literacy specifically for knowledge workers using AI co-pilot tools — understanding AI output reliability and limitations, appropr

- Practitioner
- Intermediate

- Template Included

Read playbook

Data & AI

Measuring AI ROI & Value Realization Playbook

An executive playbook for measuring and reporting AI ROI, using a four-stage value ladder, a baseline-and-attribution method, templates, and a worked customer-s

- Executive
- Intermediate
- Template Included

Read playbook

Data & AI

AI Procurement & Vendor Evaluation Playbook (Build vs Buy)

A procurement playbook for AI build-vs-buy decisions and vendor evaluation, with a weighted scorecard, red-flag checklist, contract-negotiation tips, and a work

- Executive
- Advanced
- Template Included

Read playbook

Talk to us about board data literacy

Tags

- Data Literacy
- Board Governance
- Audit Committee

Author

Mithun A. Sridharan Thought Leader

I'm Mithun A. Sridharan, Founder of this website - Think Insights - on Strategy, Management Consulting, Leadership, Digital Transformation, and Data Literacy. Follow me on social media or connect with me on LinkedIn for updates.