

Open Knowledge Foundation

Profile

<http://okfn.org/>

The Open Knowledge Foundation is dedicated to promoting the creation, sharing and application of **Open Knowledge** in the **Digital Age**.

We believe that an open commons of information together with the tools and communities to utilise it is central to improving our governance, research, economy and culture.

In particular, a primary aim is to help others **develop open material** as well as creating it ourselves. We believe that the future lies in **collaboration** between a multitude of different groups and that no one group or organisation can, or should try to, “do it all”. It is when we work together that we are the strongest.

It is based in Cambridge, London, UK and in Berlin, Germany.

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Defining open data

<http://opendatahandbook.org/en/what-is-open-data/index.html>

Open data is data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike.

Essential characteristics:

Availability and Access: the data must be available as a whole and at no more than a reasonable reproduction cost, preferably by downloading over the internet. The data must also be available in a convenient and modifiable form.

Reuse and Redistribution: the data must be provided under terms that permit reuse and redistribution including the intermixing with other datasets.

Universal Participation: everyone must be able to use, reuse and redistribute - there should be no discrimination against fields of endeavour or against persons or groups. For example, 'non-commercial' restrictions that would prevent 'commercial' use, or restrictions of use for certain purposes (e.g. only in education), are not allowed.

Interoperability: ensuring the ability of diverse systems and organizations to work together (inter-operate). In this case, it is the ability to interoperate - or intermix - different datasets.

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Steps towards opening up data

<http://opendatahandbook.org/en/how-to-open-up-data/index.html>

1. **Choose your dataset(s):** Choose the dataset(s) you plan to make open. Keep in mind that you can (and may need to) return to this step if you encounter problems at a later stage.

2. **Apply an open license:**

- (a) determine what intellectual property rights exist in the data,
- (b) apply a suitable 'open' license that licenses all of these rights;
- (c) NB: if you can't do this go back to step 1 and try a different dataset.

3. **Make the data available:** Make the data available - in bulk and in a useful format. You may also wish to consider alternative ways of making it available such as via an API.

4. **Make it discoverable:** Post on the web and perhaps organize a central catalogue to list your open datasets

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Rules for open data initiatives

<http://opendatahandbook.org/en/how-to-open-up-data/index.html>

1. **Keep it simple:** Start out small, simple and fast. There is no requirement that every dataset must be made open right now. Starting out by opening up just one dataset, or even one part of a large dataset, is fine – of course, the **more datasets** you can open up the better.
2. **Engage early and engage often:** Engage with actual and potential users and reusers of the data as early and as often as you can, be they citizens, businesses or developers. This will ensure that the next iteration of your service is as relevant as it can be. It is essential to bear in mind that much of the data will not reach ultimate users directly, but rather via '**info-mediaries**'. These are the people who take the data and transform or remix it to be presented.
3. **Address common fears and misunderstandings:** This is especially important if you are working with or within large institutions such as government. When opening up data you will encounter plenty of questions and fears. It is important to (a) **identify** the most important ones and (b) **address** them at as **early** a stage as possible.

Sunlight Foundation

Profile

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/about/>

The Sunlight Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that uses **the power of the Internet** to catalyze greater government openness and transparency, and provides new tools and resources for media and citizens, alike. We are committed to **improving access to government information** by making it available online, indeed redefining “public” information as meaning “online,” and by creating new tools and websites to enable individuals and communities to better access that information and put it to use.

We want to catalyze greater **government transparency by engaging individual citizens and communities** – technologists, policy wonks, open government advocates and ordinary citizens – demanding policies that will enable all of us to hold government accountable. Sunlight develops and encourages new government policies to make it more open and transparent, facilitates searchable, sortable and machine readable databases, builds tools and websites to enable easy access to information, fosters distributed research projects as a community building tool, engages in advocacy for 21st century laws to require that government make data available in real time and trains thousands of journalists and citizens in using data and the web.

It is based in Washington, DC, USA.

Sunlight Foundation

Principles for open data policy

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/opendata/>

01. Mandate open formats for government data.
02. Mandate the release of specific new government information.
03. Mandate electronic filing.
04. Require any public information to be posted on the Internet.
05. Mandate continuous publication and updates to data.
06. Create permanent, lasting access to government data.
07. Publish bulk data.
08. Create public APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) for accessing information.
09. Remove restrictions for accessing government information.
10. Remove restrictions on reuse of information.

Sunlight Foundation

Principles for open data policy

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/opendata/>

11. Appropriately safeguard sensitive information.
12. Require exemptions to open data policy to be balance-tested against the public interest.
13. Create a portal or websites devoted to specific issues related to data publication or specific policy arenas.
14. Create or explore potential public/private partnerships.
15. Create contests or other events focused on the use of government data.
16. Require digitization and distribution of archival materials.
17. Create processes to ensure data quality.
18. Create a public, comprehensive list of all information holdings.
19. Mandate the use of unique identifiers.

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Principles for open data policy

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/opendata/>

20. Require the publishing of metadata or other documentation.
21. Require the publishing of code.
22. Set appropriately ambitious timelines for implementation.
23. Ensure sufficient funding for implementation.
24. Empower the creation of binding regulations to implement the new policy.
25. Tie contract awards to transparency requirements for new systems.
26. Stipulate that provisions apply to contractors or quasi-governmental agencies handling public data.
27. Create new oversight authority to review implementation of the requirements.
28. Create new legal rights or other legal mechanisms to empower the public.

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Principles for open data policy

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/opendata/>

29. Appeal to values and goals, such as accountability, efficiency, employment and commerce, innovation, civic engagement, and public services provision.
30. Reference and build on existing public accountability policies, like
 - i. Freedom of Information Laws
 - ii. Open Meetings Acts
 - iii. Open Records Acts
 - iv. Ethics Protections
 - v. Campaign Finance
 - vi. Lobbying Disclosure Laws
31. Incorporate public perspectives into policy implementation.
32. Require analytics about the use of open data to be published publicly.
33. Mandate future review for potential changes to this policy or law.

Tim O'Reilly, Carl Malamud et al – Principles of Open Gov Data Profile

<http://www.opengovdata.org/home/8principles>

The Open Government Working Group meeting was held on December 2007 in Sebastopol, California, USA.

Moderated by Tim O'Reilly and Carl Malamud, 30 open government advocates gathered to develop a set of principles of open government data.

The group offered a set of fundamental principles for open government data. By embracing the eight principles, governments of the world can become more effective, transparent, and relevant to our lives.

Tim O'Reilly, Carl Malamud et al – Principles of Open Gov Data Principles

<http://www.opengovdata.org/home/8principles>

Government data shall be considered open if the data are made public in a way that complies with the principles below:

1. Data Must Be Complete

All public data are made available. Data are electronically stored information or recordings, including but not limited to documents, databases, transcripts, and audio/visual recordings. Public data are data that are not subject to valid privacy, security or privilege limitations, as governed by other statutes.

2. Data Must Be Primary

Data are published as collected at the source, with the finest possible level of granularity, not in aggregate or modified forms.

3. Data Must Be Timely

Data are made available as quickly as necessary to preserve the value of the data.

Tim O'Reilly, Carl Malamud et al – Principles of Open Gov Data Principles

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4. Data Must Be Accessible

Data are available to the widest range of users for the widest range of purposes.

5. Data Must Be Machine processable

Data are reasonably structured to allow automated processing of it.

6. Access Must Be Non-Discriminatory

Data are available to anyone, with no requirement of registration.

7. Data Formats Must Be Non-Proprietary

Data are available in a format over which no entity has exclusive control.

Tim O'Reilly, Carl Malamud et al – Principles of Open Gov Data Principles

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8. Data Must Be License-free

Data are not subject to any copyright, patent, trademark or trade secret regulation. Reasonable privacy, security and privilege restrictions may be allowed as governed by other statutes.

9. Finally, compliance must be reviewable

- a. A contact person must be designated to respond to people trying to use the data.
- b. A contact person must be designated to respond to complaints about violations of the principles.
- c. An administrative or judicial court must have the jurisdiction to review whether the agency has applied these principles appropriately.