

International Seminar on Open Data for the SDGs

Session 3: Balancing Openness with Risks such as Security and Privacy

‘Openness’: a multidimensional and messy idea

Tom Orrell, Senior Advocacy Advisor, Publish What You Fund
juds.joinedupdata.org @Joined_UpData @TomOrrell86

Overview

1. Mapping elements of openness and other considerations in principles and global norms
2. Balancing technology with regulations and rights: examples from Big Data and data disaggregation
3. Implementing 'openness' in practice
4. Reflections

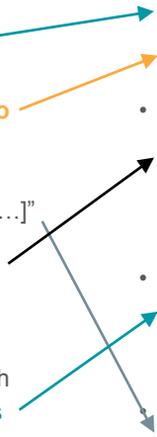
Mapping elements of openness and other considerations in principles and norms: overlaps between the Fundamental Principles and Open Data Charter

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics:

- **Preamble:** “[...] the critical role of high-quality official statistical information [...] [for] peoples [...] **demanding openness and transparency.**”
- **Principle 1:** “[...] to honour **citizens’ entitlement to public information.**”
- **Principle 2:** “**To retain trust in official statistics** [...]”
- **Principle 6:** “Individual data [...] are **to be strictly confidential** [...].”
- **Principle 9:** “The use by statistical agencies in each country of **international concepts, classifications and methods** promotes the consistency and efficiency [...].”

Open Data Charter:

- **Preamble:** “[...] requires **governments that are transparent and accountable**, and that they **engage regularly and meaningfully with citizens.**”
- **Principle 1(e):** “We will observe domestic laws and **internationally recognised standards, [...]** pertaining to **security, privacy, confidentiality** [...]”
- **Principle 4:** “We recognise that **data should be presented in structured and standardised formats** to support interoperability [...].”
- **Principle 5:** “We recognise that the **release of open data strengthens the governance of and trust in our public institutions.**”

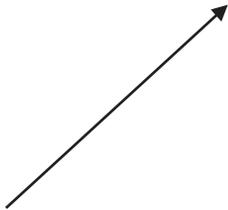


Mapping elements of openness and other considerations in principles and norms: a focus on guidance

Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics



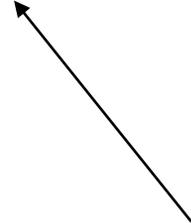
Handbook of Statistical Organisations, NSDSs, domestic laws



Cape Town Plan



Open Data Charter



Web Best Practices

Balancing technology with regulations and rights: an example from Big Data regulation

Big Data and International Development: Impacts, Scenarios and Policy Options

Institute for Development Studies, Sussex University:

“The ability of big data techniques to generate insights through synthesising data from a range of sources may hold the greatest potential and carry the greatest risks of all.”

UN Development Group Guidance on Big Data for Achievement of the 2030 Agenda: Data Privacy, Ethics and Protection

“Proactively embedding the foundational principles of Privacy by Design and employing privacy enhancing technologies during every state of the data life cycle is strongly recommended as a measure to ensure robust data protection [...]”

Regulation of Big Data: Perspectives on Strategy, Policy, Law and Privacy

Casanovas, P., et al. (2017) *Journal of Health Technology*

“appropriate regulation of Big Data in the private and public spheres lies beyond the capacity of such traditional legal instruments as constitutional principles, statutes, regulations and case law. To be effective in the Web of Data there is an increasing need to complement them with other tools of semantic and algorithmic nature.”

Balancing technology with regulations and rights: privacy, confidentiality and disaggregation

Disaggregation of microdata

vs.

Privacy and confidentiality

Do we need an anonymization standard?

It would be helpful, BUT...

...privacy norms and laws vary country to country and can be quite culturally subjective. This would be a real limitation.

Implementing openness in practice: an example from Laos

The screenshot displays the Lao DECIDE GIS web application interface. The browser address bar shows the URL `decide.la/en/gis`. The application header includes the logo and navigation options like "Toolbox" and "Downloads". A toolbar at the top provides various GIS functions such as "Print", "Query Builder", "Attribute Table", "Download", "Select", "Freehand Select", "Unselect", and "Zoom Selection".

The main interface is divided into several sections:

- Selected Layers:** A list of active layers with a "Layer opacity" slider. The layers include:
 - Form of Investment
 - Ethno-linguistic family Lao-Tai
 - Married population > 15 years (highlighted)
 - Married population > 15 years
 - Population density
 - District boundaries
- Catalog:** A list of available data layers:
 - Population Census 2005
 - Agricultural Census 2011
 - ODA Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 2013
 - Land Concessions 2010
 - ODA Ministry of Education 2014
- Map:** A central map of Laos showing district boundaries and data points (red and green circles). A search bar labeled "Zoom to village:" is located above the map. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 100 km and 100 miles. The text "Data © Department of Statistics, Data Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment" is visible at the bottom right of the map area.

The bottom of the page features social media icons for YouTube, LinkedIn, and Facebook, along with logos for various organizations including the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Lao Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Reflections:

- Openness is a messy concept
- For ordinary people, official statistics and open data are two sides of the same coin as they share similar underlying values and objectives
- As this conversation develops, it is important for you to focus on guidance not just principles: the Handbook, NSDSs & law
- Saying that, traditional legal mechanisms are not enough, we need to work together across communities to find answers
- As the Laotian example demonstrates, openness is a sliding scale, not an absolute concept, we should not be afraid of experimenting until we get it right

Thank You!

juds.joinedupdata.org

@Joined_UpData

@TomOrrell86