

## Data driven journalism - what a refreshing perspective.

Submitted on 01 Nov 2010 by

To begin with, just a quick follow-up on the subject of my last post, namely open access week. You can read [a complete summary of this year's event by SPARC here](#) but let me just quote first few sentences: “The largest, most successful International Open Access Week yet has just come to a close. With just under 900 participants in 94 countries, this year's event was no less than three times larger than it was just a year ago. Hundreds of videos, photos, blog posts, and more were released to promote and highlight the benefits of Open Access to research and take the conversation even more deeply into the research community – and they absolutely did.”

The way I read it: the idea of open access gets spread and starts reaching the researchers. Great.

I also spoke to some people in Poland on how open access week went here. The feedback I got was generally very positive. However the interest on the side of the research community is still quite limited. Two questions were most often raised: business model behind open research data and keeping the high level of published materials. So, in summary, still a lot to do but it is happening.

OK, now to another subject. I was more than happy to read [here on ePSI Platform about a meetup bound to take place in Berlin on 4<sup>th</sup> November](#). I was so glad because from day one when I got intellectually inspired by the idea of open data I believed that transparency based on open, accessible and reusable data may lead to a new kind of journalism. Journalism which, however speculative it may be as for authors' views, is based on and accompanied by strong facts coming from reliable data sets.

And here it is. Data journalism. For now, slightly experimental data blogs [like the one here in Guardian](#) but hopefully evolving into a new genre of journalism. The basic idea is very simple: when you write about facts based on data, show the data. When you present your case, let others look at raw data that you use to support your views or build your statement. And, in order to invite others to a discussion or further research you link to reusable data sets or prepare them yourself (e.g. in a text document, or a spreadsheet).

Not only may data journalism mean higher quality of reporting. It also means a great potential for visualization. You can take a look [at the presentation by Jonathan Gray of The Open Knowledge Foundation](#). I hope you find it informative and inspiring. Also, I recommend taking a look here at <http://datadrivenjournalism.net/>.

As for Poland, I did some research on the net trying to find some examples of data driven journalism. I haven't found anything similar to the data blog at Guardian. I am sure that one of the reasons is a lack of open data sets. But I am also sure there is a lot that can be done with what already have on the net. Probably I will soon participate in Transparency Camp in Warsaw. I hope I will have a chance to raise this issue.

Like last time, I kindly invite you to share info. This time on data driven journalism, its examples, practices and overall implications.