

Open PSI near you? Why don't you tell your story?

Submitted on 28 Sep 2010 by

On Thursday 14th October I sat down to write this first post on PSI in Poland. I started looking through my notes to find the way to begin. And then I realized that the 14th October in Poland is the National Education Day aka Teacher's Day. One thing led to another: PSI, open data, teacher's day, open education .. OPEN ACCESS WEEK! That's what I need to write about today! So I changed my original idea as to the subject of my first post and here is the result.

Open Access Week is an annual, global event which begins on 18 and ends on 24th October. It's the fourth time the event is organized. It focuses on open access to the results of scholarly research and the right to use and re-use those results. You can find more here: <http://www.openaccessweek.org/>. What I instantly liked about the initiative is its global range and local activities, its coordinated organization but at the same time community driven actions. Check out what is going on in your country. If you are interested in what is happening in Poland check out this site for some info: <http://koed.org.pl/projekty/oa-week/?lang=en>

By the way, this event reminded me of an article in New York Times where I read about the progress on Alzheimer's disease due to open research results sharing (http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/13/health/research/13alzheimer.html?pagewanted=1&_r=2).

Although scholarly research results are not exactly PSI (debatable?), I think the fundamental idea behind Open Access Week is similar to what drives people involved in open PSI: the belief that when we share knowledge and data and make them usable and re-usable, we progress as humanity.

What could we learn from Open Access Week? I asked myself: is there a global or European event like that but focused on Open Access to PSI? Yes, there seems to be a similar event: the International Right to Know Day. Do you know when it is? Well, it doesn't seem to have gained the momentum yet.

Why? I don't know the answer but I have some ideas. I understand the value of legal and organizational frameworks but I believe, as many others, in **community effort** and **success stories**. Let's work locally, let's network and let's show how open access to PSI makes life better locally (or maybe even globally) just like the Alzheimer's disease example shows for open medical research data.

In my next posts I will try to give you the feel of what's going on in Poland in this regard. **Why don't you use comments to this post to share what is happening near you.**