Building the foundation for an Open Data Directory

Submitted on 22 Apr 2013 by Carlos Iglesias

Open (Government) Data as it is understood nowadays can still be considered a *new concept*. It started to gain traction worldwide since the <u>Obama memo in early 2009</u> and the launch of <u>data.gov</u> a few months later. Following successful leading examples of the US and<u>UK governments</u> we have seen Open Data flourishing all over the world over the last three years. <u>More than two hundred Open Data catalogs</u> have been identified so far.

But still, it's not always clear how to deliver good solutions and **many questions remain unanswered**. In order to build sustainable Open Data initiatives in a varied range of countries a broader view to address challenges is needed. New and existing initiatives will**benefit from shared knowledge** and will also produce a range of resources that should be published in a freely and open way for others to reuse.

As the Open Data movement is growing worldwide; **the number of available resources is also increasing**. The scarcity of only 3-4 years ago is ending but the resources are appearing in disparate places and formats, sometimes difficult to find and share. There is a pressing need to compile and document existing resources that are verified, trustworthy, comparable, and searchable.

The Open Data Directory				
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Upon discussions with many in the Open Data community, an initial analysis of their own project needs and preliminary research on existing public resources, the <u>Web Foundation</u> believes that the community at large would benefit from **a central entry point to Open Data related resources** at a neutral source, **the Open Data Directory** (ODD).

This ODD will help to **produce clear evidence base of the benefits of Open Data** holding a wide range of resources types such as: *use cases, case studies, stories and anecdotes, methodologies, strategies, business cases, papers, reports, articles, blog posts, training materials, slide sets, software tools, applications andvisualisations*. The directory will not focus on compiling a vast number of references, instead it will **give priority to high-quality references endorsed by the Open Data community**.

As a first step towards the ODD, we are making public the <u>Use Cases and Requirements Draft</u> in order to get comments from the wide community, not only on the content of the document itself but also on the overall idea of the ODD. We've published it as a Google Document with comments turned on. **This is a tool for you, the Open Data community**, so suggestions, feedback and comments are very welcome.

The extended deadline for submitting comments is: April 29th, 2013. Please <u>add annotations directly</u> <u>using the Google Docs comments tool</u>, or contact <u>josema@webfoundation.org</u> and <u>contact@carlosiglesias.es</u> with feedback.