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December 2018

Critical Reflection Two

Open Data Handbook

The Open Data Handbook demonstrates open data from public sectors or the government created by the population itself. The Open Data Handbook reveals that the population itself creates this data and a single user may access and use this data to their benefit, the data is mainly comprised of public information. An example of open data is Google demonstrating how busy a restaurant is and showcasing its peak business hours.

Open data is readily available and accessible, modifiable and reasonable. In order for data to be considered open data, it must be easily accessible for the general public and reasonable priced, if not free. The data must also be reusable and redistributed so that it may be modified and used with other data. Furthermore, data must be accessible by everyone and must not show any discernment towards certain groups who would like to use the data. The Open Data Handbook denotes that interoperability is an important factor when deciding if data is considered open data. "Interoperability denotes 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" (Poikola). Interoperability gives open data the opportunity to intermingle with other data sets to provide and build larger systems to create programs.

The handbook showcases that the government collects the most data and any user may use this data in any which way they would like to. "Government is particularly significant in this respect, both because of the quantity and centrality of the data it collects, but also because most of that government data is public data by law..." (Poikola). Open, governmental data is primarily used for a number of reasons, mainly transparency, participation and innovation, with an example being the government showcasing where a worker's tax dollars are spent. On a social level, when people use open data, it may benefit everyone. "A woman in Denmark built findtoilet.dk, which showed all the Danish public toilets, so that people she knew with bladder problems can now trust themselves to go out more again" (Poikola). Open data can be utilized to benefit the general public, a multitude of social services can be created with open data. Corporations also use open data to create programs which aid the general public whether it be for translation or financial planning. "The Danish husetsweb.dk helps you to find ways of improving the energy efficiency of your home, including financial planning and finding builders who can do the work" (Poikola).

Open data is any form of data that is accessible and available which is open to the public and either free or a reasonable price. It may be used in unison with other data sets to create other programs for the general public or social services.