

User Guide

This user guide covers using this tool web interface to organize, publish and find data. This tool also has a powerful API (machine interface), which makes it easy to develop extensions and links with other information systems. Some web UI features relating to site administration are available only to users with sysadmin status, and are documented in Sysadmin guide.

What is Open Data Toolkit?

It is a tool for making open data websites. (Think of a content management system like WordPress - but for data, instead of pages and blog posts.) It helps you manage and publish collections of data. It is used by national and local governments, research institutions, and other organizations who collect a lot of data.

Once your data is published, users can use its faceted search features to browse and find the data they need, and preview it using maps, graphs and tables - whether they are developers, journalists, researchers, NGOs, citizens, or even your own staff.

Datasets and resources

For this tool purposes, data is published in units called “datasets”. A dataset is a parcel of data - for example, it could be the crime statistics for a region, the spending figures for a government department, or temperature readings from various weather stations. When users search for data, the search results they see will be individual datasets.

A dataset contains two things:

Information or “metadata” about the data. For example, the title and publisher, date, what formats it is available in, what license it is released under, etc.

A number of “resources”, which hold the data itself. A resource can be a CSV or Excel spreadsheet, XML file, PDF document, image file, linked data in RDF format, etc. A dataset can contain any number of resources. For example, different resources might contain the data for different years, or they might contain the same data in different formats.

Following guides will be provide in the next iteration:

Feature’s guide

Guide explaining different features of this tool.

Maintainer’s guide

Guide about the maintenance of the website

API guide

Guide about the api used and how to use it

Theming guide

Guide on how to use distinct themes

Contributing guide

Guide on how to contribute

Changelog

Guide on how to add changelogs