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WEEK 5 – Information Cities

Information Cities

Information city describes the extension of information architecture to the urban scale. In analogy to information architecture, information city has two main meanings: (1) making the invisible visible on the scale of a city and thus helping to understand the functioning of an interaction between components of the city, and to design new cities; (2) information city might become a metaphor for the structuring and ordering of vast amounts of data, created increasingly by the city 's inhabitants and its infrastructure. With information city we do not mean the various Info Cities projects that focus on the seamless integration of information and communication technologies. We also do not mean completely virtual cities.

Schmitt, G. Information Architecture. *Information Cities*. Zürich-Singapore: ETH-Zürich

Open Data

Open data is the idea that some data should be freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control. The goals of the open data movement are similar to those of other "open" movements such as open source, open hardware, open content, and open access. The philosophy behind open data has been long established (for example in the Mertonian tradition of science), but the term "open data" itself is recent, gaining popularity with the rise of the Internet and World Wide Web and, especially, with the launch of open-data government initiatives such as Data.gov and Data.gov.uk.

Wikipedia. *Open Data* [online] < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_data > [accessed at 01 Sep. 16]

Urban Observatory

An urban observatory is a forum mobilizing network of stakeholders for producing, analysing and disseminating information on a meaningful set of indicators that reflect the collective priorities of the stakeholders. The observatory therefore becomes the focal point for monitoring, advocacy and partnership building for urban development. Local urban observatories are housed in local government offices, non-governmental organizations or university. National urban observatories coordinate and consolidate data collection at the national level using the results for evidence based policy making. They either coordinate the activities of local urban observatories or produce their own data and information resources at national and regional levels. In some countries, networks of local urban observatories are facilitated by a national level partner. The common objectives of the urban observatories are to:

- Create sustainable urban monitoring systems in support of local planning and management processes linking data to policy
- Strengthen local capacity for the development and use of urban indicators that facilitate collection of urban disaggregated data at city and sub city levels
- Promote local ownership and a culture of monitoring and assessment in the urban sector

urban.unhabitat.org.pk. *Urban Observatory* [online]

< http://urban.unhabitat.org.pk/Portals/0/Portal_Contents/UrbanDocuments >

[accessed at 01 Sep. 16]