OPEN DATA ALLIANCE

Our Mission The Open Data Alliance: data-driven, human-focused.

The five pillars of open data. Open data is...

Single origin It is as close to the source of the supply chain as possible, not composed of aggregated or modified forms.

Minimally refined All public aspects of the data are made available when possible—the default is open.

Structured and annotated It is easily parsable with computer software, the metadata are well-defined and specified, and the features are clearly explained

Free, gratis, and libre It is provided with no monetary compensation or barriers to entry, and that it is portable to a wide variety of formats, non-proprietary, license-free, etc.

User-focused and customer-centric It is initially produced and structured through public dialogue, to address the needs of citizens, and is accessible to the widest array of users for a panoply of purposes.

As a member of this organization and to address the five pillars of open data, you should...

Be open about being open Communicate with internal and external bodies to champion the open data related work your organization is doing. Share your successful processes and innovations, but also failures and obstacles.

Maintain common standards Rather than rely on institutional knowledge, attempt to codify and collect whatever you can in a lasting, sustainable format, such that new entrants into your discipline understand the intricacies of both your data and the processes that produce it.

Test your own products Regularly work with the data you provide to external parties in the form that they receive it, to understand the pleasures and pitfalls of the information you are sharing. Audit your material regularly and ensure that it is regularly updated.

Investigate possible risks Before releasing a dataset or constructing a new system, attempt to think from the perspective of someone who would use the data for nefarious purposes, or the circumstances under which things could go wrong. Act accordingly to prevent abuse and mitigate risk.

Open other things up Remember that the default should be open; as legacy systems are spun down, try to find other avenues to proactively disclose information, using the principles above.