Open Data Literacy project: Washington State Library

Questions for Yakima Valley Libraries

Last update: 2018-07-25

I’m working with Washington State Library this summer to assess ways the State Library might support open data services at public libraries statewide. I’d like to learn more about the Yakima Valley Libraries’ experience with open data.

# Questions about the library

* Please tell me a little about the population you serve -- lots of young families? retirees? immigrants? etc. Are there particular user groups you especially focus on, such as the business community, families, English-language learners?
* The calendar appears to have many events for school-aged children. How would you describe the various classes and other events at the library? Who attends your most popular events or classes?
* What is the library’s relationship with other public-interest agencies, such as city/county government, schools, the health department, chamber of commerce or community groups? (Do you report to any groups, sit on committees together, or intersect in other ways?) Has the library collaborated with any of these groups on a recent project?

# Questions about open data and the library

Yakima Valley has a few local data portals -- those for the [city of Yakima](http://opendata.yakimawa.gov/) and [Yakima county](http://gis-yakimacounty.opendata.arcgis.com/), as well as the [Yakima Valley Trends site](http://www.yakimavalleytrends.ewu.edu/index.cfm) created by Eastern Washington University’s Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis and the Yakima Valley Community Foundation.

* Does this data come up in the course of library service -- answering patron questions, for example?
* Do you offer any kind of instruction -- either in class or one-on-one -- about open data?
  + If so, what’s gone well with that instruction? What could go better?
  + If not, how much do public records of any sort come up in service to patrons -- either classes, or one-on-one reference help?
  + Is open-data-literacy instruction -- for staff, the general public or patrons one-on-one -- an interesting option for the future at Yakima Valley Libraries? Why or why not?
* How does the library use data to enhance its own operations? Does the library publish data about its own operations?
  + Do you see Yakima Valley Libraries publishing more data about itself in the future -- why or why not?
* A few library systems in the state have worked with local governments in launching open data portals, or improving open data. The libraries draw on their own use of data and technology, as well as daily interaction with patrons who are using technology and online information. Have Yakima Valley Libraries played such a part in local governments’ open data publishing?
  + Do you see Yakima Valley Libraries playing such a role in the future? Why or why not?

# To sum up

* Given the needs of your community, what might be the right next steps for Yakima Valley Libraries in the area of open data -- publishing? advising? instructing? something else?
* What would help you to take any such step?
* **Anything I haven’t asked you or that you’d like to add?**