Open Repair Data Standard (ORDS)

Version 0.2

Section 1: About Open Repair Alliance

Goals and ORDS use cases

The initial objective of the Open Repair Alliance is to help organisations involved in community repair to harmonise the way we collect and share information about successes and challenges in repairing small electrical and consumer electronic devices, to increase the visibility and the impact of the work we all do.

Specifically, we aim to:

- Create a joint approach to documenting successes and challenges with post-warranty repairs
- Promote it as a standard available to other community repair networks, and in the future to commercial repairers and others collecting repair data
- Enable coalition members and others to use the data from our joint work to produce insights, with the objective of demanding more repairable products, improved support and access to better repair services
- Jointly explore additional information we can all collect to help make a stronger case for increased repairability

Section 2: Governance and Membership

Founding members

Open Repair Alliance's founding members are: Anstiftung Foundation, Fixit Clinic, iFixit, The Repair Cafe Foundation and The Restart Project.

All founding members have a strong commitment to repair and to documenting the challenges and opportunities that we face. Most groups are non-profit organisations promoting community repair initiatives. The Alliance also contains a commercial organisation, iFixit, because of its commitment to sharing repair data as part of the Alliance and for its active role and strong voice campaigning for repairability in the United States and in Europe.

The work of the Alliance is facilitated by a coordinator organisation, The Restart Project, as of November 2017. This role is open to other members should they wish to participate or collaborate.

Membership

Membership is open to other organisations interested and active in issues around repair. These include: consumer rights organisations, environmental NGOs, networks and universities. The rationale for their involvement is to seek advice, support and insights from groups which might also benefit from our work.

Decision making

Decisions on the standard are made through consensus between the core members.

Section 3: The Standard

Guiding principles

As members of the Open Repair Alliance, organisations are committed to share data that is accessible, useful and usable for a range of partners.

To ensure this, organisations are expected to consider that their Open Repair data is:

- Structured - data is valid in line with the requirements of the standard
- Comparable - data can be linked across publishers through codelists and shared references
- Open - data is appropriately licensed and published
- Accurate - data is as accurate as possible
- Timely - data is kept up-to-date and updated regularly

The standard is focused on collecting and sharing information about repair of small electricals and consumer electronics. Due to the open nature of the standard, it could in the future lead to adaptations to cater for other areas of repair information.

Collected data

This section describes the data that we collect as part of the standard.

There is a wide variety of data that can be and is being collected on the topic of repair. We recognise that not all organisations have the need or capacity to collect all of this data, and further we recognise the tension between the ideal data we would like to collect and the ability to collect that data in busy repair environments, usually by volunteers.

As such, the standard is grouped into logical 'modules' that group together related fields, and within these modules fields are classified as required or optional. Modules are described as either primary or additional. To be fully compliant with the standard, data must aim to include all required fields in the primary modules.

The decision to define a field as 'required' is based on a number of factors surrounding use cases and benefits of the data the question would produce, and the complexity of data collection for that question, including who is being asked to collect the data and how - for example, we wish to avoid overloading volunteers with data collection. Every required field should be traceable back to a particular use case and goal.

Input fields

Overview

Module	Description	Required fields	Optional
Product related	Information about the product/device that someone has attempted to fix. To help relate repair issues to particular groupings of products.	● Partner product category	● Product category ● Brand ● Year of manufacture
Repair related	Information about the attempted fix and its outcome. To help ascertain common ways in which devices fail and the results of repair attempts.	● Repair status ● Problem	● Repair barrier
Session related	Information about when the repair took place and through which entity, e.g. a specific community repair group on a particular date. To help verify the provenance of the repair data.	● ID ● Event date ● Country	● Group identifier
Provider related	Information about the data provider, i.e. which organisation collected and submitted the data.	● Data provider	● Record date

Details

This section provides detailed information on each of the fields included in the standard.

Product-related

Product category

EEE- "powered" - devices

Description: A value drawn from a list of ORDS category strings. See Product categories. These values represent a reduced set of categories based on all item types seen across partner members. They are a cross-section of those regularly seen at community repair events, as well as those relevant to policy discussions. If an item type does not fall into an existing category, it is included in an aggregate category, e.g. "Small home electrical" or "Misc".

Use cases: Product categorisation allows for analysis on individual categories or combinations of categories. Repair rates and barriers across categories can be compared. We can use this to inform policy discussions on specific product categories.

Ease of collection: These values are not generally collected or supplied but mapped from partner-provided category values to ORDS category values. See Partner product category.

Non-EEE- "unpowered" - items

ORDS focuses on EEE products, as they are more commonly presented at repair events and the most relevant from a policymaking perspective for the foreseeable future.

Partner product category

Description: The original product categorisation supplied within the partner dataset i.e. the categories used to map to the ORDS product categories.

Use cases: Including this value alongside the ORDS category will allow for alternative ways of analysing the data by end-users. It will also allow for the identification of errors, mistranslation, ambiguity and judgement-calls in the mapping, allowing for data quality enhancements.

Ease of collection: Partners have always supplied their own categories within their datasets. The most valuable categorisations have uniformity and convention, i.e. they relate to predefined sets of values and are sanity checked at source. Ideally they are already mapped to the ORDS product category values. Some partner categorisation comes as free text and sometimes in languages other than English. During processing the partner category is often concatenated with another field, e.g. "product_kind" or "item_type", e.g. "Household appliances electric ~ Coffee maker", this extra detail helps in the mapping. Normalising the supplied categorisation makes the process of mapping less prone to error, mistranslation, ambiguity and subjectivity.

Brand

Description: Name of the item's "brand" if it is identifiable.

Use cases: Useful for analysing the relationship between design practices of specific manufacturers and the repairability of their products brought to repair events.

Ease of collection: Brand is not always identifiable, some items brought to an event may be of a "generic" make.

Year of manufacture

Description: The year, or approximate year, that the item was made or released.

Use cases: Useful for analysing the lifespan or durability of various product categories or brands.

Ease of collection: Not always known or identifiable.

Repair-related

Repair status

Description: This is the outcome of the repair attempt that was undertaken on the device at the event.
- 1: "Fixed" - if the repairer and owner were satisfied that the item can continue to be used
- 2: "Repairable" - if the repairer and owner didn't complete a repair, but identified what reasonable additional steps or professional help is needed
- 3: "End of life" - if the repairer and the owner decided that it is not cost-effective or realistic to repair the device
- 0: An empty or zero value is recorded as "Unknown"

Use cases: The repair status allows us to report on rates of repair on the devices we see at repair events. In conjunction with the product category and repair barrier, we can investigate which types of products are most difficult to repair in a community context, and why.

Ease of collection: Most providers currently record information on the repair outcome. Mapping is required to go from current partner values to the ORDS recommended values - see Appendix E. Repair groups are keen to record this information already, as they can report on their own repair success to volunteers and funders.

Problem

Description: A description of the problem identified with the device during the repair.

Use cases: Common problems with categories devices can be identified, suggesting where design improvements could be made, or for which parts provision of spares is most required.

Ease of collection: All partners currently record information on problems encountered during the repair attempt. This is currently in free text format, which makes it difficult to perform analysis at present. We intend to provide a list of fault types to select from in a future update to ORDS.

Repair barrier

Description: A value that can be ascribed when a repair status is designated as "End of life". One of the following options - note that either the text or number code is acceptable:
1. Spare parts not available
2. Spare parts too expensive
3. No way to open the product
4. Repair information not available
5. Lack of equipment
6. Product too worn out

Use cases: This information is important for policy discussions, as it gives an indication of the most common recurrent barriers encountered. It was identified in conversation with iFixit, based on European policy processes they've followed in recent years.

Ease of collection: Some of the historic problem text may yield values and partners are adapting data collection to comply with this field from 2021.

Session-related

ID

Description: Unique record identifier

Use cases: Essential for the ORDS aggregation process and essential in data analysis.

Ease of collection: In most cases partners hold unique ids for their records although some data is provided with a timestamp as ID and this has been known to be non-unique in a small number of cases. An ID value separate from any date value is preferred.

Event Date

Description: Date on which the repair event took place.

Use cases: Useful for analysing the trends of other fields over time. For example, the prevalence of certain product categories, or the repair success rate..

Ease of collection: In most cases partners keep a record of the dates of their repair events.

Country

Description: This is the country where the repair event (and thus the repair attempt) took place.

Use cases: The inclusion of this field allows for the breakdown and comparison of information by country. For example, does the repair success rate vary between countries? What are the relative occurrences of different barriers to repair per country?

Ease of collection: Partners should find it easy to provide this information, if they are recording the group who undertook the fix, and know where the group is based. Ideally partners can include the country per row in their dataset if not already, based on the location of the group that completed the repair, in the form of a 3 letter ISO code, e.g. "DEU", "AUT". If provided in the original partner data it has been included as is. If it has not been provided, the country has been assumed to be the main country of the partner organisation.

Group identifier

Description: Unique group identification name, number or code.

Use cases: Can be useful in data analysis.

Ease of collection: In most cases partners are able to identify particular groups responsible for clusters of data. Where a partner does not have subsidiary groups the partner name will be used unless otherwise specified. Group identifiers do not have to explicitly name a group, obfuscation such as a code or number is sufficient.

Provider-related

Data provider

Description: Uniquely identifies the partner providing the data.

Use cases: Allows for analysis of the data per provider.

Ease of collection: Can in most cases be assumed but partners are welcome to specify the exact words, phrase, spelling, punctuation and casing as they see fit.

Record date

Description: The date on which the record was last updated in the partner's database. This is not necessarily the same as the date the repair attempt took place. The data may have been uploaded after the repair event. See also Event date.

Use cases: The inclusion of this field can help to simplify the aggregation process by flagging the data that has changed since the last aggregation process.

Ease of collection: If using an electronic system, providers should be able to easily record a date when repair records are inserted or updated in their database.

Field reference

Field names and data types

For some fields a formal set of options is required, referred to here as a 'codelist'. A codelist provides mandatory codes and publishers should only use values provided in the official list. Changes to codelists take place through the governance and revision process.

Title	*Field name*	*Type*
ID	*id*	Unique identifier from the partner organisation. Does not have to be unique across all partner data.
Partner category	*partner_product_category*	Option from partner codelist.
Product category	*product_category*	Option from ORDS product category codelist.
Brand	*brand*	Free text.
Year of manufacture	*year_of_manufacture*	Year. YYYY.
Problem	*problem*	Free text. Personal data should be removed, e.g. email addresses,.
Repair status	*repair_status*	Option from ORDS repair status codelist.
Repair barrier	*repair_barrier_if_end_of_life*	Option from ORDS repair barrier codelist. Optional. Only relevant where repair_status = "End of life".
Group identifier	*group_identifier*	String. Unique. A unique identifier across all partners that can identify the group responsible for the repair.
Event date	*event_date*	Date. YYYY-MM-DD format.

		The date of the repair event that the repair took place at.
Data provider	*data_provider*	Option from ORDS codelist. Name of partner organisation.
Country	*country*	String. 3 letter ISO code, e.g. "GBR".
Record date	*record_date*	Date. YYYY-MM-DD format. The date that the record was last updated.

ORDS product category values

Product category	Notes
Aircon/dehumidifier	
Battery/charger/adapter	
Food processor	e.g. multi processor, blender, juicer, coffee grinder, stick blender, hand mixer
Coffee maker	
Decorative or safety lights	e.g. bike lights, fairy lights, Christmas lights
Desktop computer	
Digital compact camera	
DSLR/video camera	
Fan	e.g. cooling fan, fan heater
Flat screen	TVs and monitors
Games console	e.g. Playstation, Gameboy
Hair & beauty item	e.g. hair straightener, toothbrush, shaver
Hair dryer	
Handheld entertainment device	e.g. iPod, Walkman
Headphones	
Hi-Fi integrated	e.g. "Boombox", stereo
Hi-Fi separates	e.g. amplifier, speaker, turntable
Iron	
Kettle	

Lamp	
Laptop	
Large home electrical	e.g lawnmower, fitness machine, steam mop
Misc	
Mobile	
Musical instrument	e.g. electric keyboard, electric guitar
Paper shredder	
PC accessory	e.g. mice, keyboard, webcam
Portable radio	e.g. radio alarm, transistor radio
Power tool	e.g. DIY tool
Printer/scanner	
Projector	e.g. slide projector, video projector, digital projector
Sewing machine	
Small home electrical	e.g. baby monitor, doorbell, multimeter
Small kitchen item	e.g. breadmaker, rice cooker, popcorn machine
Tablet	e.g. Kindle, satnav
Toaster	
Toy	
TV and gaming-related accessories	e.g. set-top box, DVD player
Vacuum	
Watch/clock	

Repair status values

Code	Text

0	Unknown
1	Fixed
2	Repairable
3	End of life

Repair barrier values

Code	Text
1	Spare parts not available
2	Spare parts too expensive
3	No way to open product
4	Repair information not available
5	Lack of equipment
6	Item too worn out

Producing and sharing compliant data

Compliant data is data that

- contains the required data as agreed per this standard
- conforms to the field definitions as agreed per this standard
- is provided in the format as agreed per this standard
- is licensed as agreed per this standard
- is publicly available for download

Data format

For data to be comparable, the values recorded for each field need to conform as prescribed e.g. a date value should conform to the agreed date format. See Field names and data types for a detailed field reference.

The data should be supplied in Comma Separated Values (CSV) format, where each row represents a single repair attempt, and will contain columns for each of the required fields listed

above as well as additional fields where possible. The first row should be a header row and contain the column names matching those of the field names described in Field names and data types. The header row should be in English if possible.

Wherever possible, partners' original values should be mapped to the ORDS codelist values as described in the Field reference section.

Should there be a discrepancy between the prescribed data format and the supplied data format it would be desirable that a changelog or manifest or some form of documentation describing the differences be supplied also. See the Collected data modules section for details of the required input. See Field names and data types for a detailed field reference.

The data definitions will undergo review as and when the standard evolves.

Data collection tools

The Open Repair Alliance does not prescribe any particular tools for data collection or provision, however individual members are encouraged to share advice and help on any tools they have found useful. Partners are welcome to reach out to the organising body for assistance and advice in regard to tools and processes.

Data publishing

The Open Repair Alliance aims to publish every 6 months. The processed datasets are stored in a public version control repository and made available for download at openrepair.org.

Data output

The export process results in a package for each partner and one that contains an aggregate of all partner data.

Each package is labelled using a convention that describes its contents and comprises two data files - one CSV format, one JSON format - along with a manifest file that describes the package contents including schema, provider details, licence and description.

Data versioning

The ORA repository makes available all previous published datasets. Naming conventions are used in filenames to maintain version identification.

Data licensing

Supplied data must be licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0).

As the Data Standard evolves, licensing will be reviewed in order to best address the potential commercial use of the data by third parties.

Section 4: Document Information

Version

Number: 0.2.1
Description: Updated version agreed by Open Repair Alliance founding members, based on analysis and aggregation of data provided by partners
Published: 25 01 2021
Authors: The Restart Project

License

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Changelog

V0.1 - Initial version agreed by Open Repair Alliance founding members, published on 14 November 2017

V0.2 - Published December 2020, including updates based on analysis and aggregation of data provided by partners
- Recommended options for *repair_status*
- Recommended options for *product_category* values
- Addition of *partner_product_category* field
- Addition of *repair_barrier* field
- Addition of *country* field
- Removal of *model* field due to problems with data collection and quality
- Removal of "additional modules" section

V0.2.1 - Published January 2021. "Blender" category name changed to "Food processor".