Maximising the Benefits of Open Data

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Maximising Benefits = Maximising Reuse

- **Legal**
  - **What can I (legally) do with this data?**
- **Practical**
  - **How reliable is the data? Frequency of updates?**
- **Technical**
  - **What format is the data in?**
- **Social**
  - **Where can I go to with problems?**

Legal

- **what can I do with the data?**
- **clear, simple, unrestricted licences**
  - Open Government Licence
- **no contaminating closed data**
  - extract out derived & copied data
- **no data protection concerns**
  - consent for re-use

Practical

- **timeliness**
  - frequency of changes / releases
  - lag in releases
- **quality control**
  - accuracy of the data
- **guarantees**
  - availability (particularly of APIs)
  - on-going publication

Technical

- **machine-readable**
  - not images of tables
- **suitable to data type**
  - appropriate format & vocabulary
- **open standard**
  - with open source implementations
- **using URIs as identifiers**
  - helps with linking up disparate datasets

Social

- **documentation**
- **gather feedback to improve**
  - every dataset contains mistakes
  - email, form or API for corrections
- **build community**
  - forum / group to share experience
- **provide tools**
  - libraries for operating with the data

Conclusions

- **5 star scheme only covers format**
- **also need to help re-users**
  - work out what they can do
  - work out what they can rely on
  - work with the data easily
  - engage with you & others

What do you think?

comment on alpha ODI Open Data Certificate
http://theodi.github.com/open-data-certificate/

questions?

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