



# “Προοπτικές και Προκλήσεις για τα Ανοικτά Δεδομένα”

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**«Ημερίδα με αντικείμενο τα Ανοικτά Δεδομένα»**

*Informatics*

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***“Open Data is a one-way street. You can’t go back.”***

**Jeff Stovall, CIO, Charlotte, North Carolina**



## About

This site came out of a 2007 working group held in Sebastopol, California, USA which developed the [8 Principles of Open Government Data](#). These principles have become the de facto starting point for evaluating openness in government records.

Your comments are welcome on our [discussion list](#).

This site is currently maintained by [Gail Tauber](#).

[Open Government Data](#) >

## 8 Principles of Open Government Data

### Open Government Working Group

8 december 2007 - This weekend, [30 open government advocates](#) gathered to develop a set of principles of open government data. The meeting, held in Sebastopol, California, was designed to develop a more robust understanding of why open government data is essential to democracy.

The Internet is the public space of the modern world, and through it governments now have the opportunity to better understand the needs of their citizens and citizens may participate more fully in their government. Information becomes more valuable as it is shared, less valuable as it is hoarded. Open data promotes increased civil discourse, improved public welfare, and a more efficient use of public resources.

The group is offering a set of fundamental principles for open government data. By embracing the eight principles, governments of the world can become more effective, transparent, and relevant to our lives.

[Your comments are welcome on our discussion list.](#)

The meeting was coordinated by Tim O'Reilly of O'Reilly Media and Carl Malamud of Public.Resource.Org, with sponsorship from the Sunlight Foundation, Google, and Yahoo.

*Larry Lessig on the Open Government Data Principles*

# Open Government Data Principles

1. Complete
2. Primary
3. Timely
4. Accessible
5. Machine processable
6. Non-discriminatory
7. Non-proprietary
8. License-free

### Open Government Data Definition: The 8 Principles of Open Government Data

Government data shall be considered open if the data are made public in a way that complies with the principles below:

#### 1. Data Must Be Complete

All public data are made available. Data are electronically stored information or recordings, including but not limited to documents, databases, transcripts, and audio/visual recordings. Public data are data that are not subject to valid privacy, security or privilege limitations, as governed by other statutes.

#### 2. Data Must Be Primary

Data are published as collected at the source, with the finest possible level of granularity, not in aggregate or modified forms.

#### 3. Data Must Be Timely

Data are made available as quickly as necessary to preserve the value of the data.

#### 4. Data Must Be Accessible

Data are available to the widest range of users for the widest range of purposes.

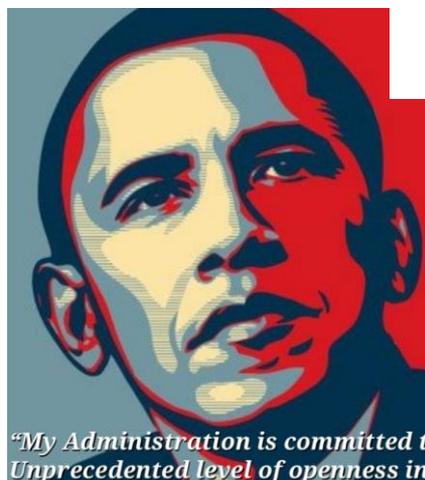
#### 5. Data Must Be Machine processable

December 2007,  
Sebastopol, California



DATA.GOV

- Transparency
- Participation
- Collaboration



*“My Administration is committed to creating an Unprecedented level of openness in Government.”*

2009



GOV.UK Data.gov.uk

2010



PSI  
Directive  
Review

Directive 2003/98/EC amended by the Directive 2013/37/EU.  
Replaced by the 'Open Data Directive' [2019/1024](#)



- The Swedish Freedom of the Press Act in 1766 **guaranteed public access to government documents.**
- **Freedom of Information (FOI)** has been an area of legislative initiatives in several countries in the period 1970-2010.

## Framing the FOI discussion in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- **Freedom of Information**



- **Digital technologies** gave a completely different dynamic to the generation, storage and at the same time access and dissemination of PSI.
- The **“openness” movement** was quite influential in early 21<sup>st</sup> century promoting “open” in several areas including open source software, open standards, open knowledge/content, and open science. The open data addition to this palette appeared rather natural.

## The Open Data hype

2008 – 2016:

- Open Government Data = Open Government.
- Open data policies and portals appear at all administrative levels.
- Publish all your data in whatever way  $\Rightarrow$  transparency, growth, efficiencies and innovation.
- Pressures to public organisations to publish data (including legislation).

**Result:** hundreds of thousands of open datasets via dozens of Open Data portals.

## The Open Data hype

2008 – 2016:

However...

- Exploitation and usage of Open Data remained low
- How to persuade budget holders to continue investing as soon as usage remains low, while the value and benefits are hard to be assessed?



## Challenges

Several hidden issues came into the surface when the open data rhetoric hit reality:

1. **Supply-driven (top-down) open data policies:** Ignoring to a large extent real users, requirements and demand for open data.
2. **Open Data  $\neq$  /  $\Rightarrow$  Open Government**
3. **Governance:** Open data part of the corporate information and data management policy. Data is a valuable corporate resource; it needs to be appropriately managed.
4. **Funding and costs:** Costs for publishing open data include upfront investments and long-term commitments of resources. These costs were underestimated.

## Challenges

- 5. Licensing and privacy:** Licensing open data proven to be complicated, while ambiguity prevents reuse. Moreover, privacy issues related to personal data (GDPR) have to be carefully considered.
- 6. Usability:** Naïve assumption: open data can be directly used by everyone. Skills are required for using and getting value from open data. This skillset is often quite advanced as data usually need demanding curation, cleansing, integration, etc.
- 7. Standards and quality:** Just opening data in any form and format is not enough. Specific policies for promoting publication quality, ensuring reusability and compliance to standards to avoid a babel tower of open data.

## Challenges

8. **Ecosystems:** Open data alone is not enough. Applications, communities, power users, platforms play not just a supportive role but are prerequisites for value creation.
9. **Skills:** Advanced skills are needed inside public organisations to support the whole open data life-cycle from generation to exploitation.
10. **Evaluation and assessment:** Difficult to evaluate value of open data, real impact in promoting transparency, efficiencies, innovation, jobs creation.
11. **Global applicability and national specificities:** Open data was born in Anglo-Saxon context. Application to other countries reveal cultural, institutional, organisational specificities. It is not easy to just copy practices from one country to the other.

## Discussion today...

- Policy makers, open data advocates, researchers realise the challenges.
- These challenges identify the areas where ideas, proposals and plans should be developed.
- The maturity and progress in the field depends on our effectiveness to address the challenges.

## Conclusions

- Open data alone may not be the holy grail for the public sector, but admittedly offers a **very powerful tool** to increase **transparency**, **reduce costs**, **create new services** and **boost reuse/collaboration** within the public sector and with the private sector.
- We now realise that it can't come alone, needs a **broader environment to thrive**, with policies, planning, management, funding, prioritization, standards, skills, awareness, assessment frameworks and legal clarity, just to mention some.
- We need to understand open data not as a technology trend, but as a **vital enabler of the Freedom of Information discussion shaped in the digital era**.

Taking into consideration all the above, we could all agree that ...



***Open data is a one-way street.***

***You can't go back!***

# Open Data Exposed

Bastiaan van Loenen  
Glenn Vancauwenberghe  
Joep Crompvoets *Editors*

*Presentation is based on the foreword of the book "Open Data Exposed"*

Available at:

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/bfm%3A978-94-6265-261-3%2F1.pdf>



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