# Why Libraries Should Maintain the Open Data of Their Communities

Mita Williams, Leddy Library, University of Windsor Wed, Jan 27 | 3:05 pm - 3:45 pm, MTCC 206D Ontario Library Superconference 2016

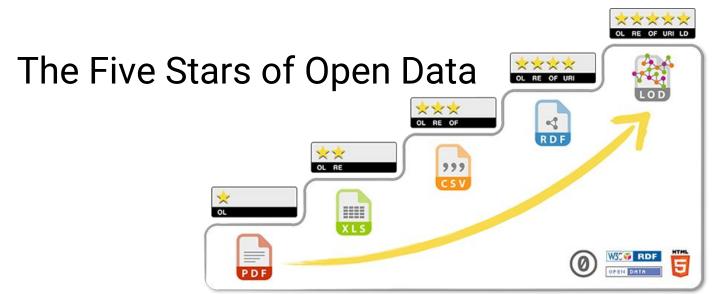
# **Learning Outcomes**

- Become familiar with some of the standards and technologies of Open Data
- Understand what Open Data is and its context in the Canadian landscape
- Learn how public libraries, academic libraries and nonprofit groups have encouraged the use and the collection of Open Data

# A trilogy of four parts

- What is Open Data?
- Where is the Open (Government) Data in Canada?
- Where do Libraries Fit In?

What is Open Data?



link your data to other data to provide context

\*\*\*\*

★ make your stuff available on the Web (whatever format) under an open license
 ★★
 make it available as structured data (e.g., Excel instead of image scan of a table)
 ★★★
 make it available in a non-proprietary open format (e.g., CSV as well as of Excel)
 ★★★
 use URIs to denote things, so that people can point at your stuff

# Open is a format ...

David Eaves' Three Laws of Open (Gov) Data

If it can't be spidered or indexed, it doesn't exist

If it isn't available in open and machine readable format, it can't engage

If a legal framework doesn't allow it to be repurposed, it doesn't empower

"In other words, Open Data allows us to ... LOOK, PLAY, and SHARE"

Does "open" mean openly licensed content or code? And, again, which license is really "open"? Does "open" mean "made public"? Does "open" mean shared? Does "open" mean "accessible"? Accessible how? To whom? Does "open" mean editable? Negotiable? Does "open" mean "free"? Does "open" mean "open-ended"? Does "open" mean transparent? Does "open" mean "open-minded"? "Open" to new ideas and to intellectual exchange? Open to interpretation? Does "open" mean open to participation — by everyone equally? Open doors? Open opportunity? Open to suggestion? Or does it mean "open for business"?

> From "Open" to Justice, #OpenCon2014 Audrey Watters, 16 Nov 2014 http://hackeducation.com/2014/11/16/from-open-to-justice/

# What does the Tri-Council mean by Open Data?

Capitalizing on Big Data: Toward a Policy Framework for Advancing Digital Scholarship in Canada

"Open data is data that meets the criteria of intelligent openness.

Consultation Document
(16 October 2013)

Data must be accessible, useable, assessable and intelligible."

SSHRC = CRSH

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)



The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)



The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

# What do \*I\* mean by Open Data?

"Open data is data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone – subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike."

Open Knowledge Foundation okfn.org

# ... Open is a permission

Since everything is automatically given copyright, to release your given rights you need to assign an alternative licence to place it in the "Creative Commons"

CC-0 Public Domain

CC-BY Attribution

CC-BY-ND Attribution, No Derivatives

CC-BY-SA Attribution, Share Alike

CC-BY-NC Attribution, Non-commercial

# Not all Creative Commons material is "Open"

"Open data is data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone – subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike."

Open Knowledge Foundation okfn.org

CC-BY-ND NOT OPEN!

CC-BY-NC NOT OPEN!

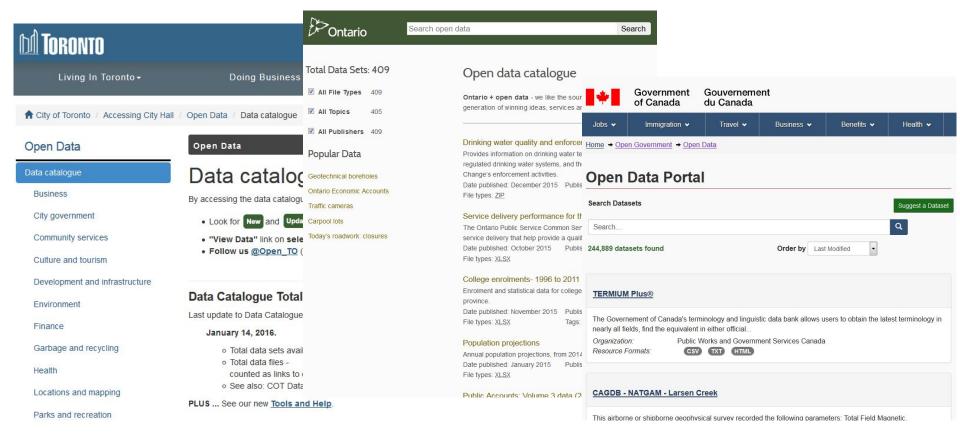
# "You don't like CC-NC? What kind of monster are you? Some sort of Census-hating neoliberal?"

- "Academic-use only" hurts our nonprofit communities
  - Where can anti-poverty groups get their data for evidence based decisions?
- The costs of cost recovery efforts are \*substantial\*
  - Data Liberation Initiative for universities
  - The Community Data Program
- It is speculated that cost recovery results are not significant
- Journalists, artists and writers rely on the ability to sell their work
- CC-NC keeps content out of the Public Domain FOREVER
- CC-NC complicates how re-worked derivative material is handled

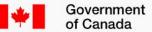
Where is Open (Government) Data

(in Canada)

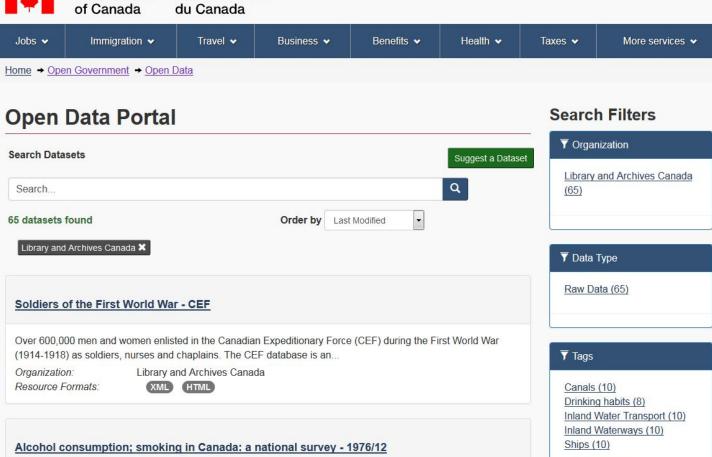
# The data is in Open Data Catalogues (or portals)



Chow more



Gouvernement du Canada



# Wouldn't it be easier if it was all...



# Open by Default – A new way forward for Ontario

The Open Government Engagement Team consulted a diverse spectrum of Ontarians to get ideas about how Ontario can engage, collaborate and innovate.

The team has developed a report with recommendations based on their conversations with Ontarians. This includes ideas about how Ontario can move forward to:

- work with the public
- open up government information
- make data a public asset
- implement a sustainable plan
- The government is reviewing this advice and determining the best path forward. Stay tuned for more details.

What do you think about their recommendations?

# Meanwhile, back at the Federal Level

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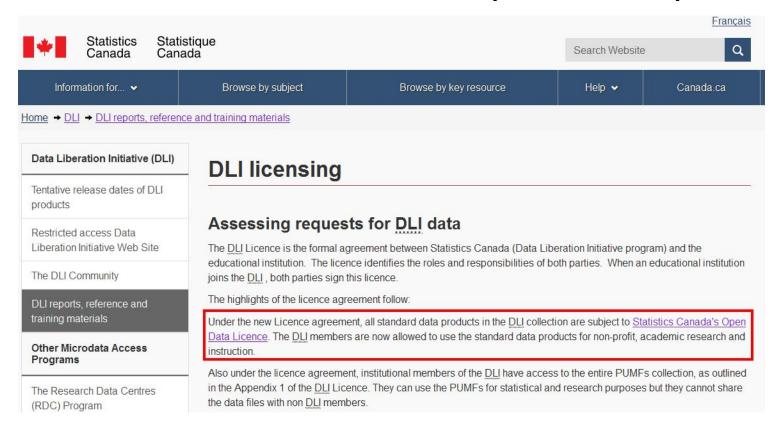
Publishing and Depository Services *used to* administer Crown Copyright and Licensing on behalf of Government of Canada departments and agencies...

# The Federal Level: Everything is confusing

In 2010, the federal government gave notice that it was establishing a licence that gave permission for non-commercial uses without the need for permission

But in 2013, this notice was removed from the Public Works and Government Services site and the announcement was made that, "as of November 18, 2013 Publishing and Depository Services no longer administers Crown Copyright and Licensing on behalf of Government of Canada departments and agencies. Should you be seeking copyright clearance for Government of Canada information, please contact the department or agency that created the information."

# The Data Liberation Initiative is open? Not open?



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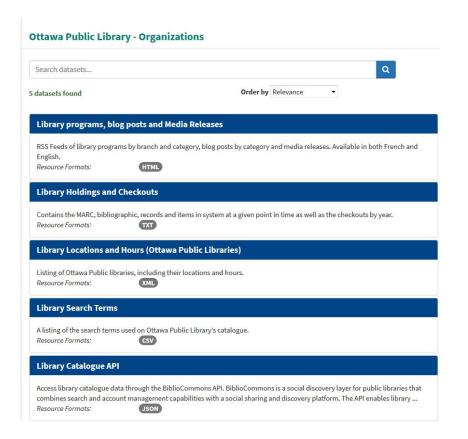
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Where Do Libraries Fit In?

# Public libraries are making their data open...





### **Open Data**

### **Edmonton Public Library's Statement on Open Data**

Edmonton Public Library's mission is "we share." In our <u>Shared Values document</u>, we assert our public role as a champion of ideas, community activators, knowledge seekers, and open to all. True to our mission and values, EPL declares our support for the open data movement and recognizes the principles of the <u>G8 Charter on Open Data</u>.

By recognizing the Charter, EPL accepts our responsibility as a public institution to work towards sharing all of our data by default, while recognising that there are legitimate reasons why some data cannot be released. Following the charter, the data we release will be:

- · high-quality, timely, comprehensive and accurate;
- · provided in plain clear language with thorough metadata, and
- · available in formats readable by both machines and people.

Additionally, we accept responsibility for sharing our technical expertise and experience with other organizations, documenting our open data standards and publishing practices online in the interest of transparency, working to increase open data literacy and encouraging citizens to unlock the value of open data.

EPL shares data through Edmonton's Open Data Catalogue and under the City's Open Government License.

### Access EPL's Open Data

. EPL Open Data in the City Open Data Catalogue

# Meanwhile, south of the border

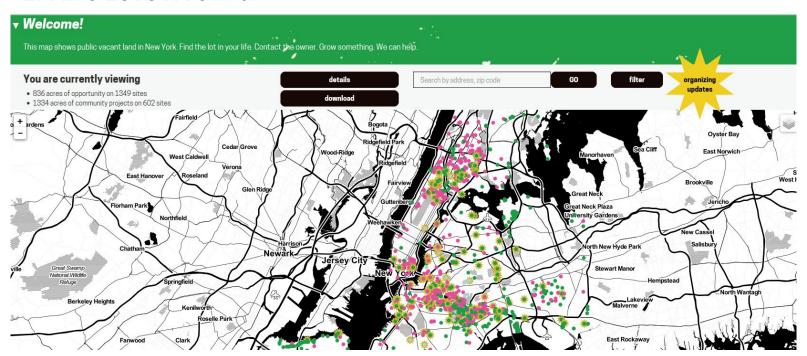
Learn More +



# How to turn the (data) tables

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# Who will host the data of nonprofits?







### **Pathway to Potential**



Pathway to Potential (P2P) is composed of a diverse group of stakeholders who collectively work to reduce...



### Ford City Neighbourhood Renewal

Ford City Neighbourhood Renewal (FCNR) is a neighbourhood improvement strategy started by the Ford City...

Powered by DKAN, a project of NuCivic

ODWE is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation



# The literacy challenge of Open Data

### eaves.ca

if writing is a muscle, this is my gym

home • about david • public speaking • publications • in the media • get in touch

June 10, 2010

### Learning from Libraries: The Literacy Challenge of Open Data

42 Replies

We didn't build libraries for a literate citizenry. We built libraries to help citizens become literate. Today we build open data portals not because we have public policy literate citizens, we build them so that citizens may become literate in public policy.

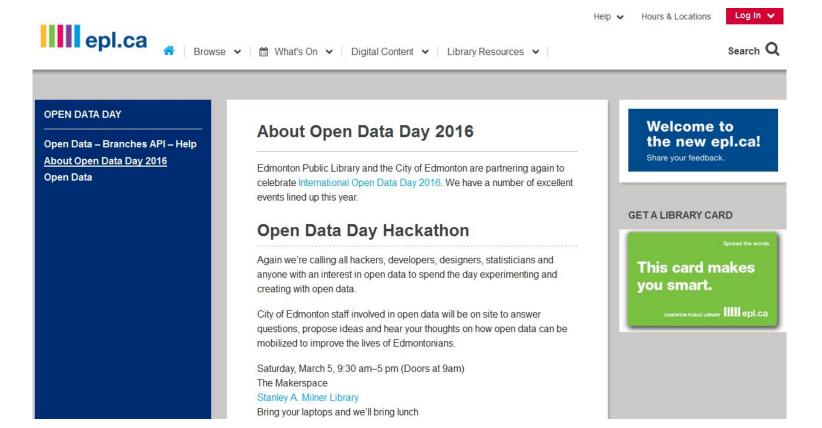
Yesterday, in a brilliant article on The Guardian website, Charles Arthur argued that a global flood of government data is being opened up to the public (sadly, not in Canada) and that we are going to need an army of people to make it understandable.

I agree. We need a data-literate citizenry, not just a small elite of hackers and policy wonks. And the best way to cultivate that broad-based literacy is not to release in small or measured quantities, but to flood us with data. To provide thousands of niches that will interest people in learning, playing and working with open data. But more than this we also need to think about cultivating communities where citizens can exchange ideas as well as involve educators to help provide support and increase people's ability to move up the learning curve.

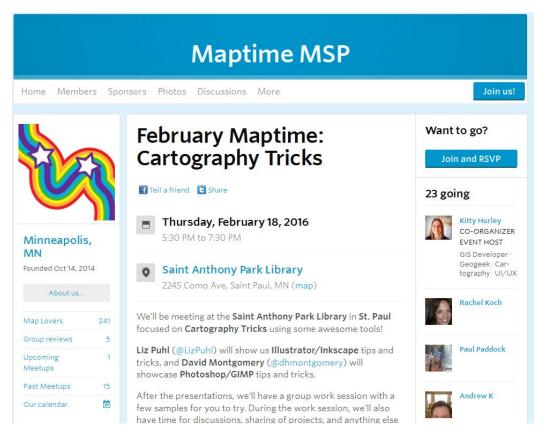
Interestingly, this is not new territory. We have a model for how to make this happen - one from which we can draw lessons or foresee problems. What model? Consider a process similar in scale and scope that happened just over a century ago: the library revolution.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, governments and philanthropists across the western world suddenly became obsessed with building libraries – lots of them. Everything from large

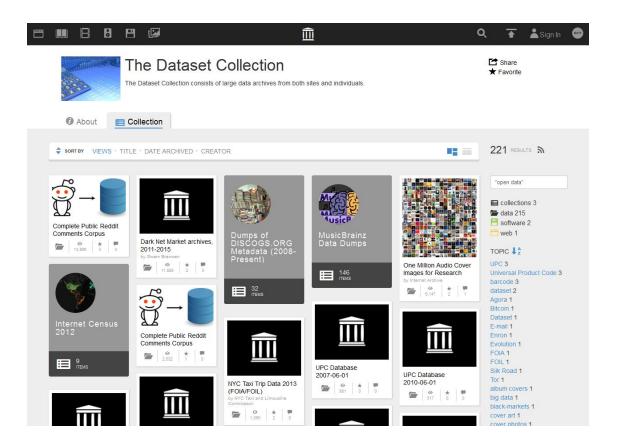
# Libraries can Support Data and Policy Literacy



# Host open data enthusiasts at your library



# Archive Open Data in the Internet Archive?



# Thank you!

Slides are available at:

https://goo.gl/Bo6yDI