

Open Data Licensing

& CKAN

opendefinition.org

“A piece of data or content is open if **anyone** is **free to use, reuse, and redistribute** it — subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike.”

Community norms

opendatacommons.org/norms/odc-by-sa/

- Share-alike
- Attribution
- Let others know that it's free and open, and where they can get it from
- Open formats
- No DRM

What is an open license?

[The Open Definition](https://opendefinition.org/) (opendefinition.org):

- **Access** - free, online, machine-readable
- **Redistribution** - sell, give away, package with other stuff
- **Reuse** - redistribute modified or derived works
- **Open file format**
- **Attribution** - use a standard license!
- **No discrimination** - e.g. non-commercial

opendefinition.org also has a [list of open licenses](#).

License vs file format

For people to be able to use data it needs to be both:

1. Open license
2. Open format
 - Open
 - Machine-readable
 - Not PDF, Excel...
 - Yes CSV, JSON, GeoJSON...

Specialized open formats for specific kinds of data.

Content licenses vs data licenses

You *should* put a license on your data, especially if it's open data:

- In most jurisdictions people need explicit permission to use data
- Even regardless, it gives clarity

What open data license?

Option 1: Use a standard, reusable license

Easiest for developers and data users:

- Don't have to read and understand lots of custom licenses
- Don't conflict with other licenses

Example: WhereDoesMyMoneyGo.org

Combined data from many sources

peterdesmet.com/posts/illegal-bullfrogs

Download 13,000 georeferenced bullfrog records from GBIF (but different sources) and plot them on a map.

- Have to read and understand 65 licenses
- Have to interpret ambiguous, non-standard licenses
- Non-commercial clauses conflict with reposting on a blog with ads
- May-not-be-repackaged and share-alike licenses cannot be combined with other data
- Need to contact 52 different institutions

ODbL

Open Knowledge recommends the [Open Data Commons Open Database License](#).

Free to: share, create, adapt

As long as you: attribute, share-alike, keep open

Option 2: Adapt a non-reusable license

Example: [UK Open Government Licence](#)

Includes lots of get-outs from liability etc.

Option 3: Write your own license

- Needs lots of money, time, lawyers
- Worst for developers and data users
- Do this only if you have specific requirements not met by any standard license

data.gov.uk/terms-and-conditions

Open Government Licence applies to all data on the site, except where otherwise noted.

Open Knowledge Foundation recommends this approach.

Title:

* **URL:**

Description:

You can use [Markdown formatting](#) here

Tags:

License:

 License definitions and additional information can be found at opendefinition.org

Organization:

Visibility:

Important: By submitting contributions under the Op

- Creative Commons Attribution
- Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike
- Creative Commons CCZero
- Creative Commons Non-Commercial (Any)
- GNU Free Documentation License

* Required field

Gold Prices in London 1950-2008 (Monthly)

Followers

0

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 License

[Open Data Commons Public Domain Dedication and License \(PDDL\)](#) 

 Dataset

 Groups

 Activity Stream

 Related

Gold Prices in London 1950-2008 (Monthly)

Monthly gold prices (USD) in London from Bundesbank.

General: 1 ounce of fine gold = 31.1034768g. Method of calculation:

- Since 1 April 1968, calculated from the daily morning fixing;
- From January 1950 to 21 March 1954, calculated using the Bank of England's gold purchasing price (1 ounce of fine = pound 12.40) in connection with the average exchange rate for the pound in New York (up to the end of 1952; source: Federal Reserve Bulletin) and, from January 1953, midpoint exchange rates for the US dollar in London (source: Financial Times (FT)).
- From 22 March 1954 to December 1959, calculated using the fixing price for gold bars of approx. 12 1/2 kg and 995/1000 fineness and over (so-called standard bars) according to data from Metallgesellschaft AG, Frankfurt am Main, in connection with the average midpoint exchange rates for the US dollar in London (source: FT).
- From January 1960 to 14 March 1968, average fixing price for standard bars as specified in the Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin.
- On 15 March 1968, fixing price suspended. Gold market split into an official (reserved for central banks) and a free market as a result of the Washington Communique of 17 March 1968. Gold trading suspended from 18 to 29 March 1968.
- Sources for daily prices: April 1968 - March 1974: FT; April 1974 - December 1980: Samuel Montagu

▼ Licenses

License Not Specified (43)

Creative Commons No... (4)

Other (Not Open) (3)

Creative Commons At... (3)

Creative Commons At... (3)

Creative Commons CC... (2)

UK Open Government ... (1)

Other (Public Domain) (1)

Open Data Commons P... (1)

Open Data Commons O... (1)

Show More Licenses

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CKAN licensing API

- Get a list of licenses ([license_list](#))
- Get the license of a dataset ([package_show](#))
- Search for datasets with certain licenses
([?q=license_id:odc-pddl, isopen:true](#))
- OpenDefinition.org also has a [licenses API](#)
(license IDs match those in CKAN)