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 (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 <u>list of open licenses</u>.

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 <u>Open Data</u> <u>Commons Open Database License</u>.

Free to: share, create, adapt As long as you: attribute, share-alike, keep open

Option 2: Adapt a non-reusable license

Example: <u>UK Open Government Licence</u> Includes lots of get-outs from liability etc.

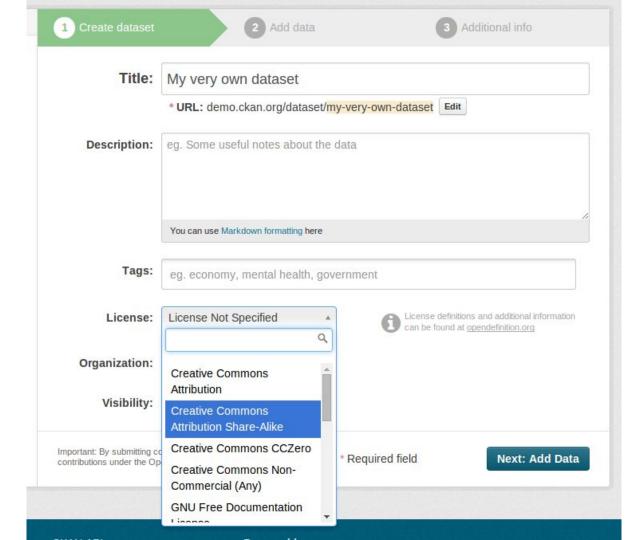
Option 3: Write your own license

- 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.



/ Datasets / Gold Prices in London ...



License (PDDL) OPEN DATA

- Dataset

Groups

Activity Stream

Pages

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

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CKAN licensing API

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