Open Data as Open Educational Resources

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Opening up Education

In education and elsewhere information has become increasingly digital and therefore potentially more accessible. We have seen the rise of parallel open or ‘opening’ movements around:

• **learning and teaching**: open educational resources and open delivery models (from OCW to OER, Open Textbooks, and lately, MOOCs)
• **research**: open access (OA) to research publications (shaking up traditional publishing models and also driving emergence of open peer review models)
• **data**: open access to government and research data (OD)

...parallel but somewhat separate?

But drives for transparency, democratisation, collaboration and the public good **interconnect these movements**

Meanwhile, educators are increasingly thinking about research-based and collaborative learning, ‘authentic’ assessment, data literacy...
The Value of Open Data

• Open data is an invaluable resource for scientific communities
• Supports and encourages more transparent research practices
• Supports scientific development and reproducibility
• Can be used to model good practices in academia for research and teaching
Where to find OD

- International agencies and organisations
  - Word Bank; United Nations; EU
- National Governments and their agencies
  - UKOD; GermanyOD; USA
- Local governments
  - Sardinia; London; Barcelona
- Non-governmental organisations
  - ODI; Nesta; Monithon
- Academic institutions and research centres
  - CERN; ESA; NASA
How can OD be used in HE?

• Collaborating with researchers in real research projects
• Collaborating with students from other disciplines
• Creating scenario-based learning activities
• Collaborating with their local communities working on real problems
Open Data for Skills Development

• Development of critical skills
• Development of analytical skills
• Development of research skills
• Development of data literacy skills
• Development of teamwork skills
• Development of citizenship skills
Questions

• Are academics embedding open data in their curriculum and if so, how?
• How are students collaborating, learning and developing quantitative and qualitative research skills by using open data in the classroom?
• How are students in Higher Education benefitting from open data?
To learn more about OD and Open Education

- Open Definition http://opendefinition.org
- Open Data Handbook http://opendatahandbook.org
- Open Education Handbook http://education.okfn.org/handbook/
- Figshare http://figshare.com
- UK Open Data Portal http://data.gov.uk
- UK HE Data Portal http://www.data.ac.uk/
- Directory of Data Repositories http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Data_repositories