

Open Access to PSI

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So far.....

- 2005-2006 - Stage 2 Report of GILF Project – Access to Government Information and OCL – An Access and Use Strategy
<http://www.qsic.qld.gov.au/>
- November 2006 – “Unlocking the Potential” at Glass House at QUT
Fitzgerald, B.F., E. Bledsoe & J. Coates. 2007, *Unlocking the Potential Through Creative Commons: an industry engagement and action agenda*, ARC Centre of Creative Industries and Innovation, August 2007, [online] available at
<<http://creativecommons.org.au/unlockingthepotential>>
- July 2007 – First National Summit – Qld Parliament House – Conference Report on the Australian National Summit on OA to PSI - <http://www.qsic.qld.gov.au/>
- Numerous presentations and submissions

People we have worked with include ...

- Dr Peter Crossman, Tim Barker, Neale Hooper, Jenny Bopp and John Cook at OESR, Qld Treasury
- Dr Anne Fitzgerald at QUT and NRW
- Steve Matheson and Wayne Richards at ABS
- David Hanna and Peter Handsaker - Victoria
- Ben Searle and Peter Holland at OSDM/GA
- Steve Jacoby and Neil Lawson at NRW
- Strong support from Dr Terry Cutler, Professor Mary O’Kane and Peter Woodgate
- And many others dedicated to a better access regime



Why are we here ...

- To establish a sensible and workable national framework/policy for OA to PSI – something I hope the Review of the National Innovation System can help us establish
- To learn from our colleagues in the EU, UK, Canada and NZ – and to hear about what the OECD is doing in this area
- *Power of Information Report (2007, UK), Participative Web (2007, OECD)*

What has changed since July 07...

- New Government and Prime Minister – Federally
- New Premiers in Queensland and Victoria
- New Treasurer in Queensland
- OA momentum has grown
- The call for better policy has grown louder
- Significant reviews are under way
- Now is an opportune time to strategically enhance access to and thereby realise the full potential of PSI



Why does it matter ?

- There is a global movement to liberate government-"owned" data sets, such as census data, environmental data, and data generated by government-funded research projects. This open data movement aims to make these datasets available, at no cost, to citizens, citizen groups, non-governmental-organizations (NGOs) and businesses. The arguments are many: such data spurs economic activity, helps citizens make better decisions, and helps us understand better who we are and where we are going as a country.
- Currently, access to government data is hampered by four main factors: i) the high cost of available data sets; ii) arbitrary decisions about availability of data sets to the public; iii) restrictive licenses; and iv) inaccessible data formats.
- Data Access in Canada: CivicAccess.ca *Tracey P. Lauriault, Hugh McGuire*



Why does it matter?

- The long-term vision is a country in which citizens, specialists, professionals, academics, community groups and even businesses can work together, developing innovative information access and visualization tools, better decision-making models, and more tools responsive to the needs of the citizens. Liberating data will spur grassroots research on important social, economic, political and technical areas, currently hampered by lack of access to and high cost of civic data. Further, we want to link the debate about data to questions of government transparency and accountability, which pivot on access to accurate, reliable, and timely data.

- **Why Free Civic Data?**

In a wider, less technical sense, "data" are what we use to make decisions, so they are a public good. We use data sets to make decisions about how we as individuals should act, and how we as a society ought to do things. All the rules that govern our societies, from agricultural practices to cooking, to our law systems and social interactions, are the result of our interpretation of the interaction between different data sets over time.

Our ability to collect, analyze and interpret these data, and to make decisions based on them, is what gives humans our particular ability to solve societal problems such as food shortages, disease infestations, and resource depletion.

- Data Access in Canada: CivicAccess.ca Tracey P. Lauriault, Hugh McGuire

