Open Data in Digital Society: Opportunities and Challenges

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“If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas.”

— George Bernard Shaw

Open science & open data:

The key features of openness (Open Knowledge International):

- Availability and access;
- Reuse and redistribution;
- Universal participation.

Source: https://okfn.org/opendata/ (19.4.2017)
Opportunities:

• Builds public domain knowledge base;
• Saves taxpayers’ money (no need to repeat the study);
• Allow verification of research results;
• Enhances development of new services;
• Facilitates cooperation;
• Creates new possibilities (e.g. TDM);
• Supports democratic processes.
Barriers to access and use:

- State, regional & international barriers:
  - Regulatory (IP & personal data protection);
  - Infrastructure (repositories);
  - Data sharing models;
- Organizational barriers (lack of support);
- Individual barriers (motivation).
Challenges:

• Quality of data (similar to OA journals);
• Conflicting policy and regulation:
  – Open data vs. personal data protection;
  – Open data vs. IP protection;
  – Open data vs. entrepreneurial university;
• Ownership of data:
  – Contractual arrangement;
  – Trade secret protection;
  – *Sui generis* database rights;
  – *De facto* ownership or data producer’s right.
Tänan