

Learning Diary

Open Data and Hacktivism

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1 INTRODUCTION

Nowadays new technologies make it possible to build services in order to answer questions. Many data are generated by public bodies in order to answer questions such as how much tax money is spent on street lights and medical research or to answer questions about the shortest and most scenic bicycle route. In today's time many data are open. This report describes what are open data, what are the policies when using open data and what kind of openness can data have.

2 PRESENTATIONS

The first presentation "Setting the open data agenda" was given by Juho Lindman. In this presentation Lindman talked about the open data agenda. The Knowledge Pyramid (see **Figure1**) shows the steps that are necessary to get knowledge of the collected data. First, we have the origins of data like population, statistics, cultural works, national identity, heritage etc. The second step is the data-information-knowledge process where the importance of the data is increased. In the third step, the so called knowledge step, decisions regarding the relevance and context of the collected data will be made. Furthermore the policy of open data in the European Union and in Finland was introduced. In Finland, there are two principles when promoting the availability and use of public sector information resources. The

first principle is that there are no fees between public sector authorities. Another principle is that the information should normally be made available free of charge.

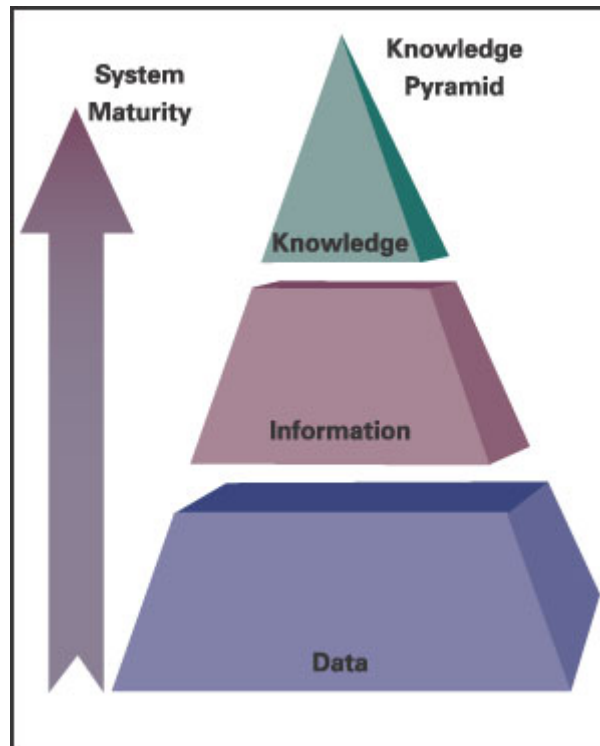


Figure 1. The knowledge pyramid (Lindman 2012)

In comparison to Finland the European Union has the following policies:

- "Creation of a genuine right to re-use public data: all public data not covered by an exception is to be re-usable (does not apply to cultural institutions)"
- "Obligation on public bodies to make their documents available in a machine-readable format and together with their metadata where possible and appropriate"
- "Charging rules are amended: charges shall be limited to the marginal costs of reproduction and dissemination (does not apply to cultural institutions). In exceptional cases public bodies may at maximum recover costs and claim a reasonable return on investment if duly justified Burden of proving compliance with charging rules shifts to public bodies."

In contrast to the European Union or the Finnish policy, the industrial policy is a complete different world because all the collected data and the gotten knowledge from them is not visible to the open world. There are three distinctions regarding the openness of data. One of them is technical openness to which belong interfaces and standards. Furthermore the contracts, copyright, privacy, data protection are parts of the legal openness. The third openness is the commercial openness to which belongs the price of access and the service design. At the end of the presentation the artefact stages in open data service were explained. (Lindman 2012.)

The second presentation was given by George Kuk with the title "The social life of open design". According to the Open Design Foundation "open design was design whose makers allowed its free distribution and documentation and permitted modifications and derivations of it". The "social innovation in design is driven by and for user-designer communities, such as Thingiverse and Shapeways". In this presentation Kuk (2012) explained how to examine the following key points:

- "What drives user-designers in open design communities to share knowledge and propagate design?"
- "How user contributions affect the social life of design artefacts?"
- "How user-designer archetypes are defined to gain deeper understanding of social innovation?"
- "What are the conditions that enable transfer of context-bound design?"

(Kuk 2012.)

Youngjin Yoo talked about "An Agenda for Engaged Scholarship for Open Philadelphia". The interesting part in this presentation were the steps that need to be done for a successful innovation. The first step is the inspiration. Another step is to find the stakeholders for this innovation. A further step is to find out about the unmet needs and their importance. In the fourth step a solution must be found and finally a decision must be made about the required resources in order to create and sustain the solution.

When developing a complex product it is important to divide it into a subsystem with clearly defined interfaces so that these subsystems can interact with each other. It is essential to consider how to apply digital technology for this product. Are networks, sensors and databases required in order to collect and save the data? (Yoo 2012.)

3 CONCLUSION

In this seminar three presentations were given. The first presentation was about "Setting the Open data Agenda" given by Juho Lindaman. "The social life of open design" was presented by George Kuk. The third presentation was given by Youngjin Yoo with the title "An Agenda for Engaged Scholarship for Open Philadelphia". We have learned a lot about open data, open design, design communities, user-designer archetypes and about an open innovation approach to urban challenges. It is to mention that this seminar was very interesting and that the audience got a lot of valuable information.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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