

OECD Recommendations on Enhanced Access to Research Data and Public Sector Information

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OECD Recommendations

- OECD Recommendation of the Council on Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding, December, 2006
- OECD Recommendation of the Council for Enhanced Access and More Effective Use of Public Sector Information – OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy, Seoul Korea, June 17-18, 2008

OECD Principles on Publicly Funded Research Data

- S&T Ministers issued a Declaration in 2004 for OECD to develop a set of guidelines to facilitate optimal cost-effective access to digital research information generated with public funding
- OECD Committee on Science and Technology Policy developed guidelines which were adopted as Recommendation by OECD Council in December 2006
- OECD Recommendations are not legally binding but have moral force

Rationale for Developing Research Data Guidelines

- Exchange of data, knowledge and ideas is fundamental to progress.
- Internet has opened up new applications for research data. Databases are rapidly becoming an essential part of the infrastructure for the global science system. Effective access to research data is needed to take full advantage of opportunities afforded by ICTs.
- Access to research data increases the return from public investment and reinforces open scientific inquiry.
- Data is increasingly used in areas beyond the original project.

Purpose of Guidelines

- Promote a culture of openness and sharing of data among the public research communities.
- Raise awareness of cost and benefits of restricting and enhancing access to data.
- Encourage governments to address access to data issues in national policies.
- Provide a commonly agreed upon framework of operational principles.
- Offer recommendations for improving international data sharing.

Definition of Research Data

- Research data supported by public funds for purpose of developing publicly accessible scientific research and knowledge. Not intended to apply to research gathered for the purpose of commercialization or research data that is property of private sector. Some data may be restricted to safeguard privacy, national security, or proprietary results. Research data is a factual record used as a primary source for scientific research.
- Research data from public funding is defined as research data obtained from research conducted by government agencies or conducted using public funding provided by any level of government.
- Nature of public funding varies from country to country.

Principles

- Openness – open access to publicly-funded research data at no more than marginal cost
- Flexibility - flexibility in data policies for diversity of research and changes in IT
- Transparency
- Share Best Practices on Data Management
- Legal Conformity – respect legal rights of stakeholders
- Protection of IP – but private participation in research should not, in of itself, be used as reason to restrict access to data
- Access arrangements should be established early in the process
- Professionalism – manage data in accordance with professional standards and codes of conduct

Access to Research Data Principles continued

- Integrity of Data
- Quality of Data
- Interoperability – technological and semantic interoperability
- Sustainability of Data Infrastructure - need to ensure that data is preserved, managed and made accessible
- Access arrangements - should be established early in the process
- Professionalism – manage data in accordance with professional standards and codes of conduct

Implementation of Guidelines

- CSTP has distributed a survey to member countries and will provide a summary of member countries' implementation of the guidelines at March CSTP meeting.
- Used as benchmark for accession countries.

OECD Recommendation on Public Sector Information

- OECD Committee for Information Computer and Communication Policy's Working Party on Information and the Economy created two documents for the creativity and innovation theme of the OECD Ministerial on the Future of the Internet –
 - Digital Content
 - Public Sector Information

Why was an OECD Recommendation on Public Sector Needed?

- Restrictive or unclear rules governing access to, and reuse of public sector information
- Perception by EU that its business community would benefit from greater access to public sector information
- Inconsistent data pricing policies for both use and reuse of public sector information
- Clarification needed on role of the public sector as producers and disseminators of public sector information

Objectives

- Develop Principles for enhanced public and private sector access to public sector information
- Increase returns on public investments and economic and social benefits from public sector information through:
 - ❖ Efficient distribution
 - ❖ Enhanced innovation
 - ❖ Development of new uses
 - ❖ Market based competition among reusers of information

Definition of Public Sector Information

- Public sector information is broadly defined for purposes of this Recommendation as “information, including information products and services, generated, created, collected, processed, preserved, maintained, disseminated or funded by or for the Government or public institution taking into account legal requirements and restrictions (IPR, privacy, security, etc.)”

Recommendation Principles

- **Openness** – Presumption of openness as the default rule regardless of the model of funding. Define limitations on access (privacy, security, IPR, confidentiality)
- **Access and Transparent Conditions for Re-Use** – Nondiscriminatory competitive access, eliminate exclusive arrangements
- **Quality** – Methodical data collection and curation practices to enhance quality and reliability
- **Integrity** – Safeguards to protect information from unauthorized modifications or denial of access
- **New technologies for long term preservation** – Interoperability, addressing challenge of long term preservation and access

Additional Provisions

- **Copyright** – Respect IPR - exercise copyright in a way that facilitates access and reuse
- **Pricing** – When not free, should not exceed marginal costs of production and maintenance. Any higher pricing should be based on sound policy grounds
- **Competition** – Promote non-exclusive arrangements and avoid unfair competition
- **Redress Mechanisms** – Provide complaint and appeals processes
- **Public/Private Partnerships**
- **International Access** – Facilitate cross-border use, strive for interoperability and compatible formats
- **Best Practices** – Share best practices and exchange information

Implementation of Recommendation on Public Sector Information

- OECD WPIE did a workshop on PSI at the Hyderabad Internet Governance Forum as part of outreach.
- PSI Recommendation is being used as part of criteria for evaluating new accession candidates at OECD (Chile, Estonia, Slovenia, Russia and Israel).
- The European Commission is considering whether to make any revisions to its EC Directive on PSI in light of OECD Recommendation – OECD is meeting with the EC on March 3, 2009 to discuss this issue.