Sumika Sakanishi
Product Manager
sumika.sakanishi@theodi.org

Amanda Smith
Community Engagement Manager
Amanda.smith@theodi.org

Open Data Certificates Mythbusters

The rights and wrongs of Open Data Certificates

'Open Data
Certificates assess the
quality of the data'
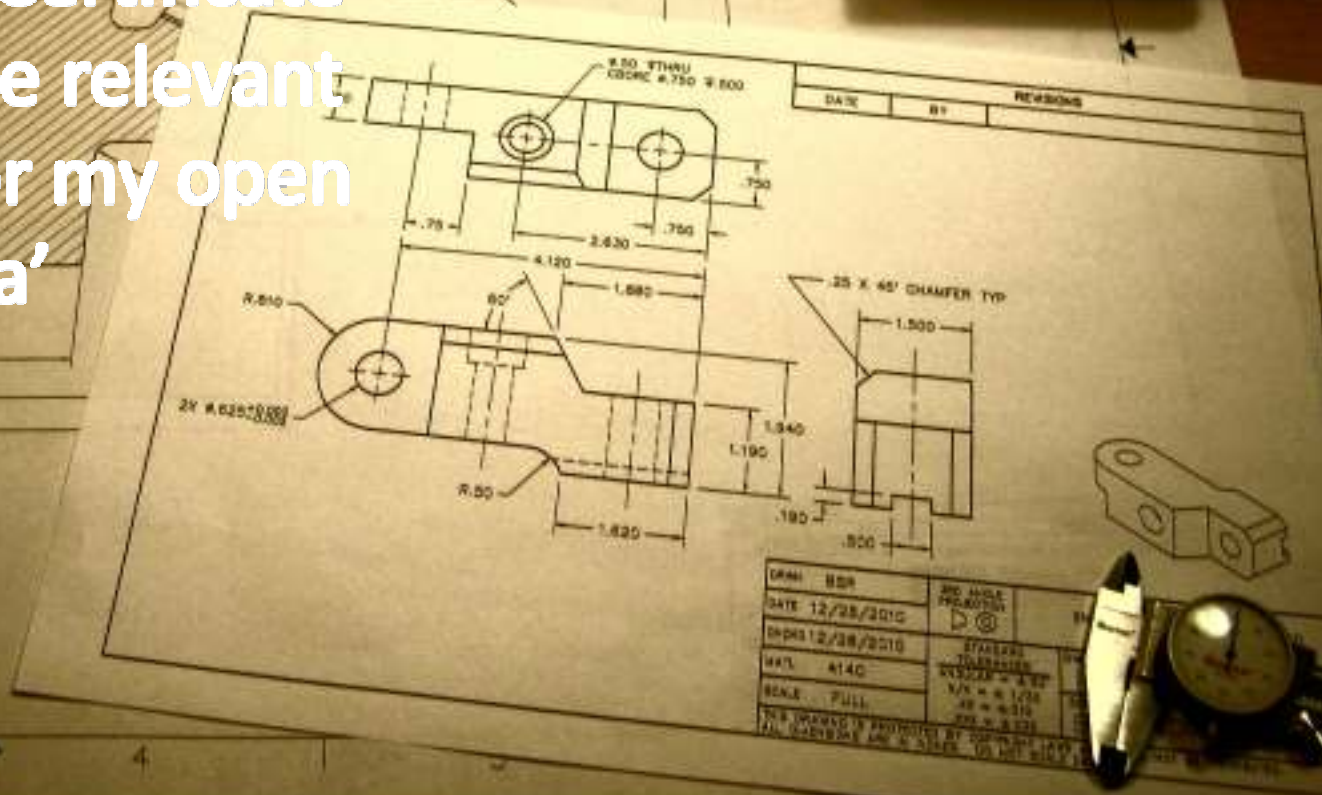
'Open Data Certificates assess the quality of the data'

Certificates assess how good your **support** is for the use of your open data

Certificates treats open data like an **information product**. It looks beyond the technical aspects and assesses how a given dataset is managed holistically 'as-a-service' – legal, practical and social.

'Open Data Certificate covers all the relevant standards for my open data'

'Open Data Certificate covers all the relevant standards for any open data'

Certificates DO NOT replace existing standards

Certificates are complimentary to existing standards, regulatory requirements and best-practice guidelines for publishing data (e.g. W3C, Open Data Handbook, TBL-5 star). Instead, certificates offers recognition for following best practice

'Certificates are for UK datasets and are not useful for my datasets'

m Berners-Lee, inventor of the web, tweeting from middle of the 2012 Olympics

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Certificates have been awarded in 36 countries and localised in 9 countries

Good practice applies to all – regardless of organisations, sectors or countries. The localisation programme specifically reviews the legal sections of the certificates so they stay relevant for each jurisdiction.

'We should aim for **Expert** certificates for ALL our open data'

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It depends...
Identify the 'value' of the dataset you are releasing first

Four sets of standards to benchmark against dependent on the 'value' of dataset; ranging from high-impact, high-value datasets to experimental datasets, make informed choice based on the ROI to open, publish and maintain the data.

'It takes too much time to certify all my datasets'

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There is an option to automatically generate certificates...

Having robust metadata for the open data will make the certification simple – you can then generate the certificates automatically.

Values

Who	Use cases
Data consumer	Find and assess suitability of open data
Policy lead	Set the bar and measure policy impact
Data portal / platform owner	Improve metadata quality Discoverability
Data owner	Recognition Creation of quick-reference sheet

Data consumer

CHALLENGE: Find suitable open data quickly

✓ Certificate = Open

✓ Certificate acts as a quick-reference sheet for each dataset

✓ Links to data, publisher and documentation

✓ Country, sector, and technology neutral

Policy lead

CHALLENGE: Setting a bar and measuring the impact

- ✓ Short-hand set of requirements to reference in policy docs
- ✓ Reference in contacts in procurement
- ✓ Framework for measuring quantity and quality

Portal & platform owner

CHALLENGE: Quality of datasets published

✓ Reports from automatic certification help identify problem areas

✓ Provides a framework for data publishers

✓ Assess the quality landscape

Data owner

CHALLENGE: What aspects of open data need improving?

✓ Interactive tool acting as a check-list

✓ Earn the badge for recognition and assurance

✓ Country, sector, and technology neutral