Does It Have to Be Open to Be Linked Data?

Margorie Hlava
President, Access Innovations
mlhava@accessinn.com

@mmkhlava

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Margorie Hlava
President, Access Innovations
mlhava@accessinn.com
@mmkhlava

Does It Have to Be Open to Be Linked Data?

- Linked Data?
- Open Data?
- Linked Open Data?

Too often, we use "Linked Open Data" as a blanket term that doesn't apply.

Does It Have to Be Open to Be Linked Data?

This depends on two things:

- Licenses/Availability
  - Is the data public?
  - Who is allowed to see it? To use it?

- Format
  - What format is it in?
  - Is it machine-readable?

Defining Terms

Open Data:

- Available on the Web under an Open License of some kind
- In a non-proprietary format
  - For example: CSV instead of Excel
- Best if structured data
  - RDF or other format
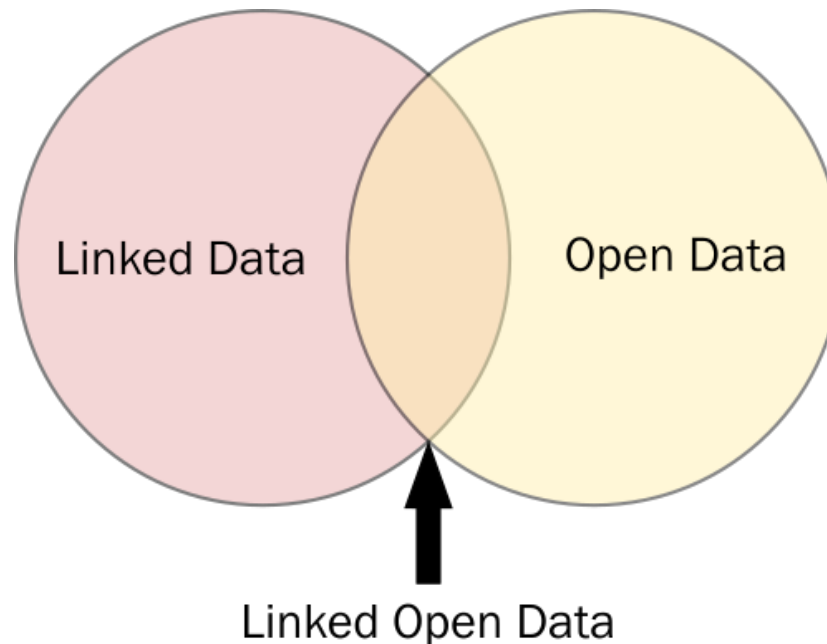 - (But usually RDF)

Defining Terms

Linked Data:

- Machine-readable
  - Usually using URIs to identify things
  - Usually in RDF
- Ideally (but not necessarily, or initially)
  - Linked to other datasets
    - Using URIs
    - Usually also in RDF
    - In a variety of relationships
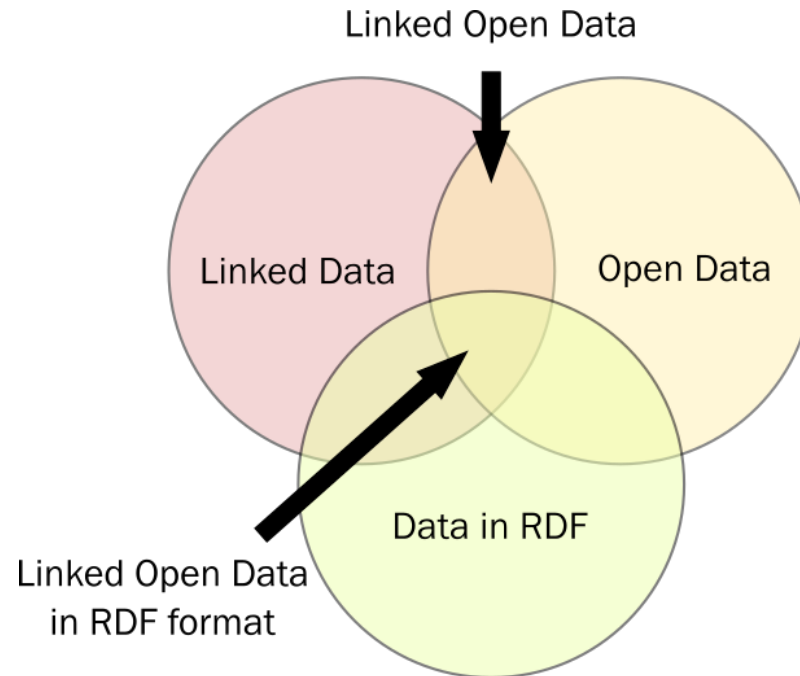   - As equivalents, subsets, classes...

Defining Terms

Linked Data meets the conditions for both categories.

Linked Open Data

Defining Terms

Most of the time we *also* mean "in RDF format" …but not necessarily!

Why?

Linked but not Open:

- Proprietary information
- Sensitive information
- Privacy concerns

- OR requires a license/permission/citation

Good reasons to have good, structured, Linked Data but not publish it on the Web or make available

Why?

Open but not Linked:

- Publicly available for use but:
    - Data "stuck" in proprietary formats
    - Datasets available for public use but not machine-readable
- Also, probably:
    - Does not use URIs to identify things

Tim Berners-Lee

★ Make your stuff available on the Web under an open license

★★ Make it available as structured data

★★★ Use non-proprietary formats

★★★★ Use URIs to denote things, so that people can point at your stuff

★★★★★ Link your data to other data to provide context

Thanks!

Any Questions?

Access Innovations, Inc.
4725 Indian School Rd, Ste. 100
Albuquerque, NM 87110
1+ 505-998-0800
www.accessinn.com
www.dataharmony.com