Does It Have to Be Open to Be Linked Data?

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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.
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?

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