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What are the open geoscience platforms, data repositories and open data trends affecting Finnish libraries?

Paikatietoikkuna (Spatial Data Window)

Finnish Forest Research Institute, Finnish Environment Institute, Geological Survey of Finland, Geodetic Institute of Finland and National and Survey of Finland provide open geographic interfaces such as the National Survey of Finland’s Paikatietoikkuna [2] service (translates into spatial data window). Paikatietoikkuna interface also provides spatial data from numerous other organizations, such as municipalities and provinces and other organizations. The service also grants its users the possibility of creating maps constructed by integrating data from many of its data providers.

Open Knowledge Project

The open platform development is very recent, as most of the latter institutions have opened significant data for discovery of open scientific data. Thus besides resources of open geoscience data, there is a myriad of other data products and interfaces, one being the Finnish Social Science Data Archive, emerging in Finland’s context.

CSC’s IDA

Outside open geoscience data, national data infrastructures are also emerging. IT Center for Science (CSC) is developing IDA service to provide a national data management solution and KATA data catalog to ease the discovery of open scientific data. Thus besides resources of open geoscience data, there is a myriad of other data products and interfaces, one being the Finnish Social Science Data Archive, emerging in Finland’s context.

INSPIRE (EU)

INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) directive came into force on 2007 and aims to create a spatial data infrastructure for the European Union. INSPIRE Geoportal [5] provides access to spatial data sets within the framework of INSPIRE directive. The INSPIRE Geoportal also provides means to edit and validate the metadata of the datasets uploaded. National Survey of Finland arranges INSPIRE related training to different interest groups.

Horizon 2020’s Open Data Pilot (EU)

As similar trends in other geos data, the forthcoming Horizon 2020 will be the European Commission’s flagship financial initiative in advancing research and innovation [6]. Horizon 2020 also sets forth the Open Data Pilot which aims to promote data sharing culture and facilitate both re-use of data and data-driven science within funded projects.

OpenAIRE, LIBRE and COAR’s joint statement (EU)

According to OpenAIRE, LIBRE and COAR’s joint statement [7], research libraries should be mobilized to support scientific communities with data management, promote established data centers and to gain a deeper understanding concerning their role with data. This will require identification and acquiring expertise and skills necessary.

NSDI (US)

In United States, The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) started in 1994. It is defined as the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. The U.S. Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) coordinated development of the NSDI Clearinghouse Network. The GeoPlatform portal (https://www.geoplatform.gov/) is operated in support of the Geospatial Platform Initiative to provide “one-stop” access to all registered geographic information and related online access services within the United States. Geographic data, imagery, applications, documents, web sites and other resources have been catalogued for discovery in this portal. Other federal government agencies, as well as state and local government agencies have also established geodata portals for spatial data sharing. To facilitate better geospatial data sharing, discovery, and reuse, standards have been established and recommended. These standards include FGDC content and metadata standards, ISO geospatial metadata standard, and a series of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards. These standards ensure data from different providers to be shared and discovered on a common platform.

How could Finnish libraries promote these emerging platforms and repositories to citizen science audiences?

For the emerging open platforms, there is a myriad of possible user groups, ranging from scientists to institutions and to the public. The vision is clear: to create a platform suitable for connecting the myriad user groups with various open platforms and data repositories. Deriving from their tradition of creating learning opportunities outside formal academic training, Finnish libraries could promote collaborative learning, co-creation and combining open data resources in new innovative ways.

As to concrete means of providing discovery services and enhancing the learning of different patrons groups, new technologies offer possibilities. Mobile devices allow the design of location specific customized portals, see [8], that provide customized collection of different geo- and open data portals, such as the Paikatietoikkuna interface, and thus increase the visibility of these resources within the library’s patron community. The content management system used in the portals at Aalto University Library also allows open participation in content creation, and thus enables patrons to contribute to the knowledge base of the library and to share open data related information.

How international library collaborations enhance national level data advocacy?

The collaboration between Aalto University Library and Purdue University is an asset to both organizations. Even though the contexts of the organizations differ through e.g. different national policies and data infrastructures, there is much to be gained from exchanging best practices and information about the open data movements of different continents. As the benefits of international collaborations could be described as follows, we encourage university libraries to pursue them.

- The synergy of sharing different trends in different continents
- The synergy of exchanging information about open geoscience platforms and data repositories
- The synergy of exchanging information about learning environment development
- Purdue has utilized Data Curation Profiles (DCP) with Jake Carlson as means of data collection which can be applied at Aalto University data needs assessments.

www.datacurationprofiles.org

References


