

Solving with Open

Building permanent capacity in
the nonprofit sector through the
application of open data

who am i?

1999 — free & open software, community
wifi

2004 — open data

2010 — launched [Ajah](#)

2014 — launched [PoweredbyData](#)

My working definition of the nonprofit sector includes:

- funders (inc. government, foundations, corporate & individual donors)
- regulatory bodies
- beneficiaries / clients
- policy analysts & academics

Many problems related to an underdeveloped information infrastructure (see [Markets for Good](#))

- investment decisions (funding)
- effective policy levers
- planning (all levels: individual org, regional & national)
- collaboration & learning (between orgs)
- etc.

There is not one question or problem.

There are many questions and problems.

It is important to understand that one tool or dataset can not solve all of them.

Open data is the ~~best~~ only way to allow for multiple simultaneous approaches to multiple problems.

In regards to nonprofit data:

Canada > USA > most other countries
(preliminary research)

- Canada : detailed tax forms (T3010) w/ grants, machine readable, w/ open data. Also, all federal grants to non-profits (>2005) and a lot of provincial grants.
- USA has detailed tax forms (990) but not machine readable.
- Other countries: much less detailed tax forms.

However, no common, international understanding of shared data problems.

Examples of focus are shortsighted:

- Canada = national survey of non-profits
- USA = “liberating” 990 tax form
- UK = foundation data

What's missing?

A blueprint for the necessary information infrastructure for a more effective non-profit sector.

“What datasets, accounting and publication standards, licences, and intermediaries are required to answer necessary questions?”

To do:

Build a common vision across nation-states will let us collaborate to build common tools, and work together to improve individual elements, their interoperability, and their applications.

Demo time (our applications based on gov data):

- [Fundtracker](#) - for domestic fundraisers and EDs.
- [Charity Aid](#) - documenting foreign aid (beyond [IATI data](#)).
- [Landscape](#) - mapping / collaborating
- Funder collaboratives ([CEGN](#), [Philanthropic Foundations Canada](#), [The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples](#))
- There's (many) more by others: ratings, application forms, online donations, etc.

Opportunity to leapfrog

Other pieces of the puzzle:

- [360 giving](#) - to encourage and standardize the publication of grant making data
- [Open Referral](#) - to encourage and standardize the publication of community resource information.
- [Open Contracting Data Standard](#) - to standardize government procurement information

Each of these have specific, important applications for the non-profit sector.

@mlenc

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www.poweredbydata.org