



OKhub.org

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What is the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub?

The Oriel Open Knowledge Hub is an Open Data platform for sharing and downloading digital content about development. The hub is different from other Open Data initiatives. Existing digital divides could be recreated in an Open Data environment so a key aspect of the hub's design is to raise the profile of diverse perspectives on development, paying particular attention to content from the South.

The Oriel Open Knowledge Hub can be linked to other Open Knowledge initiatives and its aim is to improve the supply and accessibility of content that supports evidence-informed policy making and practice by development actors. The hub is mainly being developed in collaboration with a range of organisations based in developing countries. It is anticipated that through peer support and shared learning, IDS and its partners will increase their capacity to engage and innovate with Open Data and Open Content.

How is the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub funded?

The Oriel Open Knowledge Hub is an output of the Global Open Knowledge Hub (GOKH) project, an IDS programme funded by DFID from April 2013 to April 2016. Additional funding will be sought to support the ongoing delivery of the hub and we welcome interest from funders.

Is the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub a website?

The Oriel Open Knowledge Hub is not a website or a portal, like Eldis.org, or a search engine, like Google, but it is a free online service for people who want to share and access Open Content about development. Once launched, anyone will be able to access the content through an Open API (a simple technology that acts as an "access key"). They can then use a range of simple tools, or develop their own, to present any of the content on their own websites and tailor it to their own audiences and contexts.

What kind of content will be in the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub?

The Oriel Open Knowledge Hub is primarily a database of open-licensed metadata (bibliographic data and links) about research documents, organisations, and other materials. For example, the content Eldis is contributing includes the titles, URLs, abstracts, keywords, etc, of the research publications that it summarises on its website. Libraries could contribute their catalogue records about journal articles that are available online. We aim to minimise barriers to participation. Contributors will be asked to ensure their metadata meets minimum quality and format standards; is lawful and respectful to others. →



Who can add content to the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub?

Three of the knowledge and information services managed by IDS – British Library for Development Studies (BLDS), Eldis and BRIDGE – will be contributing to the hub. They will be joined by partners and others who have relevant material and are committed to making this available as Open Content. Organisations who share the goal of raising the profile of Southern perspectives on development will be particularly encouraged to contribute their content.

What are the benefits and costs of using the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub?

There is no charge to access or contribute to the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub. Through the GOKH project, a small amount of funding has been made available to help Southern organisations to participate in the hub's development. Additional funding will be sought to build on this.

Contributors to the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub will increase the opportunities for new audiences to discover their content. By its very nature, use of Open Data is hard to monitor, the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub partners will be working together to develop appropriate metrics to be able to report on usage and impact.

Users of the Oriel Open Knowledge Hub will have easier access to a diverse range of content on development, which they will be able to use to improve the quality of the services they offer. It is anticipated that this will also reduce the time they need to spend sourcing and summarising individual documents.

What is Open Content and Open Data?

The Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF) definition of Open Data or Open Content is: “A piece of content or data is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it – subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike.”

(<http://opendefinition.org/> accessed 01/08/2013).

The Oriel Open Knowledge Hub adheres to the OKF definition and is building on this to:

- Make the content searchable and linked across multiple contributing content sources.
- Make it accessible by computer systems by organising and labelling the content which makes it easier to use.

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