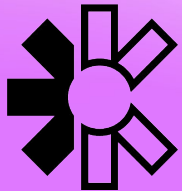


Updating the Open Definition to meet the challenges of today

Wikimania Singapore

August 2023



Open Knowledge

FOR A FAIR, SUSTAINABLE AND OPEN FUTURE

okfn.org

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What is the Open Definition



The Open Definition sets out principles that define «**openness**» in relation to data and content.

Summary:

Open means anyone can freely access, use, modify, and share for any purpose (subject, at most, to requirements that preserve provenance and openness).

<https://opendefinition.org/od/2.1/en/>



What is the Open Definition



The definition was first published in **2005** by Open Knowledge and is maintained by an Advisory Council of experts. In **2015** version 2.1 was released.

It was translated into 41 languages by volunteers, found its way to Wikipedia, and became a standard for open database licensing, influencing state and city policy, academia, and beyond.

<https://opendefinition.org/od/2.1/en/>



What does «open» mean today?



Since 2015, conversations about «open» have **expanded in geography and complexity.**

There is a new generation of thinkers, academics and activists, with an agenda that addresses issues that were not fully discussed or covered during the early days of the open movement, such as **data extractivism, digital colonialism, economic, racial and gender violences, intersectional inequalities, climate justice, etc.**

<https://opendefinition.org/od/2.1/en/>



What does «open» mean today?



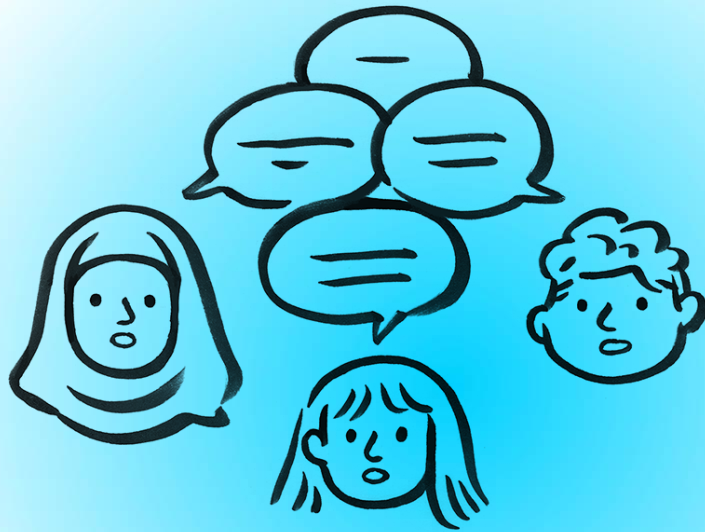
Since 2015, there has also been an accumulation of **new technologies** that challenge the concept of «open». Examples of new ambiguities:

- **Intellectual property of medicines** of public interest post COVID-19
- **Blockchain technologies**, supposedly based on open principles
- **Artificial intelligence (AI)**, which often bases its learning models on data trained or created by others.
- And many more...

<https://opendefinition.org/od/2.1/en/>



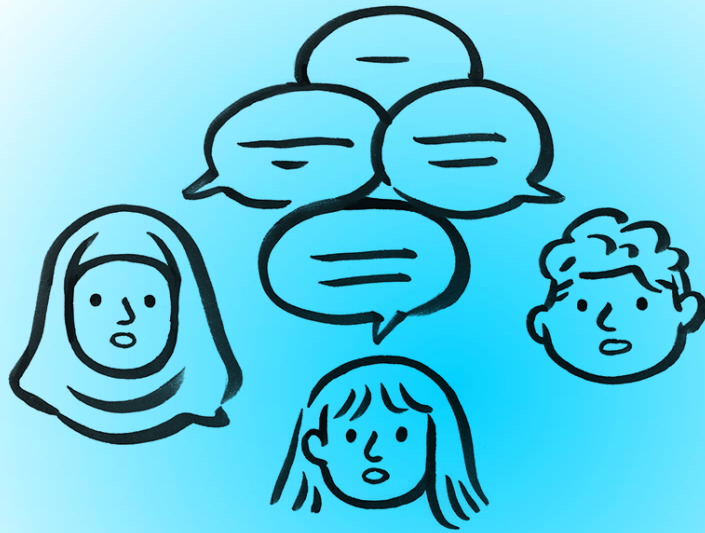
What is this workshop about?



- **We want to listen and learn** from the communities here.
- **We want to rethink** the concept of «open» for current generations and broaden the consensus around the definition – this implies an active process of inclusion and diversity.
- **We want to understand** the main points of interest and the points that deserve more attention.
- **We want to collect** suggestions on how to redefine the governance of the project in a way that generates a broad and diverse consensus.



What is this debate about?



Examples of what we can discuss:

- What is **missing** in the definition
- What is **incomplete** in the definition
- What needs **clarification**
- **Problematic words** and even what should **not be changed**, etc
- **Examples of abuse** of the concept «open» (openwashing) and how to mitigate them
- Different meanings of «open» for **different cultures**
- How the definition can be **useful** in current times



Step 1

Getting familiar

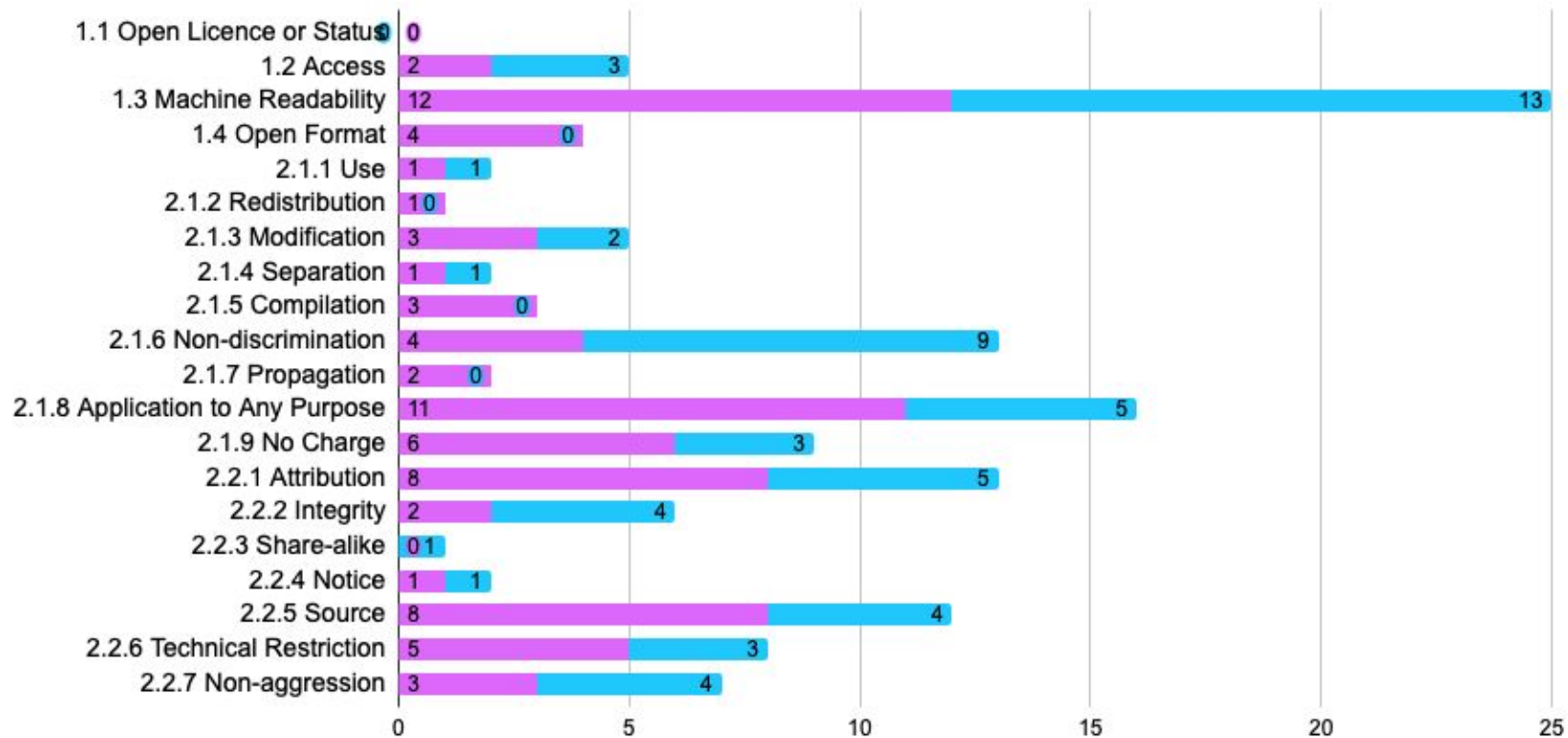
In the last workshop we held in Costa Rica, participants indicated which are the Open Definition **topics that most deserve to be revised**, as shown in the next slide.

For today's session, we will be discussing the **top 6**.

[The complete session documentation can be found here.](#)



■ Stickers ■ Comments



Step 2

Working groups

Now let's break into rooms to discuss each topic. Each group will have a maximum of **6 people**.

If you're on Zoom, you can choose the room you want to join. If there are more than 6 people, our team will randomly re-accommodate you.

If you are in Singapore, our on-site facilitators will coordinate the division into groups. It is not a problem if there is more than one group dedicated to the same Open Definition article.



Step 2

Working groups

Let's all use the same etherpad to document the discussions.

<https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/open-definition-wikimania>

Each group should elect:

- a **notetaker** to write down what is discussed on the etherpad
- a **rappporteur** to summarise the discussion later for the main group

You will have 15 minutes for discussion.

Ready? Steady? Go!



Step 3

Reporting back

Welcome back and thank you everyone!

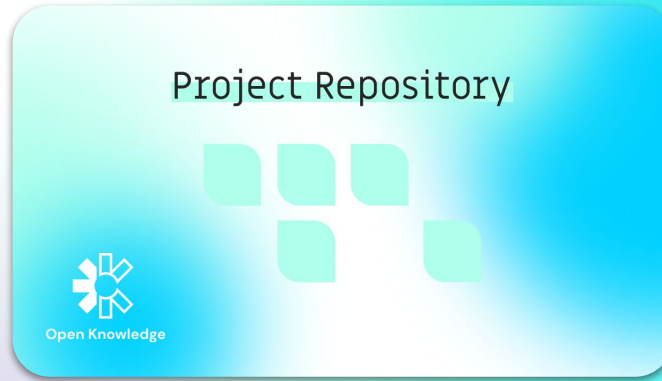
Now it's time to report what was discussed.

Each group rapporteur has **3 minutes** to tell the main group the main topics, the agreements and disagreements and make a conclusion.



Open Knowledge Network

- Connecting those in the open movement
- +40 countries
- A common vision: to unlock information, to create and share knowledge



Thank you!



Ways to join the conversation:

- Discussion Forum – discuss.okfn.org
- Website – opendefinition.org
- Newsletter – okfn.org/newsletter
- Hashtag **#OpenDefinition** on Twitter, Mastodon and LinkedIn.



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