

7 CONTRIBUTORS

9 *Foreword* – JEAN-PIERRE CHAMOIX, JOUMANA BOUSTANY21 *Access and reuse of open data: state of practices in France*
JOUMANA BOUSTANY

This article outlines current practices in France about opening of public data from the 1970s until today. It is an empirical work based on different available resources on this subject. This study concludes that even though France was the third country in the world to adopt a law on the freedom of information access; it has so far not ratified the Convention on access to official documents of the Council of Europe. Despite the opening of the platform *data.gouv.fr* and the actions of several local governments, the number of data sets available is still minimal and challenges remain.

39 *The pricing of public sector information in France*
DENIS BERTHAULT, BERNARD MARX

In order to maximize the emergence of a digital industry in France thanks to the reuse of public sector information, action have been taken to estimate the size of this new market and to identify the key issue that could slow down its growth. One of the most important issues is whether public holders are charging for reuse of data. Charging vary from gratis to high numbers, depending on what lies behind the “marginal cost” definition. The “open data” movement is eager to demonstrate that zero cost is the best way to reduce public expenses and to stimulate the development of innovation via companies that will, at the end, generate new players paying more taxes and hiring employees. But the economic turn-down, the lack of incremental

budget and the need of investments of the public sector to provide data of a sustainable quality drives the authors to adopt a less radical vision. If open data is the target, they encourage to find other paths to develop the reuse of public sector information to leverage this new industry.

- 57 *Is free access shuffling the deck?
New perspectives about geographic data*

MATTHIEU NOUCHER, PIERRE GAUTREAU

Open and public spatial data are a good summary of current territorial knowledge. Hence, from urban database of the 70's to open data today, the last forty years have led to significant spatial data production and diffusion. This article identifies emerging concepts (crowdsourcing, open data) associated to these recent developments and put them into their context. This renewed perspective of public spatial data, supported by the example of local biodiversity, offers an entry to the issues of free flow of public data and their collaborative potential.

- 85 *Open data and open cartography: around the case of Montpellier*

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PLANTIN, JÉRÉMIE VALENTIN

This article presents various interactions between *OpenStreetMap* and an administration releasing its data. OSM is simultaneously a geographic database and a community of members: an administration can then use OSM to create a community of actors and eventually foster the use of these data. Moreover, new relations emerge between OSM and an administration, eg. monitoring released data or improving traditional geographic practices and tools. Multiple OSM contributions will be illustrated by the case study of the Montpellier open data service.

- 111 *Web access to radioactivity measurements: a case study*

GABRIELLA SALZANO

This research analyzes the French national network monitoring radioactivity (RNM) which aims to increase transparency and quality in this complex area. RNM opened its public website in February 2010. Our approach combines humanities and social sciences (understanding information's issues and democratic debates) as well as computers sciences (engineering evolutions of information systems). Based on the analysis of institutional and national platforms, reports and interviews it highlights the French specificities

174 Les cahiers du numérique – n° 1/2013

on nuclear information, analyses the RNM information system and releases tracks for other platforms providing health related public data.

133 *Public water supply and sanitation services: a case study*

MARIE-JOËLLE KODJOVI

Based upon an original academic economic research this paper deals with implementation of the 17 July 1978 law n°78-753 on water and sanitation services. From a new institutional economics perspective, it investigates how users can emulate “fire alarm” and questions its efficiency. The empirical analysis, based on interviews of users, shows that without some other laws related to the information and participation of users, this device would be insufficient.

147 *Data.bnf.fr., an open data application at the French National Library*

MAXIME BARRÉ

A bird’s view on the French National Library approach to open data systems to improve reference and access systems to Library contents

153 *Public data, common heritage?*

JEAN-PIERRE CHAMOIX

French and other public administrations progressively considered data stored in their archives as a resource able to improve their resources. At an earlier stage (1975-85) the French State administrations accepted some limited paying access to some of their data. Many public bodies took advantage of the then popular *télématique kiosk* system to raise revenues through data public access. More recently, the 2003 EU directive on “Public information” access introduced a paradigm shift : open access to administrative data is now the rule instead of an exception as it was before. This paper overviews this change and suggests that a wider and freer access to administrative data meets the economic and social interest of the public at large and eventually may stir the economy.

172 Summary/Abstracts