Open Culture Documentation

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Contents

The goal of this website is to raise awareness of what Open Culture is and provide ways that you can get involved in specific areas.

Consider contributing to this *Open Source* project here

CHAPTER 1

What is Open Culture

''Open Culture" is a concept according to which knowledge should be spread freely and its growth should come from developing, altering or enriching already existing works on the basis of sharing and collaboration, without being restricted by rules linked to the legal protection of intellectual property. In the context of globalization, the consequence is that all citizens should have equal access to information.

Why Open Culture

Open Culture enables people to work together to create innovative solutions to problems. Open Culture can attribute to GPS, medicine, software, most of the internet, and so much more. Open Culture practices these core values:

Collaboration Open Culture projects allow many people to work towards a goal, even people who are not connected to a particular company or organization.

Innovation Open Culture projects create the future. Society would not be where it is today if Open Culture hasn't invented things like the internet.

Transparency Open Culture is open, the goal is to not give full control of the project to a small group of people but allow others to see and participate in the development of the project.

Community Open Culture projects go beyond just the project and create avenues for like minded people to fellowship with each other.

Types

3.1 Open Computing

3.1.1 What is Open Computing

Open Computing combines computing resources such as CPS's or GPU's to perform complex calculations. These different computing resources can be distributed within a data center or to individual homes. Open Computing helps researchers solve complex problems in math, science, cryptography, and even art.

3.1.2 How to get involved

Resources

- List of Open Computing Projects

One way to get involved in Open Computing is to donate the use of your computer's resources while you are not using it. There are several projects listed in the *Resources* section which you can use to look more into a particular project you might wish to be a part of.

3.2 Open Source

3.2.1 What is Open Source

Open Source is one of the biggest parts to Open Culture. While a lot of different projects might call themselves "Open Source" the official definition is the software's original source code is made freely available and may be redistributed and modified.

Open Source software is used, at somepoint up the ladder, to make virtually everything people use today. It is the backbone of the internet, and most other software has to use components of Open Source to function.

3.2.2 How to get involved

Use Open Sourced Software

> **Resources**
>
> - Open Source Alternatives

Whenever you are looking for a new software consider using Open Sourced software. Open Source sofware often has the benifit of being more secure, stable, and easy to find helpful resorces.

Contribute to Development

> **Resources**
>
> - Open Source Guide
> - GitHub
> - Gitlab

Contributing to Open Source can be a daunting experience. The Open Source part of Open Culture is by far the most complex. One of the hardest parts is finding a place to start. Resources like GitHub allow anyone to publish code online and allows others to contribute upon other's work. There are many more ways to contribute to Open Source but GitHub is by far the easiest for a new developer or someone new to Open Source.

A great resource it this Open Source Guide which guides you into selecting and working with GitHub and finding a particular project to get started with.

3.3 Open Design

3.3.1 What is Open Design

Open Design is the application of open source methods to the creation of physical products, machines and systems. The benifit of Open Design is lower cost for product developent and faster innovation of new products. Open Design has the possiblilty to provide low cost products in developing countries, or for the realization of projects too ambitious for the resources of one company or country.

3.3.2 How to get involved

> **Resources**
>
> - Thingiverse

> - Instructables
> - List of open hardware projects

Open Design involves publishing and using other people's designed. Websites like Thingiverse exists as a collection of 3D printable designs and Instructables a collection of tutorials and designs for all sort of projects. One way to contribute to the Open Design movement is to contribute designs to these websites.

3.4 Open Content

3.4.1 What is Open Content

For as long as humanity has existed, we have shared cultural works: art, songs, stories, and so on. These works historically existed in the commons – a collection of materials shared amongst the public and members of the community. Today, however, access to these materials is often restricted by copyright law or by physical barriers

3.4.2 Ways to get involved

Resources

- Wikipedia
- Creative Commons
- Open Content Licenses
- Open Content Search

Two of the biggest proponents of Open content are the Wikipedia and Creative Commons orginiations. To get involved in the Open Content movement you can either improve existing works or publish new works. Improving open content usually takes the form of written works. Wikipedia is the largest collection of written Open Content and allows anyone to improve it. If you would like to contribute to a particular page that you have knowledge about Wikipedia has a tutorial on how to get started.

If you are not much of a writer, other creative works can also be considered Open Content. These can be music, art, photographs, ect... Most media publishing websites have an option to choose a license for the media. By choosing an Open Content License you can let others use your work for their own use, withen bounds of the particular license, which may for example require them to accredit you for the work.

3.5 Open Science

3.5.1 What is Open Science

Open science is the movement to make scientific research (including publications, data, physical samples, and software) and its dissemination accessible to all levels of an inquiring society, amateur or professional. Open science is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks. It encompasses practices such as publishing open research, campaigning for open access, encouraging scientists to practice open notebook science, and generally making it easier to publish and communicate scientific knowledge.

A video can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yspZkJQ2KLE

3.5.2 How to get involved

Resources

- Open Science Framework
- Center of Open Science
- Open Science News
- Open Science Radio
- openscience.org
- Foster Open Science
- Open Science – Eurpoean Union

Being an open scientist means you make as much of your research available to the public. This can take the form of blogs, or making presentations, etc. Open Science Framework has a resource to create opensource notebooks and allows for collaboration with others.

3.6 Open Data

3.6.1 What is Open Data

Open Data is as defined by the Open Definition:

> Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone – subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike.

Common benefits of open data include:

- Transparency
- Releasing social and commercial value
- Participation and engagement

3.6.2 How to get involved

Resources

- wikidata.org
- opendatahandbook.org
- List of Data Portals

Using Open Data

Using Open Data has many economic benefits, studies have found that the economic value of Open Data is tens of billions of dollars (USD). Companies and organizations have used this data to create new products that harness the Open Data that others have released.

Open Data can be incorporated into your organization or company to reduce the cost of research and development, and helpful in many other ways.

Publishing Open Data

Another way that you can get involved in Open Data is by releasing your own data to the public. If your data is geographically specific, e.g. concerning a specific country or providence you should contact the owner of the particular data set to request access to upload your data to their database. To find the appropriate data portal for the country or providence your data would match with this organization created a list of data portals per country

If your data is not central to a particular country or providence there are other data portals that are not geocentric. One of the largest of these being wikidata.org which has a guide to publishing data set here.

3.7 Open Government

3.7.1 What is Open Goverment

Open Government is the idea that citizens have the right to access the documents and proceedings of the government to allow for effective public oversight. Open Government allows more people to work together to hold the government accountible. In our era of extreme political polarization and fake news people need ways to hold governments accountable.

See also:

Open Government is closely connected to *Open Data*. Most Governments work openly through there Open Data portals.

3.7.2 How to get involved

Resources

Global

- Open Goverment Partnership
- OECD – Open Government

United States

- Code.gov
- Data.gov
- State.gov

Europe

- Open Goverment Partnership – EU
- EU Open Government
- European Commission – Open Government

Open Government is one of the hardest areas to get involved. Because governments are all different you may have to research specifically for your country. On the side, there are a few links to a couple of popular Open Government websites.

Another way to get involved is by advocating the importance of Open Government in your local Country/Providence.

3.8 Open Computing

Open Computing is the idea that computational resources can be used through the idea of distributive computing to accomplish a harder goal.

3.9 Open Source

Open source refers to software whose code which it was made from can be viewed, copied, and modified by others.

3.10 Open Design

Open Design is the idea that the resources for the production of products are shared with others.

3.11 Open Content

Open Content refers to creative works (music, art, films, literary) that are available in "source code" allowing others to use and/or modify them.

3.12 Open Science

Open Science is the idea that scientific research should be accessible to all levels of an inquiring society, amateur or professional

3.13 Open Data

Open Data is the idea that raw information that is collected should also be provided to be browsed and used by others.

3.14 Open Government

Open Government is the idea that citizens have the right to access the documents and proceedings of the government to allow for effective public oversight.