

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- THE PINK ELEPHANT ON STAGE WITH OPEN DATA

PRESENTED BY

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OPEN KNOWLEDGE

I DO ART - TODAY

- Intention
- **Desired Outcome**
- Agenda
- **Rules & Roles**
- Time



INTENTION

Co-Explore the status and future of
Freedom of Information and its
relation to Open Data in Public Sector

DESIRED OUTCOME

New perspectives and idea of a user-based designs for interactions with Freedom of Information



AGENDA

- OPEN KNOWLEDGE SWEDEN
 - HISTORY OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)
 - NOW
 - FOI PLATFORMS
 - FRÅGASTATEN.SE
 - POSSIBLE FUTURES



RULES & ROLES

- Engage!
- Co-Explorers



TIME

11.00 – 11.45





OPEN
KNOWLEDGE
SWEDEN

Voluntary organization acting to make knowledge
& Open Data accessible

HISTORY – WHY FOI?

- Enlightenment & Status
- Democratic Foundation
- Accountability - Scrutiny of the Systems of Power
- Learning - Ability to learn from the past



NOW

- Internet
- E-mails & telephone
- Non-public disclosure
- Lots of manual work – dedicated employees
- Time consuming
- Legislative worsening (warnings from experts in Sweden)



OPEN DATA – HALLELUJAH!(?)

- The new and attractive focus
- (Open) raw data vs PDFs (and other closed formats)
- Ability to analyse



OPEN DATA CHALLENGES

- Complexity vs competence
- Organizational adaptation
- Press conference metaphor



FOI CHALLENGES

- Public Sector Knowledge
- Lots of manual work
- Publicity & Secrecy Act
- Spammers



FOI PORTALS



“worldmap” by mySociety at <http://alaveteli.org/assets/img/worldmap.svg>



OPEN KNOWLEDGE

FOI PORTALS – /tmp/heroes?

Strengths

- Requests & responses published publicly*
- Helps users
- Opens up the process

Opportunities

- Open-Source
- Data-empowering people and organizations

Weaknesses

- No well-functioning business model (yet)
- Fast-moving codebases
- Symptom treatment

Threats

- Possibility of Disclosing citizens' private data*
- Requires moderators – another layer of censorship



Question
("request") ?

Alaveteli website
https://foi.example.com

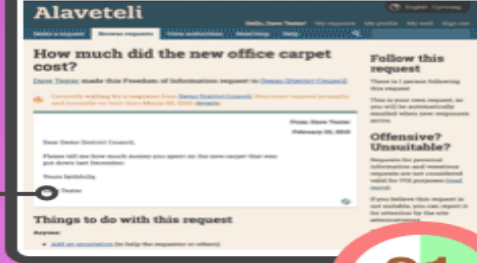
Citizen
using web browser



Select authority

Make request

Publish request



21 days

tracks time taken to respond

Publish response

Annotations

More responses

Alaveteli creates a unique email address for each request

From:
1234xyz@foi.example.com

request emailed to authority

Answer
("response") !

Authority Information officer

using email



response simply sent as email reply

To:
1234xyz@foi.example.com

request marked as "successful", etc.

updates emailed to requestor

Search engines



ALAVETELI

- By MySociety
- Debian / Ubuntu
- Ruby & Ruby on Rails
- PostgreSQL
- Mailcatcher, New Relic, Xapian, Phusion (Apache), thin (nginx)
- Deployed in 20+ countries
- Functions



FROIDE

- Python Rewrite of Alaveteli by Open Knowledge Germany
- Deployed in Germany, Austria and Finland
- Technical
 - Debian or Ubuntu with Vagrant via bare or Heroku
 - PostgreSQL
 - Nginx & Django
 - Rabbitmq
 - Celery
 - Haystack
 - Whoosh / Elasticsearch
 - Tastypie, taggit, floppyforms, overextends, magic



WHATDOTHEYKNOW.COM

- MySociety
- Running since 2011
- 300 000 Freedom of Information requests
- 20-25 % of all requests done through
- Open Society Foundation & Hivos Foundation



FRÅGASTATEN.SE

- Grant by VINNOVA
- Project from May 2015 to May 2016
- Team
- Translation
- Configuration
- Demo



FUTURE

- Blue Ocean
- No single authority or group of authorities working on this.
- No digital agenda about how to solve the situation.



FUTURE - CHALLENGE

- Increased amounts of Information
- Inaccessible closed formats
- Controllers of the Past



SCENARIOS

- Protokollen.net by Jplusplus.se
- IoT-solution
- DCAT-AP Standard for Metadata



SOLARIE

- Karl Wettin a.k.a. Kodapan 'Solarie' with Helsingborg
- User search interface
- <https://github.com/Helsingborg/solarie>



Questions, comments, advice! Go!



OPEN KNOWLEDGE

Thank you!

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