

Panel discussion on 'Place-names as Open Data'.

What would a workshop on 'Place-names as Open data' contain?

1. What is Open Data and how it makes sense in onomastic research (10 minutes)
Peder Gammeltoft
2. Guest panellist (10 minutes) 'Open data in a wider context'
3. Panel Discussion (30 minutes)
 - Emily Lethbridge
 - Peder Dam (Guest participant)
 - Alexandra Petrulevich
 - Elin Pihl
 - Kristina Neumüller
 - Daniel Nyangweso
 - Peder Gammeltoft (Moderator)
4. Conclusion (10 minutes)

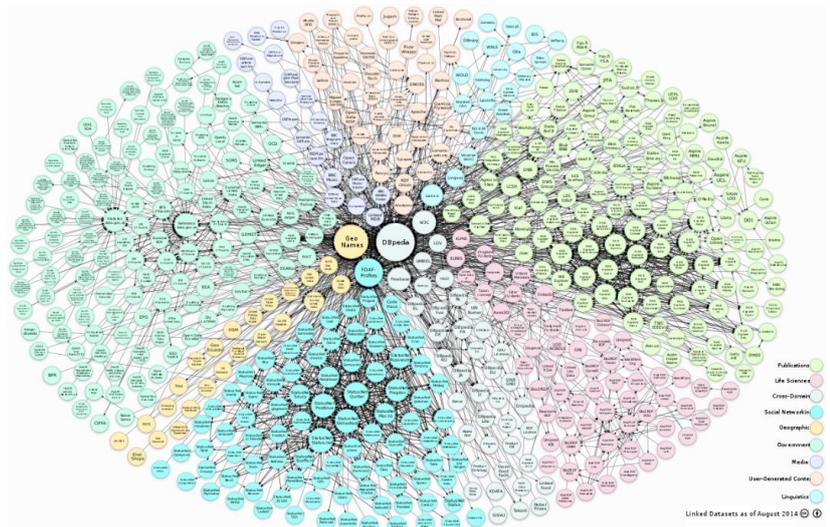
Possible elements in workshop presentations:

Open Data in a wider context?

Open data is the idea that data should be freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions – or with only very minimal restrictions – from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control. The goals of the open-source data movement are similar to movements such as open access, open-source software and open science, and the open web. The philosophy behind open data has gained popularity with the rise of the Internet and World Wide Web.

However, open data also includes the concept of web-semantic *linked data*. In computing, linked data is data structured in such a way that when interlinked with other data it becomes more useful through semantic queries. It builds upon standard web technologies such as HTTP, RDF and URIs, but rather than using them to serve web pages for human readers only, linked data extends them to share information in a way that can be read and harvested automatically by computers.

Linked open data enables the automatic combination of datasets with each other in interlinked networks, as the diagram showing Linked Open Data (LOD) datasets as of August 2014. The goal of the linked open data movement is to extend the Web with a data commons by publishing various open datasets as RDF on the Web and by setting RDF links between data items from different data



sources. Of famous LOD datasets we find **DBpedia** – data extracted from Wikipedia (about 3.5 million concepts described by 1 billion triples), and **GeoNames** – RDF descriptions of more than 7,500,000 place-name localities worldwide.

The vision of linked data is for the Internet to become a global database, first expressed by Tim Berners-Lee, director of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). He coined the term in a 2006 and outlined four principles of linked data in his, that can be described in this way:

1. Use URIs to name (identify) things.
2. Use HTTP URIs so that these things can be looked up (interpreted, "dereferenced").
3. Provide useful information about what a name identifies when it's looked up, using open standards such as RDF, SPARQL, etc.
4. Refer to other things using their HTTP URI-based names when publishing data on the Web.

Is open data used in place-name research already?

Linked open data services:

Geonames.org - <https://www.geonames.org/> (7,5 million place-names in RDF)

Perpleio - <https://perpleio.pelagios.org/> linked open data visualisation of ancient place-names

Open data/LOD projects:

- Mapearth Gazetteer service – <https://mapearth.co.ke/>. A Kenyan place-name service.
- Nafnið.is – <https://nafnid.is/>. Open data project in Iceland.
- Nimisampo - <https://nimisampo.fi/app>. A Finnish initiative for open data and open software for place-name datasets.
- Norseworld: Background: <https://www.uu.se/en/research/infrastructure/norseworld/infrastructure>; site: <https://norseworld.nordiska.uu.se/> (data + export).
- Norske stedsnavn – <https://toponymi.spraksamlingane.no/app> A Norwegian application of the Finnish Nimisampo platform.
- Swedish digital place-name register (beta): <https://placename.isof.se/PlaceNamePublic/place-names>
- Tora: Background: http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2364/24_paper.pdf; site: <https://toramaptest.riksarkivet.se/>.