
Partnering with the City of Saskatoon for better access to municipal data

Sarah Rutley
Data & GIS Librarian
University of Saskatchewan

Presented at DLI National Training
November 23 - 27 2020

Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark



USask President Peter Stoicheff

Background

- MOU signed \Rightarrow Research Junction partnership (2018)
 - Partners
 - Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (USask)
 - University Library (USask)
 - Transportation & Construction and Solicitor's Office staff (City)
 - Research Junction liaison (City)
 - Library invited to work on better access to City data
 - Goal: make City data more accessible to all USask researchers
-



Context & approach

- City of Saskatoon has minimal open data infrastructure
 - Data/data management dispersed across departments
 - Pillars of approach
 - **Data licensing agreement** allowing library to request, receive, and distribute city data
 - **Strong relationship** and thoughtful practices to minimize burden and foster more collaboration
 - Based in part on Urban Alliance partnership (U of C)
-

Data license



- Developed licensing terms based on
 - Urban Alliance data agreement
 - COPPUL model license
 - City of Saskatoon amenable to license as proposed
 - Wins
 - Less restrictive language around permitted uses
 - Removed clauses requiring City approval before publication
 - No unenforceable terms (like destruction of data upon termination of agreement)
-

Process

1

Researcher refines data need with Data Librarian

2

Data Librarian requests data from City liaison

3

City liaison sources data and transfers it to Library

4

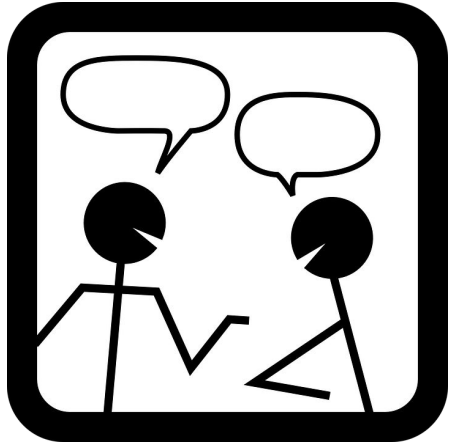
Library delivers data to researcher and adds to local collection for reuse

Challenges & opportunities



- Managing expectations
 - Balancing interests
 - Learning opportunities on both sides
-

Going forward



- Is it perfect?
 - No
 - Will it scale?
 - Sort of
 - Is it a good first step toward a) a shared understanding of the value of open municipal data, and b) buy-in for future collaboration around open data initiatives?
 - Yes!
-

Question for the audience

- Are there other partnerships like this out there?



Thank you!

Sarah Rutley
sarah.rutley@usask.ca
