

Teaching Open Data

Practical Observations

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About me

- Data Journalist
- Open Data Specialist
 - Open Data Barometer (Web Foundation):
Lead Researcher for several countries
 - Lecturer at Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Technik (HTW) Berlin
- Trainer for Journalists

Data Literacy

- Understanding basic impacts of data
- Find & acquire data
- Read, interpret & compare data
 - Open and process formats such as CSV
- Basic visualizing
- Open Practices (Mozilla Web Literacy Standard)
 - Licenses, open formats, open source projects

Status Quo: Offerings

- Professional Courses
- University Level Courses
- Open Courses

Status Quo: Countries

- UK
- Germany
- Switzerland

What's offered?

- Basic Courses on Data & Visualization
- Special Trainings by OKFN + Open Data Institute
- Meetups, Hackdays (strong country variations)
- School of Data (OKFN)
- Open Spending (OKFN)
- Data Journalism Handbook (OKFN)

University Syllabi

Very little - Open Data mostly a research subject yet

- Britain: To some extent due to Open Data Institute / University of Southampton; Oxford Internet Institute
- Germany: Nearly nothing found in early 2013
- Switzerland & Austria: nothing

On Students taught

- No technical challenges
- Low understanding of administrative structures
- Entire semester very helpful
- Creative approaches, solid projects
- Mostly not aware of data used in media
- Not thoroughly aware of impacts

On Journalists trained

- Very low data awareness
- Rather high skepticism
- Low understanding of Open Data
- Certain pride in “being bad at maths”
- Tools can be challenges, not to mention coding
- Highly aware of impacts

Expectation

- Network of Data Courses for Professionals
 - For data providers
 - For data users
 - In every bigger city
- A data-savvy journalist in every newsroom
- Data Courses at every University

Outlook

Project by OKFN Germany - as of Jan 2014

- Introductory Course (1/2 day)
- Courses for Journalists (2-5 days)
- Courses for Company & Gov Managers (2-5 days)
- Courses for NGOs (2-5 days)

Thank you!

<http://www.michael-hoerz.de>

<http://www.opendataresearch.org/project/2013/odb>

<http://census.okfn.org/country/>

<https://webmaker.org/en-US/standard>

<http://www.michael-hoerz.de/open-data-htw>