

[#odcamp](#): How to map everything

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Day 1, Session 1, Room P2

Notes:

- Slides are at https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10tyoXpFZcn-Bi58bbLQyXjY9k8VazqH6U7L_SQ_5m_0/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.p
- You could map everything just because it's there, but why would you?
A George Mallory approach to open data mapping...
- The Boris map of London
- Can open data be easier to use?
- Bashing together QGIS & CartoDB can be useful
- Discussion 1: should we replace shapefiles with something else? Shapefiles have limitations such as size. Can we use something else?
 - GeoJSON
 - SHP represent issue because they were a proprietary standard by ESRI, and "they've just given up on them". Do we need community ownership of the SHP format?
 - If you use a spatial database, you have no issues with the format (you can use any you want)
 - SHP is ok "as long as you have small pieces of information"
 - From a web developer point of view, JSON is well understood, so GEOJSON is a good choice
 - Necessity of SHP is that even QGIS uses them as its more or less standard way of saving information before transformation
 - GML format (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_Markup_Language)
- Discussion 2: many geo data users are local authorities. What tools can we offer them that helps them work on the data?
 - OSM
 - : viral licence implies sharing data, if you produce products. It's not an issue if you only use it for internal business. Apparently, Birmingham is in process of adopting OSM for a small specific application.
- Discussion 3: GP catchment areas
- Discussion 4: Where do you find your data?
 - Most people look at Local Authority data
 - ONS Geography
 - No single port of call
 - Robin Wilson's list of open data
 - Metadata standards are still not widely adopted
 - Help for Open Data can be found on Stack Exchange <http://opendata.stackexchange.com/>
 - Can we use approaches like StackOverflow within the open data community to help people to understand the data that's available & its applicability? A Q&A approach would be useful
 - Data.gov.uk - let's make it better together (tweets on improvement suggestions to feed into discovery exercise can be sent to [@datagovuk](#) or [@jacattell](#))
 - Could we have generators & parsers for Gemini2 metadata sitting in the background?
- Discussion 5: Data re-projection
 - With a poor conversion system, UK data can be 20 metres out (particularly at the coast)

- Many people use OSTN02/OSGM02 to convert from OSGB36 data to other coordinate systems or projections
<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-and-government/help-and-support/navigation-technology/os-net/formats-for-developers.html>
- OSTN15 is about to come out - it will be an improved version of OSTN02
- Discussion 6: Extracting & using OpenStreetMap data
 - Using Overpass API can be difficult
 - Openplaques.org overlaps with data in OSM - where do we draw lines & how do things synchronise?
 - How much data do we capture into OSM: how much detail do we include?
 - @sk53osm mapping lots of trees
 - @ndm mapping lots of stuff in Bristol (road names, then footpaths, then postboxes). Postboxes near commercial centres & can be used.
 - Disjoint & lack of communication between OSM surveyors & the users of OSM data to make sure that the stuff that's needed to map is collected (targeting surveying effort based on user stories)

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