



YOUR 4 STEP ROUTE TO **DATA DISCOVERABILITY**

Helping you share high-quality data more widely

1 2 3 4 ... ➔

EXPERTS IN PLACE

NEW WAYS TO SOLVE YOUR DATA CHALLENGES

Data is the lifeblood of your organisation. Allowing users better access to your data enables them to gain fresh insights, create efficiencies and make better decisions.

Common data challenges

As your organisation grows so does your data holding. This makes it hard to keep track of or manage data, let alone improve and share it.

Over time, something has to give.

Introducing Data Discoverability

Data Discoverability uses the latest technology to manage growing data holdings, improve data quality and share data more widely.

Embarking on a Data Discoverability programme will allow you to deliver the quality data your users demand... at a price your organisation can afford.



About Astun

We're experts at helping organisations to improve decision making and service delivery.

Our expertise enables clients to discover, catalogue, share and collaborate on place-based data.

Our solutions, consultancy services and training have helped hundreds of organisations to implement cloud technology, develop custom web maps and manage their data more effectively.

DATA DISCOVERABILITY: THE PROCESS

- 1** Finding and cataloguing your data
[See page 4](#)
- 2** Producing trustworthy metadata
[See page 6](#)
- 3** Managing your data more effectively
[See page 8](#)
- 4** Making your data findable
[See page 10](#)

Data discoverability benefits your organisation...

Reduce risk by knowing exactly what data you hold

Improve your service by enhancing data quality

Free up resources by streamlining data management processes

More easily meet the requirements of INSPIRE, Q-FAIR and the National Data Strategy

Improve decision making by sharing data more widely

Understand how your data is used

Handle ever-increasing amounts of data

and meets internal and external users' needs

Allow search engine and portal users to access data on demand

Provide a wider range of datasets to support better decision making

Supply information that helps users trust your data

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

1 FINDING & CATALOGUING YOUR DATA

1 FINDING AND CATALOGUING YOUR DATA

The first step in Data Discoverability involves identifying every dataset your organisation stores. After all, it's impossible to share your data effectively if you're not sure what data you have.

A growing problem

Every day, your colleagues need to add, update or delete data just to do their job. This continual state of flux makes data holdings almost impossible to manage manually.

Giving your data nowhere to hide

Our new automated search tool locates and processes thousands of datasets in a fraction of the time it would take one of your team.

Building a catalogue

Once data is identified, it is automatically added to a catalogue. This enables you to manage and share your data more effectively in the future.

WITH OUR AUTOMATED SEARCH TOOL YOU CAN...



Search your network and cloud holdings quickly and efficiently



Automatically identify and catalogue thousands of datasets



Update your catalogue as often as you like

Q-FAIR

Making it easier to be Q-FAIR
FINDABLE

Meeting the FAIR principles (making data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) isn't easy, especially if you have a large data holding.

Our new tools will help you share data that's not only FAIR, but is also of the highest quality.

“

Data growth shows no sign of stopping. The ongoing explosion of data will result in...1.7MB of data created every second for every person on earth.

Source: IBM

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

2

PRODUCING TRUSTWORTHY METADATA



2 PRODUCING TRUSTWORTHY METADATA

The second step in Data Discoverability involves producing comprehensive, compliant and accurate metadata.

The importance of metadata

Your users rely on metadata to decide if a dataset is fit for their purpose.

If you supply incorrect or incomplete metadata, there's an increased chance of your users making poor decisions. If you do this, or publish Open Data, it's also less likely that search engines will rank your data.

Achieving metadata nirvana

Our new automated metadata tool makes it as easy for you to produce metadata for a thousand datasets as it is for a hundred.

All you need to do is review and approve it!

Say goodbye to the old way of working

Until now, it's not been feasible to generate high-quality metadata for every dataset you own. Our new tool allows you to produce consistently detailed metadata for every dataset, regardless of popularity.

WITH OUR METADATA TOOL YOU CAN...



Automatically generate readable, compliant metadata



Make your data more findable via search engines



Reduce the risk of human error

EXPERTS IN PLACE

Metadata that ticks the boxes

Our metadata tool identifies where metadata is missing and automatically populates it with new metadata that's...



Accurate and trustworthy



Compliant with INSPIRE and ISO19139



In line with the Geospatial Commission's recommendations



Ready for use in data portals



SEO-optimised



Easy to understand

TAKE THE NEXT STEP



MANAGING YOUR DATA MORE EFFICIENTLY

3 MANAGING YOUR DATA MORE EFFICIENTLY

The third step of Data Discoverability ensures that you have the right processes and tools in place to maintain data of the highest quality.




Overcoming resourcing issues

Although data is critical to decision making, your organisation, like many others, may struggle to provide the resources needed to manage vast amounts of data effectively.

Not just a list

Our catalogue provides sophisticated data management tools that enable you to eliminate the most common issues relating to data security, quality and management.

WITH OUR CATALOGUE TOOL YOU CAN...

-  Improve data quality
-  Control access to sensitive data
-  Gain insights into data usage

Improve security and quality

Only share what you want to

Block or restrict access to a dataset in just a few clicks.

Eradicate duplicate datasets

Easily identify and eliminate duplicate datasets. This minimises the risk of your users making decisions based on outdated data.

Ensure quality and continuity

Automatically notify data owners when datasets are due to be refreshed. You can also transfer ownership in seconds should someone leave your organisation.

Deliver data insight

Understand the secret life of your data

Our standard reporting tools quickly identify how much metadata has been produced, how many new datasets have been shared and what your most popular datasets are. We can also develop customised reports that illustrate your team's progress against specific KPIs or other objectives.

Add organisational value

Reduce frustrations

Nobody enjoys spending most of their time producing metadata or having to drop everything to help users find the data they need in a crisis. Our tools free your team from such distractions so they can focus on more rewarding tasks, such as project work, delivering data insights and adding value to the organisation.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

4 MAKING YOUR DATA FINDABLE

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In the final step, you'll transform your service delivery by providing users with the same ease of access to all datasets, regardless of when, where and how they choose to access them.

Why search engines are crucial

The Geospatial Commission has found that around 75% of users turn to a search engine first when searching for geospatial data. If you want to bring your data to a wider audience, SEO needs to be a critical component of your data sharing toolkit.

Reduce your dark data

It is estimated that between 55% and 80% of data is dark, i.e. collected, processed and stored during routine business activities but not used for other purposes.

Reducing the amount of dark data you hold through more effective data sharing enables you to minimise the chance of users basing decisions on inaccurate data.

WITH OUR TOOLS YOU CAN...



Share data via search engines, portals and catalogues



Enable your data scientists to combine data in new ways



Increase data usage

Share data via search engines...

Helping search engines meet users' needs

Informative metadata that allows search engines to understand the context and content of your data is key to getting your datasets to the top of the search engine listings.

Our publishing tools enhance your metadata to make it more easily discoverable via search engines.

They also meet the Geospatial Commission's recommendations for SEO-optimised metadata for publicly available Open Data.

Portals...

Why portals are still useful

Data portals, like data.gov.uk, continue to supply a quarter of users with the data they need.

Our integrated publishing workflow makes it easy to share bulk datasets without tying up valuable resources.



Catalogues...

Making life easier for internal users

Without a data catalogue it can be difficult for inexperienced or busy colleagues to find the data that they need, let alone judge if it's fit for purpose.

Our data catalogue reduces user frustration by offering several search options including name, topic, usage and schema field (e.g. INSPIRE).



& GIS platforms

Supporting your GIS

Our tools make it simple to share your improved data with popular platforms, including ArcGIS, QGIS, iShare and MapInfo.



DISCOVER MORE

OUR APPROACH
AND VALUES



OUR APPROACH

We're big enough to attract the best open source experts but small enough to be flexible, responsive and innovative.

Understanding your needs

We take a customer-centric approach to service delivery. Regular surveying ensures that we understand your changing needs and create new products and services that help you meet your goals.



MEET OUR METADATA EXPERT JO COOK

Our Data Discoverability Lead, Jo Cook, has almost a decade of experience in providing (customised) metadata solutions for Local and Central Government clients. Her role as Standards Lead for the AGI Council and membership of the Project Steering Committee for the GeoNetwork Open Source Metadata Catalog ensure that our clients are always kept abreast of the latest metadata requirements, innovations and news.

Sharing our expertise

As well as delivering public and bespoke open source training courses, we encourage our team to be good open source citizens. Our colleagues regularly share their knowledge and experience in presentations and videos and take responsibility for developing open source technologies in their spare time as well as at work.

Our values...

1

Curious, open and proactive

We'll understand your organisation's needs, share best practice and suggest improvements. If you have a challenge, we'll help you find an answer.

2

Innovative yet practical

Our blend of experience, creativity and the latest technologies ensure that we'll find the right solution for your unique needs.

4

Two teams, one goal

We may be technical, but we're also human. We'll be a key part of your team: friendly, approachable and always here when you need us. Together, we'll overcome challenges and ensure you meet your goals.

3

Responsive and adaptable

The data landscape is continually evolving. We'll help you adapt and future-proof your service delivery.

5

We always try to do what's right

We'll always try to do our best by you, your users and our team. We'll never sell you a solution that you don't need.

DISCOVER MORE

FIND OUT WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

WORKING WITH US

Once we get to know you, we'll become a trusted part of your team. You'll always be able to turn to us for help when you need advice or support.

What it's like to work with us

We believe that location-based data is critical to decision making, but we know that every organisation's needs are different.

If you work with us, you'll have a dedicated account manager who'll understand your unique challenges and constraints. They'll help you build the right solution to meet your stakeholders' needs.

Your project will be managed and delivered by a team of creative thinkers who thrive on solving complex challenges. Their expertise, coupled with the latest open source software, will help you deliver excellent and efficient services now and for years to come.

UNLOCKING YOUR DATA

Giving data analysts access to more datasets and providing information about their compatibility (e.g. postcodes in common) enables them to combine multiple datasets in new ways.

This increases data insight, reduces the amount of dark data held and ensures that decision making is as robust as possible.



Astun offers outstanding technical expertise, flexibility and an agile approach

Customer stories...

Defra/Environment Agency

When Defra was tasked with sharing 8,000 datasets in a year, the team turned to us for help.

Building on the metadata catalogue we'd already created for the Environment Agency, we developed a standards-compliant metadata portal that allows for the easier publication of data.

TAKE A LOOK

<https://environment.data.gov.uk>

Scottish Government

Since 2016, the Scottish Government has used an Astun Data Discovery platform to efficiently manage and share over 1,000 datasets and their associated metadata.

Reporting tools give administrators insight into the most popular datasets downloaded internally or via the intuitive public facing portal.

Maintenance is simplified by batch editing capabilities.

TAKE A LOOK

<https://www.spatialdata.gov.scot>

Local Councils

We have a proven track record in supporting local authorities through digital transformation and service delivery improvements.

Over 30 councils already use our Data Discoverability solutions, including Cardiff, Dudley and Walsall.

START YOUR DATA JOURNEY

FIND OUT HOW
TO CONTACT US



START YOUR DATA JOURNEY



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