

The Spooky Physics of Shared Understanding

November 25, 2025



Canada	2,345,300	30%
India	1,545,567	24%
Germany	345,300	12%
Australia	2,345,300	5%
Italy	2,345,300	4%
Belgium	2,345,300	1%
Mexico	1,545,567	7%
Brazil	345,300	11%
Austria	2,345,300	3%
Poland	2,345,300	9%



Who is Link Digital?

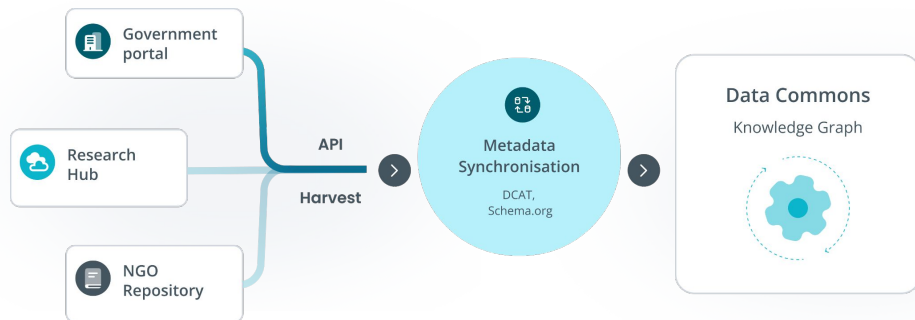
Link Digital is a **co-steward of the CKAN project**, offering **global commercial support for data portal solutions**.

Operating since 2001, they have been implementing and supporting CKAN since 2012, offering services that range from advisory and development and internal data hubs to managed hosting and integration for open data platforms.



CKAN: Powering Connected and Interoperable Data Ecosystems

By acting as a bridge between metadata standards and modern data infrastructures, it advances transparency, accessibility, and reusability.



Metadata Synchronization

CKAN exports structured metadata compatible with Data Commons' ontology.



API Interoperability

CKAN APIs can exchange dataset metadata and metrics programmatically.



Data Lineage & Semantic Tagging

Metadata enriched with provenance fields enables traceability across platforms.



Knowledge Graph Integration

CKAN's metadata schemas can feed directly into Google Knowledge Graph ingestion pipelines.



Shared Vision and Impact

Collaboration across open-data ecosystems

strengthens how public information is connected, shared, and reused globally.

By aligning systems and workflows with **FAIR data principles** - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable - organizations can create data infrastructures that support discovery, integration, and long-term reliability.

Through our work in metadata standardization, interoperability frameworks, and scalable data management, we help build the technical foundations that make this exchange possible.



These shared principles enable consistent, high-quality data flows between institutions, improving accessibility and the overall value of open data.

Driving Innovation and Stewardship in CKAN

Link Digital drives the ongoing development and modernization of CKAN, ensuring it continues to serve as a reliable foundation for open data platforms worldwide.

CKAN Core Development

Link Digital develops, improves and maintains CKAN's core platform, delivering new features, improvements, and stable releases.

Custom Extensions and Features

Link Digital advances CKAN's scalability by extensions, which are widely adopted and maintained across data portals worldwide.

CKAN Technical Team

The team provides support to the global CKAN community as recognized experts, contributing to the platform's stability, and technical excellence across numerous implementations.

Who we work with

International Organizations and NGOs



Academia & Research



Government & Public Sector



Australian Government



Environment and Heritage



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Australian Government
Cancer Australia

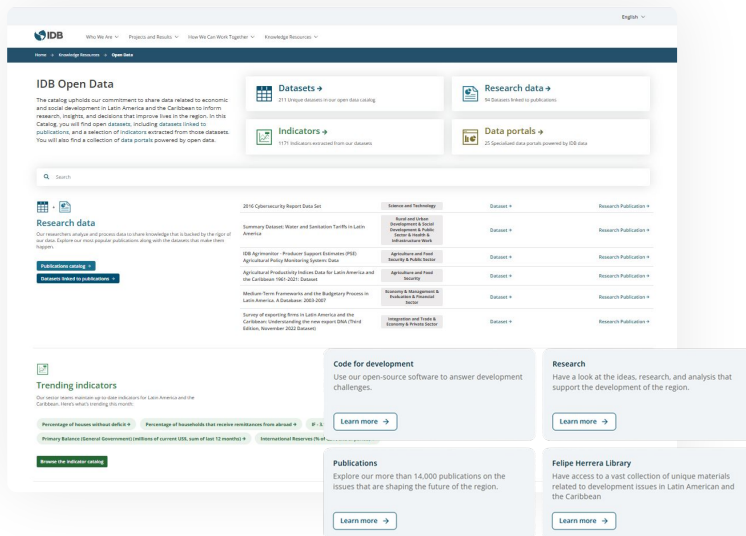


Government of
South Australia



Queensland
Government





Inter-American Development Bank

Link Digital partnered with the Bank to transition its legacy data catalog into a modern, open-source platform using CKAN. The upgrade included **migrating to CKAN, integrating third-party software and cloud services** and **preparing very large datasets** so they could be searchable, viewable and downloadable. Notably, the system could handle multi-million-row tables with dramatically improved performance (20 × faster).

As a result, the new open data catalogue delivers advanced multilingual search and sharing capabilities, improved metadata structuring and scalability, and strong alignment with open-data standards like DCAT.

Support and development for



PostgreSQL

AWS S3 Bucket

Read the case study



Médecins Sans Frontières

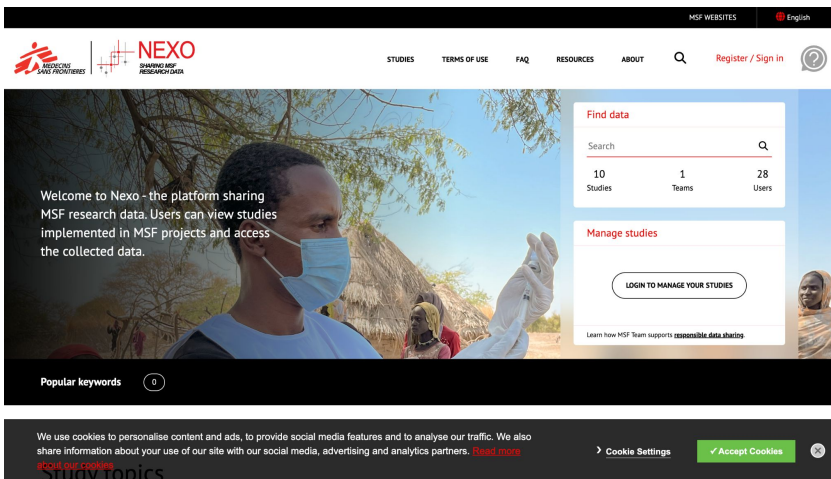
Streamlining and improving the sharing of research data collected by the organisation's staff, including its field practitioners, both internally and with external third parties, has been a long-held wish on the part of MSF.

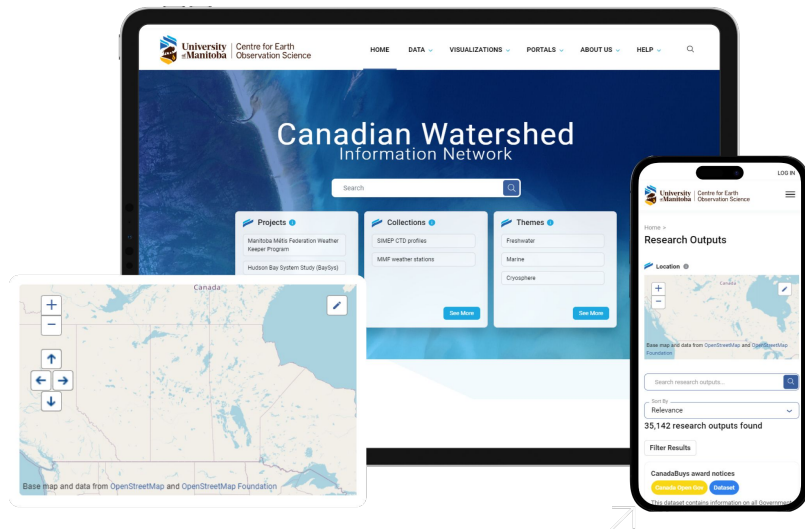
After an initial exploration of the MSF's internal data sharing capacity, the offices in the Netherlands and Japan jointly decided to develop a data sharing platform (DSP). They hired Link Digital to do the job.

Support and development for



Read the case study





Columbia Basin Water Hub

Mobilizing science for evidence-based decision making.

CanWIN is the data center for the Centre for Earth Observation Science, hosted at Canada's University of Manitoba.

They support research and education and inform management, policy, and evidence based decision-making from the Nelson River Watershed to the Arctic.

Support and development for



ckan

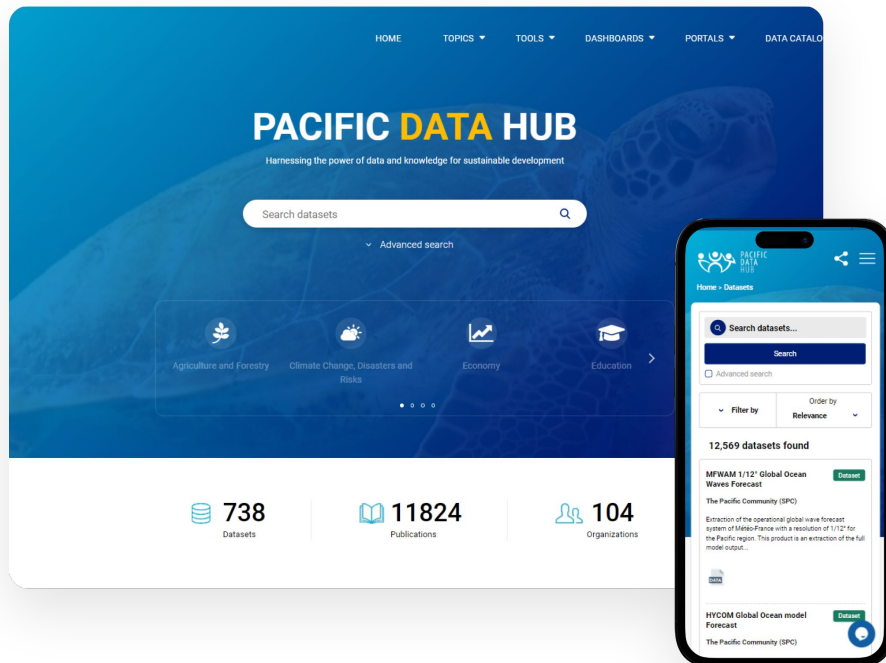


Drupal™



aws

Read the case study



Pacific Data Hub

The Pacific Community is the custodian of the largest and most diverse collection of data on the Pacific Island region, including population statistics, fisheries, geoscience, agriculture, aquaculture, energy, education, human rights, climate change, and oceans.

Support and development for



Read the case study

Einstein's puzzle: "Spooky action at a distance"

The understanding that entangled particles remain instantly correlated, even when far apart.

Our puzzle in civic data:

- The understanding that people, communities, institutions also behave in entangled ways.

Why it matters:

- Being intentional about how we build shared understanding strengthens coherence, social cohesion, and meaningfulness in complex public-data systems.

The Objective Observer Initiative (OOI)

- A new, “born in the open” initiative
- Uses experiments to study how agency shows up in data
- Aims to bring justice into the way we do open data

The OOI as a Social Physics Lab aims to:

- Makes our subjective → intersubjective → objective entanglements observable
- Help us understand how a shared meaning may be supported via public interest data
- Perhaps, it may provide us with a new paradigm of data justice

But... it is all a bit complicated. For today, we have a panel and the idea is to talk first about **‘data justice’**.

When does data get justice?

- When reality is **observable** – we're actually looking at the right things
- When it's **communicable** – people can understand and work with it
- When **autonomy & constraints** are acknowledged – people can act, but we see the externalities

Panel: Data justice & shared reality

- A time when the data **did not get the justice it deserved**
- A time when the data **did get justice** (even partially)
- Where do **observation**, **measurement**, and **datafication** go wrong or right?

Steven De Costa
Chairman, Link Digital

Wilfreda Edward
Canadian centre For
Nonprofit Digital
Resilience

Philippe Fortin
Conseiller en
gouvernance des
données, ARTM

Lex du Plessis
Product Owner,
Link Digital

Templates: Data justice & your reality

We're going to use two simple tools you can take home:

1. **Statement of Intent** (Google Doc)
2. **Construct + Evidence Grid** (Google Doc)

You can:

- Make your own copy
- Use it in your organisation
- **Share your thoughts** back into the Objective Observer Initiative

You can find these at <https://opendata.ly> Click to go to the 'constructs' and the templates one related to today's session.

Link Digital, with others, will co-construct the OOI. We'd love to see many of you jump in.

The Agreed Construct Short description of what we are trying to define and/or manage within the organisation. For example, the corporate website at linkdigital.com.au.	Intrinsic Qualities Describe what is intrinsic to this construct and is agreed to be internal within the context of value and management.	Extrinsic Qualities Describe what is extrinsic to this construct and is agreed to be external within the context of value and management.
Theory of value What value is known, expected or assumed to be held within this construct, or what value add does it provide to other constructs in or outside the organization?	Internal value Evidence of internal or intrinsic value. Or, counter evidence? Do we question assumptions? Do we affirm assumptions? Do we redefine intrinsic qualities or ToV?	External value Evidence of external or extrinsic value. Or, counter evidence? Do we question assumptions? Do we affirm assumptions? Do we redefine extrinsic qualities or ToV?
Theory of Management How does the organisation expect to maintain this construct over time to retain value, or to improve the value it holds and/or generates? Does the construct maintain itself, or does it require other constructs.	Internal management Evidence of internal or intrinsic controls. Or, counter evidence? Do we question assumptions? Do we affirm assumptions? Do we redefine intrinsic qualities or ToM?	External management Evidence of external or extrinsic controls. Or, counter evidence? Do we question assumptions? Do we affirm assumptions? Do we redefine extrinsic qualities or ToM?

CX, SX, and OX — Our Collective Practice

- **CX (Code Experience):** Build verifiably honest infrastructure — open source, open standards, open APIs.
- **SX (Social Experience):** Facilitate fair, inclusive participation — agreement-making as a social process.
- **OX (Objective Experience):** Translate activity into objective evidence — observable outcomes that evolve with context.

Let's talk about your data portal.

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