

# OPEN KNOWLEDGE FOR THE SOCIAL SECTOR

## Supportive Practices and Technologies for Open Knowledge

The following set of practices can be understood as interlocking and mutually supportive. You may choose to adopt any number of these practices, in any sequence, depending on the level of support both within your foundation and your larger network of stakeholders. That said, having a clearly articulated policy for sharing knowledge products can ease the implementation of these practices. Depending on your foundation (size, capacity, volume of knowledge products funded/produced), implementing an open knowledge policy at an organization-wide level might be the best way forward. Or a phased approach may be more appropriate in your case, rolling out the initiative program by program. Only you can know what approach is best for your organization. The key thing is to get started!

Open knowledge practices include:

- > Clearly articulating an **open knowledge policy** and procedure for handling and sharing knowledge products funded and/or produced by your foundation.
- > Using **open licensing** on foundation knowledge products and implementing open licensing requirements, or recommendations, for knowledge products funded by your foundation.
- > Using **open repositories**, like IssueLab, to catalogue and better share funded and published works.
- > Using **Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)** to more effectively track the use and readership of shared knowledge products.
- > Using a **shared descriptive vocabulary, such as Schema.org**, on your foundation's website to make it easier to discover and index knowledge products.



# OPEN KNOWLEDGE FOR THE SOCIAL SECTOR

---

## Critical Questions for Adopting an Open Knowledge Strategy

1. What motivates your foundation's funding and production of knowledge products?
2. Do your current collection and sharing practices align with that purpose?
3. What role does your foundation see for itself in capturing and sharing the knowledge it funds and produces?
4. Openness is characterized by a default orientation towards sharing (rather than the promotion of select knowledge products). Do your strategic communications efforts run parallel to an open knowledge policy and protocol?
5. What are your biggest concerns and/or fears about the adoption of open knowledge practices at your foundation?
6. What sorts of exceptions to such a policy might you anticipate?