#### Public Licenses for the Public Sector: Some Experience from Taiwan

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Tyng-Ruey Chuang Institute of Information Science, and Research Center for Information Technology Innovation Academia Sinica, Taiwan

# Outline

- Public Licenses
- The Public Sector
  - government departments
  - publicly owned corporations
  - publicly funded cultural and scientific programs
- Some Experience from Taiwan

### Disclaimer

My observations and opinions are my own.

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## Popular Public Licenses

- GNU General Public License
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#### Collaborative Works + Public Licenses

- Collaborative Works
  - works created and used by multiple members at the same time; member composition is fluid and indefinite
  - materials contributed by collaborators and/or taken from other sources
  - the outcome is of high social and/or economic value
- How to access the output of a collaboration?
- All participants agree to a particular public license for the outcome of their collaboration
  - whoever agrees to the license can participate
  - the right to make modifications, and the obligation to share the modifications likewise

### The Public Sector

- Direct administration funded through taxation
- Publicly owned corporations
- Partial outsourcing [of public projects]

 Government grants for cultural and scientific programs

#### Public Sector Information + Public Licenses

- Public Sector Information
  - data and documents created and used by the public sector
  - high social and/or economic value
  - often made available but not necessarily open to (re)use
  - status of copyright and other rights varies by jurisdictions
- Access to Public Sector Information
  - availability and accessibility
  - copy and distribution
  - remix and redistribution
- Public Licenses for Public Sector Information
  - shall allow for remix and redistribution, even for commercial purposes
  - CC BY, CC BY-SA, CC0

#### Case Study: Public Television Service

- Overseen by a publicly funded foundation
- Original contents and news programs for five television channels nation-wise (free access)
- Website and citizen media (peopo.org)
- CC License usage
  - in a portal of selected news program footage (cc.pts.org.tw)
  - by citizen media contributors (peopo.org)

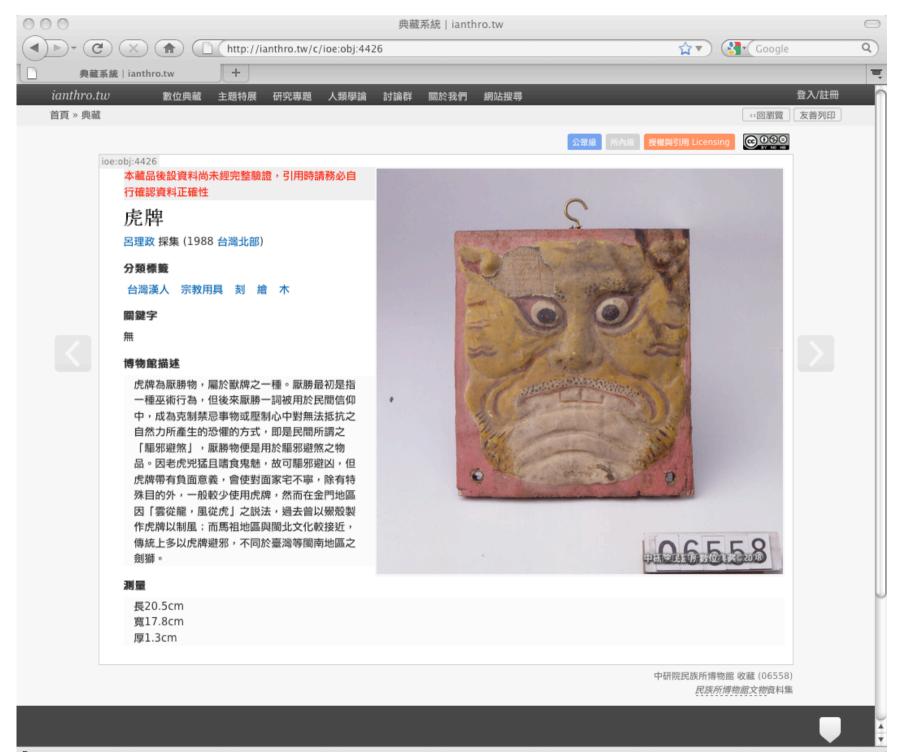


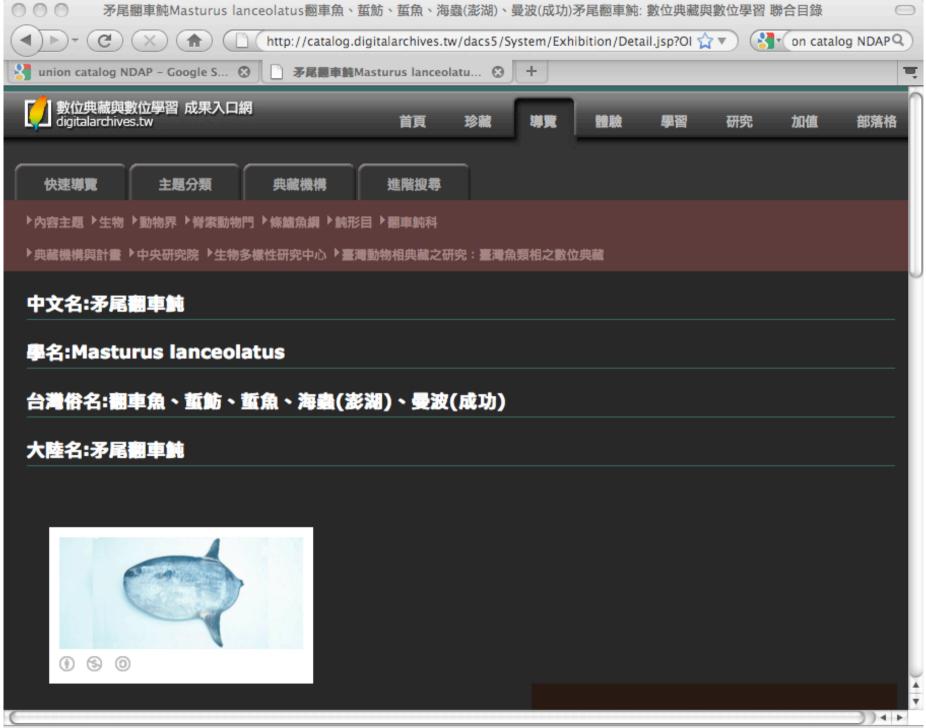
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#### Case Study: Research/Culture Institutions

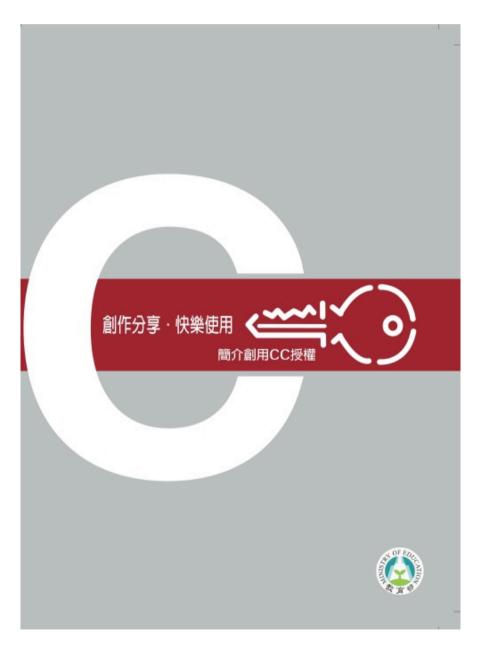
- Publicly funded "content holders"
- Research results
  - regulated by the "Fundamental Science and Technology Act"; institutions can keep IPR
- Culture heritage collections
  - copyrights to artifacts may be in the public domain; problem of orphan works
- Data
  - issues of availability and accessibility; the datasets may be raw, cataloged, or curated





#### Case Study: Government Publications

- To make them more accessible, and to produce them in less cost; "More fun, less work"
- Various types of government publications
- Old publications ("historical problem") and new publications ("new process")
- The need for best practices
- The need for educational programs on public licensing in the public sector; face-to-face seminars and guidebooks on CC licenses



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### Observations

- CC Licenses are getting popular
  - questions about details; licenses not "cure all"
- Issues of liability
  - how to resolve potential conflicts, and how to take responsibility "if something goes wrong"?
- In-house counsel; sustainability model
  - the path from "good idea" to "good practice"
- Learning from the neighbors
- Policy decisions have great implications
  - few major policy decisions so far, however

### What about data?

- Research/culture institutions
  - availability and accessibility (often)
  - copy and distribution (usually)
  - remix and redistribution (rarely)
- Government departments
  - availability and accessibility (usually)
  - copy and distribution (rarely)
  - remix and redistribution (very rarely)

#### Case Study: Survey Research Data Archive

- SRDA: An Academia Sinica center that curates social science survey datasets
- Datasets acquisition and release process
  - National Science Council requires grant recipients to deposit survey data (codebook, datasets, etc.) at SRDA when grants end
  - Researchers set release date at the time of deposit (no later than 3 years after the deposit)
  - SRDA fulfills public requests for its datasets
- Only "academic" members of SRDA have access to the datasets, however

# Perspectives

- Need new strategies to get major policy changes in opening up PSI
  - dealing with bureaucratic reality
  - bottom-up and top-down approaches
- Is the legislative approach a good option?
  - openness is more of a cultural than a legal nature
- Joining force from the open standards and free software communities
- Voices from the younger generations (also in the public sector)

# Thanks

- Academia Sinica
- The Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA)
- Computer Center, Ministry of Education (CC/MOE)
- Taiwan Public Television Service Foundation (PTS)
- The Research, Development, and Evaluation Commission (RDEC)
- Taiwan E-Learning and Digital Archive Program (TELDAP)
- Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Economic Affairs (TIPO)

and many more