

Public Licenses for the Public Sector: Some Experience from Taiwan

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Documents licensed under public licenses, such as the Creative Commons Licenses and the GNU General Public License, can be freely redistributed and reused. The public sector generates a huge amount of documents and publications, of which the majority need to reach to the citizen and various stakeholders. We will present some case studies from Taiwan on how public licenses are used in the public sector, with an emphasis on the practices in publicly funded cultural and research programs. Although increasingly there is awareness of the Creative Commons Licenses and open source software licenses, the use of these licenses in government departments, publicly own corporations, and funding bodies remains rather limited in scope. We will discuss some of the barriers to wider dissemination of public sector information (PSI) in Taiwan, and propose that major policy decisions are needed in order to further open up Taiwan's PSI.