Archives and Open Public Data: Creating the Future of Linked Cultural Content in Hong Kong

Waltraut Ritter

Knowledge Dialogues - http://www.knowledgedialogues.com

Recent developments in open government data policies and digital convergence strategies in many countries have created new opportunities to access and use digital cultural content from memory institutions such as libraries, archives and museums. These new policies supported by technology are changing our views on how memory institutions create social value.

While Hong Kong enjoys a very high broadband and smart phone penetration, putting the city consistently in the top of global e-readiness rankings, the diversity and scope of services in the digital cultural sector are still at an early stage. Hong Kong's network of public and private LAM (Libraries, Archives, Museums) are currently not connected.

Opening up cultural content and data is challenging for most institutions given the complexity of legal, technical and economic issues. Overall, the level of digitization is still relatively low in Hong Kong.

Could the creation of linked open data across the institutions also increase the usage of cultural data through citizens and business? The paper discusses how new services, applications could attract new users, and how digital convergence of previously independent and non-connected memory institutions can increase the social value of cultural content and data in Hong Kong. It will also discuss the current legal framework which effects the open data development.