Taxonomy Oversight Group and its Role in UK Government Taxonomies

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30th November 2022
Overview

- Why Taxonomy Oversight Group (TOG) was Established
- TOG Governance Model and Endorsement Process
- Taxonomy Best Practice Framework
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Next Steps
Why We Came Together

**Taxonomy Oversight Group (TOG) launched to address the absence of UK central taxonomy governance across government data sources**

- Governance mechanisms were haphazard or non-existent – posing considerable risk to the effectiveness of our taxonomies and usability of data based on them.
- This was a barrier in the effective use of data across government.

TOG aims to bring data experts, subject experts and taxonomy users together to:

- Discuss and agree best practice
- Provide a collaborative approach to agreeing taxonomies that are fit for purpose
- Populate and maintain a list of TOG approved taxonomies for users, to aid discoverability and promote consistency in adoption
TOG Model
Introducing the Taxonomy Best Practice Framework

Used to assess taxonomies in the endorsement process
Also serves as guidance for taxonomy developers

Available at:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/taxonomybestpracticeframework
Achievements

- Convened TOG and 4 Expert Groups
- Taxonomy Catalogue Beta Published
- Backlog
- Best Practice Framework Published
- Over 100 members across groups
- Number of Taxonomies Fully Endorsed
- Web Presence ons.gov.uk

Over 100 members across groups
Challenges

- High Administrative Burden
- Resource Intensive
- Prioritisation
- Scope
  - Implementation
  - How do we ensure impact?
Next Steps

• End of Launch Phase Report being finalised which draws out achievements and challenges in addition to recommendations for next steps

Gathering feedback but potential model refinements include:

• Linking backlog to government policy/departmental objectives
• Securing department/organisational sponsorship (clear accountability)
• Identifying TOG members to be theme ‘Champions’
• Encouraging theme ownership amongst taxonomy users

All proposed refinements aimed at achieving more timely delivery focused on key priorities to ensure maximum impact