

Over the past 15 years, many organizations have instituted open research data policies. As more organizations create institutional data portals, we should consider other avenues for opening data in academia. Administrative and educational datasets produced as a function of normal operations of the university are useful for research in sociology, political science, education, and other social science disciplines. More importantly, these datasets have implications for public policy outside of the academy in higher education administration, public safety, public health, and journalism among other fields.

This presentation explores why and how research institutions should open administrative and educational data in addition to more “traditional” research data, under the broader term “Open Academic Data”. In particular, it will focus on the use of the wiki at [OpenAcademicData.org](http://OpenAcademicData.org) for creating a community around open data in academia as well as a resource for best practices in opening academic data. I will present on why the wiki format was chosen and how the wiki can be used to discuss and ratify best practices for overcoming some of the concerns unique to these datasets.