

Taxonomy Oversight Group and its Role in UK Government Taxonomies

Central Digital and Data Office

Data Strategy and Standards

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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

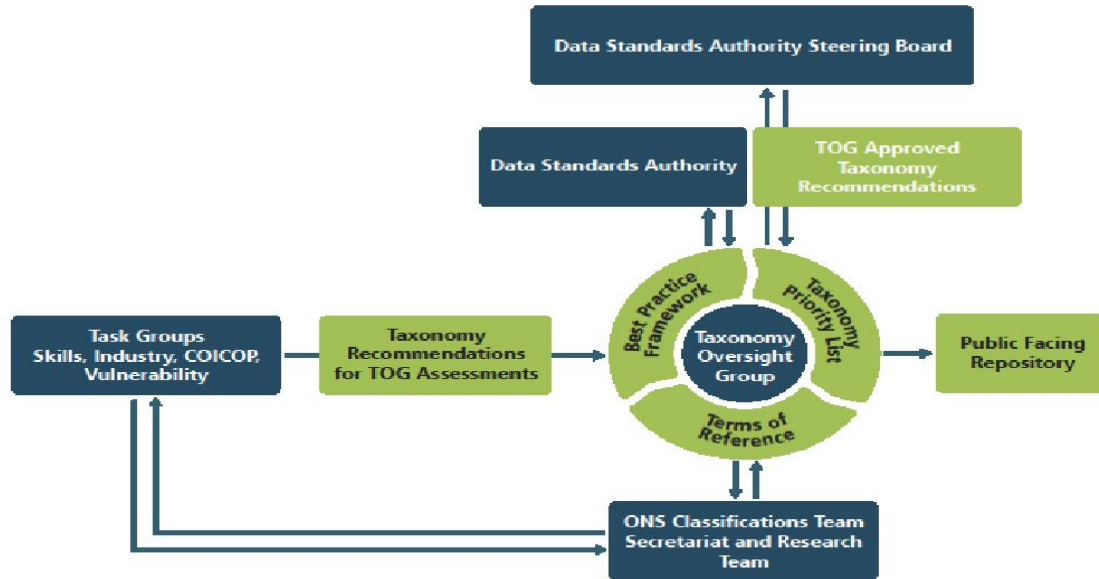
Taxonomy Oversight Group (TOG) launched to address the absence of UK central taxonomy governance across government data sources

- 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>

Principles Based Approach

- Definition
- Purpose
- Complexity
- Balance
- Ownership and Governance
- Accessibility
- Interoperability
- Supported
- Well-defined Terms
- Revision and Maintenance
- Metadata
- Methodology
- Engagement Strategy
- Future Proof

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

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



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