

Stakeholders can find it difficult to make sense of data in shared systems, because they do not have access to the context or focus of those who entered it. For this reason, collaborative information management should be based on more than just mutually accessible data. Information about the motivations and methods for collection, the meaning attributed to that data by various actors involved can be extremely valuable. Furthermore, there needs to be support to handle these relationships as they change over time.

Guiding Questions

How do your systems and processes support the identification of intended concepts, standards, and interpretations of data that enable communication without forcing everyone to understand things in exactly the same way?

Are there mechanisms for users to defend interpretations of data or persuade others to the importance of a claim?

How do your systems and processes encourage awareness of who has the necessary data, and who would benefit from sharing data?

Further Information

When working together, different stakeholders have the potential to interact and/or engage with each other's data and resources in ways that build mutual understanding and support. For example, if an emergency call is made, the telecoms company will disclose the caller's location to emergency agencies. Or, a range of NGOs, such as the Red Cross, that work closely with the government and commercial organizations, such as insurance companies, supermarkets or hotels, may share information about victims and local resource needs.

Resources

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