Mass Collaboration [Policy]: What, Why, and Choices

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Intellectual Provenance
easy to get hung up on vulgar policy, eg licensing

think broadly about what, where, ends
what is a mass collaboration data project?

x: latent / explicit

y: distributed / centralized

z: crowdsourced / collaborative

...: ...
consider location of
“science”
“semantic web”
freebase
musicbrainz
openstreetmap
wikidata
wikidata
zooniverse
...
what is a mass collaboration data policy?
restrictions & permissions

try to be Open; use terms other projects do; if you have to think, public domain for max donor, copyleft [look again at nearby projects] for max recipient, but also possibly assume facts are free...
“IP” never the ideal answer

poor substitute for other regulation...
...privacy, security, integrity

public licenses dull instruments for these legitimate objectives

when so used overly restrictive, incompatible
...transparency, replicability, modifiability

copyleft!
part copyright etc neutralization, part regulatory
wholesome goals
beware FUD, incompatibility
explicit
+centralized
+collaborative
= evinces need for public licenses like nothing else
governance
of what?
depends on location in each dimension
software to facilitate mass collaboration, eg
wikis
~source control
semantic stuff
data management
consider key ~policy choices (so far) made by a couple of aforementioned projects
at what level should “policy” be considered (depends...)

international
jurisdiction
institutional
standards
project
individual contributor
some things to desire (~ends) from mass collaboration projects (thus to consider in “policy”)
curation
provenance
data improvement, normalization
...
inovation/disruption/not imagined uses
orientation toward public good
at least 3 methods of promoting and protecting commons

law\&policy
building
extralegal

each has reactionary and progressive aspects
building

free knowledge & software invalidates assumptions of, mitigates, and builds constituency against bad policy

each contribution to a commons is a strike against bad policy and dystopian future; that’s something to celebrate and proclaim!
imagine a world in which Wikipedia is not unusual:
where mass collaboration obtains...
disruptive innovation
superior “product”
greater equality
greater freedom
...in all of the most crucial human enterprises
links: convey yourself to

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