



Open Government: A Journal on Freedom of Information

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Editorial

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Volume 2 issue 1 August 2006

Welcome

Welcome the 4th issue of "Open Government: a journal on Freedom of Information". Firstly I must apologise to readers for such a log gap between issues – the journal is still alive and well and has plenty of articles in the pipeline. As many of you know I am something of a one man band in producing and editing the journal and the journal has had to take a back sit in the first half of this year whilst I spent some time with the latest addition to my family and fought off the closure of my department at the University.

You may also notice that journal has new look and feel, our journal hosts Scholarly exchange have migrated to the more popular Open Journal Systems (OJS) software (<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>) . The new system does offer some extra features such as RSS feeds and the ability for users to register for email alerts for each issue (something we weren't able to do previously). To register as a reader see:

<http://www.scholarlyexchange.org/ojs/index.php/OPENGOV/user/register>

The next issue of *Open Government* will follow shortly after this one and will be a special issue with papers taken from the 4th International Conference of Information Commissioner which took place in Manchester of May this year, hosted by the UK Information Commissioner. The Conference produced an excellent mix of papers by Commissioners from around the world and from other stakeholders such as NGOs. After the Conference the Open Society Justice Initiative in cooperation with Access Info Europe and the FOI Advocates Network held a civil society meeting to review and discuss the issues presented at the conference. As a follow up the group drafted and published the Manchester Declaration on Access to Information. (<http://digbig.com/4mmch>). More on this next issue.

This issue's articles

This issue contains an article on Freedom of Information laws in two countries we haven't featured so far: an overview of the New Zealand Official Information Act based on some detailed research conducted by Steven Price and a case study relating to Japan's information disclosure law by Lawrence Repta. As precedent setting decisions start to emerge from the UK Information Commissioner's Office, Ibrahim Hasan and Marcus Turle examine implication of some of decisions issued so far related to personal data and commercial interests/confidentiality respectively. In a viewpoint article Paul Kelly offers an insiders view of FOI from his experiences in the Ontario Government.

As ever I welcome quality articles (research, case studies & comment) from around world on the topic of Freedom of Information legislation.

I'm also interested to hear from readers with views about issues of themes that the journal needs to cover.

As the journal is open access and non-commercial we have a limited budget for promotion, so please do pass on and promote the journal if you deem it be to be relevant to others. If you are willing to distribute a poster or some flyers at events, conferences etc please contact me at the email address below.

Regards

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