

Developing a shared activity list

A short proposal for how the OpenActive community group can collaborate on the creation of a shared activity list.

General requirements:

1. Provide an openly licensed activity list, that can be reused by anyone in the sector
2. Submit a basic hierarchy of physical activities to support better discovery tools
3. Ensure there is an open, collaborative process for maintaining the list

Proposal:

We develop and publish a new activity list as an output of the W3C OpenActive Community Group.

The list will be owned and mandated by the community group and will be published as a deliverable alongside the existing specification(s).

The list will be published at an OpenActive.io URL and be available for download and reuse under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 licence. This will enable wide reuse of the data.

The list should have several editors who will co-ordinate updates to the list. Suggest the editors consist of the current chair (Leigh Dodds) and 2 additional volunteers from the group. This will allow for clear, independent ownership of the list.

Changes to the list will be agreed by discussions within the community group, using the existing W3C process. E.g. on-list discussions, use of github, regular hangouts.

Publishers will be encouraged to use and adopt the standard list but will not be required to use it. The group can't compel people to use the list and we want to encourage organisations to begin publishing data as soon as possible, not after they've also modified their existing data

For those organisations that prefer to continue to use their own activity list, e.g. because it is better suited for a specific community, then we will explore ways to publish mappings between these lists. The W3C SKOS specification provides existing vocabulary for publishing mappings in a machine-readable form.

The goal will be to produce a hierarchical list of terms. While getting agreement on a detailed hierarchy may be difficult, there has been feedback that hierarchical list would be useful to support discovery of activities.

To reduce unnecessary debates, we may choose to create a limited hierarchy, e.g. maximum of two levels.

We will also publish guidance around how an organisation can extend the core list to add additional data, e.g. more detail in the hierarchy, collections of activities, and alternative labels.

First steps:

- Publish existing activity lists under an open licence. E.g. Sport England, SportSuite. We can then freely reuse these to develop a common list
- Extract and review top-level list of activities for comparison and review
- Identify editors for the document