

What is the DPA?

The Data Publishers Association (DPA) was formed in 1970 with the key aim of promoting the understanding and use of data in the business environment. Over the years it has seen the industry move from a predominately book publishing business to electronic publishing and most significantly to publishing on the web.

Who are its members?

The DPA supports business and consumer companies that, sell data by subscription, supplement their data with advertising sales or both. It has major players such as Reed Elsevier, Haymarket, Yell, BT, D&B and Experian as members, as well as smaller companies such as Executive Grapevine, The Market Research Society and Property Data. This industry contributes well over £1bn to the UK economy and has seen its advertising turnover increase every year since 1975.

What does it do?

Within the organisation, there are specialists who are involved in making representations to the Government and DTI on matters, which effect data publishers - especially new laws that come from either the UK or the EU Governments.

Through their close links with the European Association of Directory Publishers (EADP) and the Periodical Publishers Association (PPA) they are able to lobby successfully against policies which might have a detrimental effect on the industry.

The DPA also works with organisations such as the Digital Content Forum (DCF) to promote the use and value of data to today's businesses.

How it serves its members?

Communications

A monthly newsletter, *News in Brief*, informs all members about the latest news and developments in the data publishing industry – covering four key areas; DPA news, industry news, legal & public affairs, and events & training.

Representation

The DPA is the only organisation that represents the interests of bona-fide UK directory and data publishers to government and the wider business community. It is involved with a number of legal representations, such as the Unsolicited Goods and Services Act and EU directives on databases.

In addition, the DPA works with other leading organisations to further leverage the interests and needs of its members.

Training and Seminars

As part of its commitment to improve best practice within the industry, throughout the year the DPA organises a number of training courses and seminars. These cover practical elements, as well as issues of current interest and concern to the industry.

Networking

The DPA is the central forum where individuals can meet and exchange ideas with other directory and data publishers, and suppliers. Regular events in the DPA calendar include; an annual conference, which debates current hot topics; annual awards, recognising and saluting industry achievement; and a New Year drinks reception, giving members the opportunity to get together informally.

Publicity and Promotion

The DPA's remit is to promote both its members activities and the industry as a whole. To this end, the DPA's website (www.dpa.org.uk), is continually updated, and also includes an invaluable directory for members, their products and services. The same membership information is also published in an annual *Membership Book*, which is distributed to an array of recognised information users, including libraries and Chambers of Commerce.

Statistics

Periodically, the DPA carries out its own business performance and employment research. It also participates in the collection of directory and database advertising statistics.

Business Support

The DPA provides its members with a free business support helpline offering general advice on issues such as tax, VAT, health & safety and employment.

Public Affairs 2005/2006

The DPA is the only organisation that represents the interests of bona-fide UK directory and data publishers to the government and the wider business community. It is continually involved with a number of legal and policy representations both at the UK and EU level. It has been directly involved with the following issues:

Public Sector Information

PSI is a major potential resource for the UK data industry. The DPA has influenced the implementation of the EU directive on liberalizing access to PSI and encouraged the Office of Public Sector Information to continue to open up access to UK PSI. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is investigating whether public sector information holders (PSIHs) have an unfair advantage over private sector information providers. It will examine whether PSIHs have been acting anti-competitively when selling their own information in competition with private sector value added re-users.

Electronic Commerce Directive

The DPA, with other Digital Content Forum (DCF) members submitted a response to the DTI consultation on the implications of extending the "mere conduit" exceptions for liability to providers of hyperlinks, location tool and content aggregation services. Under the current legislation there is a limit of liability, where these service providers act as mere conduits, caches or hosts of information.

Consumer Credit Advertising Regulations

The DPA and its affected members have been involved in discussions with the FSA and OFT and are assisting the DTI to demonstrate the difficulties of compliance and the impact of these regulations.

Classified Directories Advertising Services

The DPA, in its submission to the Competition Commission, stated that its membership fully supports and endorses the need for a competitive UK market and believes that, amongst the many issues that will be examined over the course of the inquiry, it hopes that the Competition Commission will give careful consideration to the potentially negative impact of varying forms of price regulation – including price caps – on new entrants and more generally on the competitive structure of the market.

European Commission evaluation of Database Directive

The DPA expressed serious concerns over the European Commission's questionnaire and evaluation document which looked into the 'sui generis' right, following challenges from user groups and the European Court of Justice (ECJ) judgment against the British Horseracing Board.

Legal Deposit Advisory Panel

Tessa Jowell, the Secretary of State at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has appointed the members of the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel. The panel will advise the Secretary of State on the timing and content of regulations relating to legal deposits and oversee the implementation of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003. Ten members have been appointed to the panel including DPA's Public Affairs Director, Trevor Fenwick.

Further Information

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