The Visible Human male data set was released to the public in November 1994. The female data set was released a year later. There are now almost 3,000 licensees of the data set worldwide. Several hundred products use the data sets as well as countless research projects.

The Visible Human Project is an example of “open science”. In this talk I will describe the genesis of the Visible Human Project and its data sets. Since the release of the Visible Human data (open data), the project successfully completed the development of a set of open source software tools (open software) for image segmentation and registration, ITK. The project has recently started a new phase which is the development of a knowledge base of human variation (open knowledge) which we propose to accomplish through a Web 2.0 environment.