WDS ECR Network Activity Report

Introduction

The World Data System (WDS) is a body of the International Science Council (ISC) that helps to coordinate and support research data centres and data services worldwide. WDS activities span all disciplines, and are designed to ensure that research data are preserved and openly disseminated to safeguard the integrity of science. WDS is also concerned with the availability to scientists and policymakers of the critical information necessary to manage Earth's resources wisely.

Recognizing the important role of Early Career Researchers in developing and promoting best practice in data management, data analysis and data sharing, WDS have established a Network of Early Career Researchers and Scientists (collectively ECRs) in 2017, to help foster better communication among ECRs, and to design activities targeting their interests and concerns.

Figure 1: WDS-ECR Co-Chairs: Alice Fremand and Sabrina Delgado Arias

2019-2020 (November-April) Summary

Since the 21st Meeting of the WDS Scientific Committee on 04-05 November 2019, the ECR Network has continued in its efforts to 1) expand and engage its membership, 2) create awareness of the WDS and 3) design activities to inspire and train the next generation of data stewards. While we celebrated a few milestones, a couple of challenges have slowed our progress: stepping down of Ivan Pyshnograiev as co-chair in December 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Our current efforts are geared towards rebuilding the website, restructuring the charter, and planning our next quarterly calls with members.

2019-2020 Milestones and Outcomes

1. Milestones

During the past few months, we focused on creating a strategy for finding new network representatives. As part of the WDS-ECR network newsletter, we developed a call for a new co-chair, which closed on April 15, 2020.

We have decided to ask the three candidates not selected to join the WDS-ECR network as part of an advisory board. As members of the advisory board they would help the co-chairs with expanding the network members, outreach and communication in their respective fields, and help guide the topics and ideas for future engagement events.

Another effort has been to revisit our network goals and membership. We reviewed the definitions of "early career" and compared network goals and objectives between WDS, CODATA, RDA and GO FAIR to compare our offerings. We decided that our membership should not only be repositories, but be more inclusive (e.g. knowledge brokers, data architects, data users, librarians). Our membership will also be a group of self-defined early career researchers and scientists to avoid specific age and educational requirements (at least M.Sc. level). We feel this will enable a greater participation.

Highlights:

- ❖ Sabrina reported on the WDS-ECR Network progress and participated in the 21st Meeting of WDS Scientific Committee. Paris, France, November 2019
- ❖ Alice participated in the WDS/EGU training workshop promoting data management to ECR. She presented an induction course on Research Data Management and the WDS ECR Network.
- ❖ Alice and Sabrina met with Rorie, face-to-face during the Polar Data Forum to discuss the future of the network, November 2019.
- ❖ Sabrina promoted the network at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, California. 2019.
- ❖ Alice and Rorie together with members of the SC prepared an abstract for a PICO session for EGU2020. It has been accepted but the number of abstracts received for the session did not meet the minimum requirements
- ❖ Alice is co-convener of an EGU short course on data management "SC2.2 - Handling your data efficiently from planning to reuse – tips and tools to save time and nerves". The course has been selected as one of the seven (over 90) Short Courses that will be featured throughout the first week of May. It will be promoted by EGU as part of its official offer during the week and uploaded onto the EGU's YouTube Channel.

❖ Sabrina developed and submitted an abstract for the 2nd LAC Scientific Data Management workshop. Abstract was accepted as part of a joint WDS+RDA panel, but presentation and workshop postponed due to ongoing pandemic.
❖ Developed table identifying Early Career Network Goals for WDS, CODATA, RDA and GO FAIR. Sabrina and Alice are using this table to guide restructuring of the network website and charter.
❖ Agneta Ghose posted a blog post on her experience about the WDS/EGU training workshop
❖ Developed and distributed Quarterly Newsletter to WDS-ECR members

2. Next steps

During the next period, in collaboration with the SC, we will welcome the successful candidate to take their role as new Co-Chair. We will also continue restructuring of the WDS-ECR website based on our revised set of goals. Alice has requested rights to update the website, now that Ivan is no longer a co-chair, and will continue communication with Kumi to finalise the structure. In May, we will kick-off the webinar series with a tentative presentation from Dr. Libby Liggins (TBD) and set up a regular quarterly schedule for the remaining calls. As part of EGU2020, Alice will be co-convener of a short course promoting good data management practices in geosciences. To promote the network as well as successful WDS training activities, Marcus and Leila (participants of the WDS/EGU training workshop in Paris) will be presenting their experience on the WDS/EGU training workshop.