World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC)
Teleconference #16

Teleconference #16 was held on Thursday, 12 June 2014 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Big Data Workshop & Engagement with FE Science Committee

- Two meetings were recently held in Beijing. The first—co-organized by WDS and the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)—was a half day meeting with the Chair and two members of the Future Earth Science Committee, as well as the Interim Director of the Future Earth Secretariat. Discussions involved working closely together to identify (future) core projects to potentially host sessions at SciDataCon, and the establishing of a task force by the Future Earth Science Committee for data management.
- The second meeting was a two-day Big Data Workshop for international research programmes and was organized by CODATA, co-sponsored by WDS, and hosted by the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth. A number of experts gave presentations on Big Data topics at this meeting, in both the context of global initiatives and research more generally. The meeting concluded with the drafting of a statement that calls for CODATA to establish a Working Group (WG) to address recognized Big Data issues for international research programmes, and WDS to resolve associated data stewardship and curation matters.

Publication of the Strategic Plan & Online Release of Implementation Plan

- The Strategic Plan was approved by the SC, and will be sent to the ICSU Secretariat for inclusion in the ICSU General Assembly, and to WDS Members as part of a formal invitation to join the Members' Forum in New Delhi. It also links to the online Implementation Plan, and includes a platform to add comments to this evolving document.
- An Action to perform a midterm review (2016–2017) of the Strategic Plan will be added to the Implementation Plan in order to check the relevancy of the present Strategic Plan and to begin to think about the next one.

WDS Working Groups

a. Data Publication
- The deliverables of the Services WG have been reordered, with the governance of such a service already being studied. A number of international groups are part of this initiative, and it is extremely likely to be realized.
- Several funding proposals are in preparation for submission to Horizon 2020 on the European Union (EU) side. The first is to link ORCID, DataCite, data centres, and publishers, and thus address the core service infrastructure for identifiers. A second proposal then tackles the core activities the WGs hope to achieve.

b. Certification
- The WG was officially endorsed by the Research Data Alliance (RDA) on 21 May. It then convened for a teleconference the following week to continue its efforts in accomplishing its first deliverable—amalgamating the parts of the Data Seal of approval and WDS catalogues concerning repository functions. Whilst it is correct to examine these commonalities first, the WG should not forget the differences between the organizations. Thus, all criteria and guidelines will be included in the initial incarnation.

c. Global Registry
- The aforementioned Horizon 2020 proposal by the Data Publication WG is also attempting to provide funding towards the Global Registry.

d. Metadata Catalogue
- The International Programme Office has contacted WDS Members who supplied sufficient information in last year's survey about the practical details of harvesting their metadata catalogues.
- Chinese WDS Members wish to build a clearinghouse, dynamically updated within the normal workflow, as a single channel for ICSU-WDS to access their metadata.

Membership Applications Update

- An Expression of Interest was approved from CODATA for WDS Associate membership.

- CODATA and WDS are working to establish a joint Strategic Committee, and will convene a meeting between the Executive Committees of both organizations.
- The WDS-SC agreed on Reviewers to assess the WDS Regular Member application of Environment Climate Data Sweden.

SciDataCon 2014 + WDS Prize
- The SC approved the proposal that WDS should sponsor an annual Data Stewardship Award, to be presented at an awards session within SciDataCon. The prize will be the same for years when SciDataCon is held and for intervening years, with both winners invited to the subsequent Conference.
- In view of the short timeframe, it was considered that the selection panel will consist of a subcommittee of the SC on this occasion, but should not be the case in the future.
- SC members were also in favour of a joint CODATA–WDS Conference Prize for the most engaging/influential paper of SciDataCon.