World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) Teleconference #25

Teleconference #25 was held on Tuesday, 23 June 2015 at 13:00 UTC

Summary:

International Data Week (IDW) 2016

- IDW 2016 will almost certainly be on the east coast of the US, with the local organizer being Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The Week will be busy, including the 2016 WDS Members' Forum, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) General Assembly, SciDataCon 2016, the 8th Plenary Meeting of the Research Data Alliance (RDA), and the 15th WDS-SC Meeting. Some of these events will slightly overlap, but an attempt is being made to minimize this. In particular, the midweek International Data Forum will be a key event with no overlaps.
- The WDS-SC was presented with a draft document on the proposed themes for the International Data Week (IDW) as a whole, and SciDataCon 2016 as one of its components. The text was drafted alongside CODATA and RDA, and has been circulated within their constituencies for comment. The present draft raises the profile of data stewardship and ensures that key aspects advocated by WDS are covered in the programme.
- The current description of the International Data Forum is yet to be fully developed, especially concerning how the three organizations will explore their contacts with industry. This Forum is a joint venture with RDA, which is still organizing its second Plenary of 2015, and WDS may take the lead and suggest topics to flesh out the document.
- The WDS-SC was asked to give feedback on the draft document; to flag anything missing or not sufficiently represented in the proposed themes, and thus shape the events accordingly.

WDS Working Groups (WGs)

a. Transition to new WDS-SC
   - One of the requirements in WDS WG Charters is that at least one of the Co-chairs must be an SC member. However, some flexibility in this requirement is needed while transitioning to the new Committee. The WDS-SC therefore agreed that members currently co-chairing WGs, and whose terms are expiring, can continue until the next renewal point. It requested that the International Programme Office (IPO) write up the resolution as a separate document and circulate this by email.

b. Certification
   - Since the last teleconference, the WDS Membership and Certification Subcommittee had a meeting to try to address some of the outstanding questions resulting from the WG. The WDS-SC was led through a summary of the outcomes of this conversation, which will be subsequently relayed to the WG.

c. Knowledge Network and Metadata Catalogue (MC)
   - There are two options for making progress:
     i. A new WG in the RDA–WDS context that deals with the brokering framework. Such a WG is a medium to long-term development, and might make progress in the next 1.5 years by merging some of the brokers already available so that they can be used to harvest all (meta)data from WDS Members for the MC.
     ii. The EU project, OpenAIRE, would be an excellent candidate to take over some of the essential tasks of WDS Infrastructure, including the ingesting of metadata from various data providers. It is already taking in crosslinking information (see below), and has built a detailed and impressive framework that safeguards the quality of information. WDS should approach them soon, and it has already been proposed that OpenAIRE becomes a WDS Member.

d. Data Publishing
   - OpenAIRE are now on board and have taken on the ingest part of the cross-linking service. This is a relief for the WG, because it does not have to assemble the information or rely on single providers.
   - The WGs are making good progress. However, some of the outputs are not as originally expected, and future activities should lead to practical outcomes and WDS Members encouraged to be more engaged. There is a big opportunity to forge links between WDS Members and science publishers in a better way: building connections

at a journal level and exemplifying what data publishing means, at least for those data publishable in the context of an article.
- The WGs and umbrella Interest Group have all submitted requests for breakout sessions at the 6th RDA Plenary Meeting (23–25 September; Paris), including several joint sessions with other RDA WGs to create synergies.

Membership Applications Update
- Land Processes Distributed Active Archive Center was accredited as a WDS Regular Member.
- The criterion of having a continuity plan is one that many data services have difficulty in answering, since they often do not have a formal plan or are unsure what evidence should be provided. WDS is attempting to play an educational role on this over time, but the WDS-SC needs to elaborate on the criterion—it is about continuity of the data rather than the facility. A future task might be to generate a catalogue of means for what makes an effective continuity plan such that WDS Members can then at least use this as a discussion base.
- There also needs to be criteria for high-volume data to decide what should be kept for long-term preservation. Questions on what to discard and what to preserve often arise, and ICSU-WDS should raise awareness on this subject from technical and expert points of view.

CODATA Strategy: WDS feedback & Data Science Journal: Call for Editorial Board and Section Editors
- CODATA shared its new strategy document with WDS, and is requesting formal feedback from the WDS-SC. CODATA would also like WDS to indicate its current priorities and future activities, and the IPO will point CODATA to the WDS Strategic Plan. The WDS-SC was requested look at CODATA's strategy document and provide the IPO with its views on WDS' synergies and interactions with CODATA.
- The Data Science Journal (DSJ) is a CODATA publication that has recently been relaunched using an open access publisher. DSJ is now looking to establish its editorial board and has put out a Call for Volunteers to be board members, especially those who can specialize in certain sections. The SC was asked to help identify suitable experts to be nominated for this editorial board.

Any Other Business
- The IPO will follow up with the Canadian National Committee for CODATA on trying to expand WDS membership in Canada. It has also had useful interactions with DATA Canada, which has recently released a useful document in which WDS certification is cited.
- The next SC teleconference will be chaired by the new SC Chair, and all members of the current WDS-SC will be invited to join alongside the new SC members as a way of handing over from the current to the new Committee. The teleconference agenda will be kept light, concentrating on 2–3 items, and there will be an introduction at the beginning to give new SC members an understanding of WDS practices. The current WDS-SC will be there to assist in discussions wherever needed.