World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2018–2021

Teleconference #10

Teleconference #10 took place on Tuesday, 09 July 2019 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Report on Committee on Data (CODATA)/GO FAIR/Research Data Alliance/WDS Leadership Meeting

• The leadership meeting was very productive. It has resulted in a ‘Data Together’ document that tries to articulate the roles of the four organizations and how they complement one another.
• Comments from the WDS-SC were used to revise the document, and the updated version will be available after the principal authors agree on the edits. The WDS-SC can then review the final document before the next leadership meeting in September.
• The four organizations need to review their joint activities. WDS will brainstorm on this and explore other opportunities to work with the partner organizations so that potential future joint activities can be discussed at the September meeting.
• The organizations are also working on a spreadsheet that defines the scope of each organization. The first version tries to identify the specific roles of global organizations in the data field; however, it is still at a very generic level, and needs to be considered further so that it defines what issues each organization addresses. The WDS-SC should be able to look at the updated version in August.

Review of Action Items

• The members of the previous CODATA–WDS Citizen Science Task Group (TG) who are taking the lead on the journal article will have a meeting at the end of July to wrap things up.
• A new temporary staff member hired as the WDS Communications Officer started working fulltime for the WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) on 1 July.
• Nearly 80 people have already applied to fill the 24 available spaces for the Training Workshop. The WDS-IPO moreover expects many more people will apply by the deadline. The list of applicants will be shared with the WDS-SC once the call is closed, and the task of further developing the programme will be added as an Action Item.
• No fixed date has been set for discussions on the support that can be provide by WDS to the African Open Science Platform (AOSP). A list of African repositories generated by the AOSP will be available online, after which the WDS-IPO will start to contact the repositories to find out more about their current status.
• A proposal will be submitted to include a half-day training session at an upcoming Open Science meeting in Dakar.

Guidelines for WDS Meetings

• The latest version of the Guidelines has been modified to reflect the comments on the first draft at the last WDS-SC Teleconference, and now gives a better indication of what is needed for a meeting to gain WDS endorsement. The final page lists criteria that act as a checklist for anyone putting in a proposal and that the WDS-SC can use to benchmark each proposal.
• It is expected that people following the guidelines will involve the WDS-IPO and the WDS-SC in the proposal, and will regularly bring things back to the WDS-SC for feedback. This enables the WDS-SC to help if something is not going in the right direction. A situation then should not arise where a meeting does not fulfil the WDS remit.
• The WDS-IPO will send the document to the WDS-SC for electronic approval such that it can then be added to the WDS website.

Proposal for WDS Meeting in 2020

• The draft proposal for a WDS meeting to be held in Tokyo in late 2020 was presented to the WDS-SC. The WDS-IPO is talking with the National Institute of Communications Technology (NICT) and other Japanese research institutes about collaboration and funding.
Two alternatives for meeting were outlined, dependent on the amount of funding that is granted. In the first scenario, the funding would be sufficient to have a larger, more international meeting; and in the second scenario, the funding the audience would be mostly domestic. In both cases, the hope would be to have a celebratory element marking the 10-year anniversary of the WDS-IPO hosting at NICT.

The proposal is very preliminary at this stage, and thus cannot be evaluated because it does not address the criteria for a WDS-endorsed workshop. A more substantial proposal for potential WDS endorsement will be created when more information is known.

The funding situation should be clearer by January/February 2020. In the meantime, a document with more detailed content is to be created. At a minimum, the domestic-focussed meeting will happen, and a start can be made on fleshing out the details for this scenario.

WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO) Update & Action Items

- More clarity is needed before setting up a Working Group (WG) for WDS Member’s interested in creating harvestable metadata catalogues. The draft WG Charter contains a preliminary list of WDS Members interested in working together on the issue.
- All WDS WGs should have at least one Chair from the WDS-SC. For other Co-chairs, it should be somebody from the general WG Members with enthusiasm to take it forward and has the time to do it. The WDS-ITO will approach a potential Chair from the WDS-SC, and will invite people to join as WG members.
- Comments on the draft Charter by the WDS-SC will be sent to the WDS-ITO.
- The first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was to happen the day following Teleconference #10. A report back will be presented at the August teleconference.
- The WDS-ITO will lead two sessions at the Training Workshop: one on Big Data and one on Cloud platforms.
- A grant for CoreTrustSeal workshops aimed at Canadian repositories was denied, but the WDS-ITO is still involved in the Research Data Canada WG on training for Canadian repositories.
- A list of brokering components found through the British Arctic Survey was sent to the WDS-ITO, and will be a topic for discussion with the TAC. A related development is that the University of Victoria has offered server space to the WDS-ITO if it requires this to host infrastructure.
- The WDS-ITO’s quantitative survey of the membership has currently received 72 responses. The survey will be closed at the end of July, and a summary created for the August teleconference. For the qualitative survey, WDS Members heavily involved in semantic markup are specifically being targeted by the WDS-ITO to help it achieve several of its goals at once.

Updated Implementation Plan

- At the face-to-face Meeting, the WDS-SC reviewed and updated the current deliverables/milestones and tasks in the WDS Implementation Plan. The WDS-SC was now presented both a clean version of the Plan and one highlighting the edits made.
- The new version of the Plan will be uploaded to the WDS website after making the necessary additional edits that were requested by the WDS-SC.

WDS Applications Update

- The WDS-IPO will circulate by an email the current Expressions of Interest for WDS membership and the completed applications for both new and renewing memberships such that the WDS-SC can make electronic decisions.
- The WDS-IPO is to send a link to the WDS-ITO survey to each new Member immediately after they are approved. The responses then provide the WDS-ITO with some background on each organization’s current status, their technical setups, and their priorities for the future.

Any Other Business

- A discussion about the CODATA–WDS TG on Citizen Science for the Sustainable Development Goals will be added to the Agenda for WDS-SC Teleconference #11. The TG needs some creative inputs such that it can rethink its remit.