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

Teleconference #11

Teleconference #11 was held on Thursday, 22 August 2019 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Data Together (DT) & Joint Activity Plan

- The latest draft of the DT document was presented to the WDS-SC. This version had been agreed during a teleconference among leadership representatives of the ISC’s Committee on Data (CODATA), GO FAIR, the Research Data Alliance (RDA), and WDS. The plan was now to get inputs on this draft from all of the organizations in order to generate a final version by September. All of the comments and feedback from each organization will be merged into a single document.
- The WDS-IPO had appended to the document all of the feedback received thus far, and the WDS-SC was asked whether it had any additional comments.
- There was a general feeling that WDS is underrepresented in the document, and in particular its role as the global voice for data repositories. It was therefore recommended to include some wording to strengthen this and clarify WDS’ role.
- The document needs significant editing to ensure it is easily understandable to external readers, and does not lead to more confusion about the roles and alignment of the organizations.
- The text will be rewritten after getting inputs from the WDS-SC, and a clean version will be presented to the other organizations. If a final version cannot be fixed at the September meeting, then one idea is get somebody outside of the organizations to edit it.
- The document may need some context at the start. It may not mean much to people who are well-aware about data management and sharing if it does not have background or introductory text on how data is a ‘hot topic’ and references to important documents highlighting how much international science and its culture are changing.
- Comments from the WDS-SC will be collected by the end of August, and then the document prepared for the September meeting.

Programme, Case Studies, and Materials for Early Career Researchers (ECR) Training Workshop

- The ECR training Workshop received 110 applications for the 24 available spaces. The subcommittee organizing the Workshop has looked through the applications, and decided on how best to select the participants.
- A draft programme has been created for the two-and-a-half days that incorporates some flexibility on the first and third days to enable participants to present their ideas and to work on individual problems. Once the final list of attendees is decided, the programme will be discussed in more depth.

CODATA–WDS Task Group (TG)

- Since the TG was approved in late 2018, a number of similar efforts developed very quickly, and some of the actions the TG proposed are already being done. The TG is therefore unsure how to proceed, and may limit its scope to completing the work started under its predecessor TG.
- A number of activities the TG could pursue were listed for the WDS-SC to discuss; but unless funding is available for a research assistant to take on some of the potential tasks, the TG is unlikely to be able to achieve any goals it sets itself.
- Suggestions from the WDS-SC on the proposed activities and how to move forward will be shared with the TG Co-chairs who have a planned call where they hope to identify the highest priorities and then relayed these to the larger TG.
- A spreadsheet generated by the TG comparing different projects looking at citizen science and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is very interesting. The TG should not discount the idea of
identifying where citizen science data is informing the SDG process, and the spreadsheet could be a TG product since it in part meets the TG objectives. These two items could be developed further by the TG towards a resulting paper.

- Disaster response is another area of importance where the TG could have some impact. There is little awareness of the projects in the citizen science realm that are collecting data in the immediate aftermath or prior to disasters, but their knowledge could help in finding ways to act during disasters.

**Review of Action Items**

- An email will be sent to WDS Members to ask about whether they hold citizen science data.
- A conversation took place with the ISC Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) about potential collaborations. ISC ROAP is interested in connecting with WDS, particular in relation to the Open Science Platform (OSP) it is developing. ROAP will contact the WDS-IPO to ask for WDS opinions on a survey it wants to conduct concerning its OSP.
- It was agreed to hold a Webinar on certification aimed at Health Sciences in early October. Contact was also made with RDA about a Webinar and associated blog post on the adoption of RDA outputs.
- The WDS-IPO is exploring how WDS can best provide support for the African OSP (AOSP). Discussions will continue after the AOSP committee’s upcoming meeting. A list of African repositories will also be shared with the WDS-IPO such that is can ascertain the maturity of these repositories, and whether any are in a position to work towards CoreTrustSeal certification.
- An email was drafted for the WDS membership concerning whether they might host future WDS-SC Meetings. The results will be presented at the face-to-face Meeting such that the WDS-SC can decide on whether it needs to restructure its in-person and virtual meetings in 2020.

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

- The WDS-ITO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held its first meeting in July. The TAC was onboard with the proposal for the WDS-ITO to work on adding semantic markup to metadata and with the creation of the Harvestable Metadata Catalogue WG. It was less convinced about whether the Brokering Registry is a good use of WDS-ITO time and resources. The TAC will meet again in September.
- A co-opted student will be joining the WDS-ITO in September. The person hired has a PhD and is currently getting a Masters in library science. The WDS-ITO is trying to secure funding to try to keep her for the whole year rather than four months.
- The Canadian National Research Data Infrastructure Integration is continuing. It is defining its outputs, one of which is going to probably be a database of training material, which is a similar product to that the WDS-IPO has created the past.
- It was asked whether WDS has a controlled vocabulary for the types of data that WDS Members hold such that it is possible to talk about where WDS makes the biggest contributions to different branches of science. WDS already uses a controlled vocabulary of scientific domains for WDS Members, but also allows them to add other specifics domains if they wish. The WDS-IPO will share the vocabulary with the WDS-ITO.

**Group on Earth Observations (GEO) 2020 Mid-term Evaluation – Call for Nominations**

- GEO has extended the Call for Nominations to be part of the GEO mid-term evaluation team. WDS is a Participating Organization of GEO, and the WDS-SC was asked to put forward names who might be interested in this opportunity.
- The WDS-IPO is not able to attend the GEO Plenary in November since it conflicts with the 21st WDS-SC Meeting and ECR Workshop. However, a WDS Representative from the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center has agreed to represent WDS at the Plenary and will be briefed on any voting matters or otherwise.