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

Teleconference #14

Teleconference #14 was held on Tuesday, 10 March 2020 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Draft Agenda for the 22nd WDS-SC Meeting

- With much uncertainty around the coronavirus situation, the WDS International Programme Office proposed that a discussion was needed around the merits of moving forward with a face-to-face Meeting.
- The Second Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Workshop is not hugely in doubt at present. But some concern has expressed by abstract authors who are not based in Brazil.
- With just over a month before the Workshop, more and more meetings are being cancelled, and the question was raised of whether the WDS-SC should find an alternative solution. There are different policies in different countries, and the policies are changing. Some institutions are deciding that their employees are not allowed to travel, and it is likely that many people will be facing with such institutional policies. It is a very diverse and unpredictable situation at the moment.
- The WDS-SC decided that the most judicious response was to cancel the face-to-face Meeting and try to find an alternative solution along the lines of having several prolonged conference calls on the dates set aside for the WDS-SC Meeting.
- With this decision made, the WDS-SC focussed on identifying the most important items in the Meeting Agenda—those critical to the next six months of activity by the WDS-IPO and WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO), as well as strategically—and how to reconfigure them/make them briefer.
- The remaining issue was what to do if the Second LAC Workshop goes ahead. WDS can offer help on a remote basis, but it is unclear if the discussions on the importance of certification can be handled by remotely or not.
- Given the interest in the region and the work already put into the Workshop, WDS may owe it to people to have a satellite meeting in São Paulo. A targeted workshop could lead to a follow-on, event later on to keep the momentum going.

Desirable Characteristics of Repositories for Managing and Sharing Data Resulting From Federally Funded Research

- Data produced as a result of US federally funded research is now required to be put into a repository, but there is no guidance on what type of repository. People can therefore check a box and simply put data up on an institutional webpage that could potentially disappear within a year or two. The current Request for Comments is a recognition that the guidelines in Data Management Plans may not be sufficient if they do not include depositing data in a Trustworthy Data Repository (TDR).
- Two separate comment documents are currently being circulated: one by CoreTrustSeal, which is very comprehensive and mentions WDS; and a second led by the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) US committee, which has invited WDS inputs. Given the short time before the deadline, the WDS-SC was asked whether to accept the invitation to work with CODATA US on a joint response, or if the CoreTrustSeal response is sufficient in representing the views of WDS.
- The CoreTrustSeal response was edited by the WDS-IPO to ensure that the WDS voice is at least partially covered. Moreover, with so much overlap among the various organizations, it might be a stronger, community statement to if the CoreTrustSeal response is signed by other parties—documents that include multiple signatories can carry a lot more weight. The CODATA US response could then support the comprehensive CoreTrustSeal document by describing the context and the role of RDA, CoreTrustSeal, CODATA, and WDS in promoting trustworthy repositories, and refer to the CoreTrustSeal detailed work as a technical response.
WDS will continue to work with CODATA US on a response, and then make endorsements or modifications as needed. Even small adjustments to the guidelines would help advance the interests of WDS.

Another Request for Comments in the federal register is related to data transparency. It is important that the WDS-SC is aware of the details, and some notes on it will be circulated.

**WDS-ITO Update**

- More time is needed to discuss WDS-ITO initiatives, and therefore some additional calls will be set up.
- The WDS-ITO is waiting to hear whether or not it will receive funding for two new staff members. The initiatives that are earmarked for the staff members are in the process. For the Harvestable Metadata Services Working Group (WG), a tentative flowchart has been created that starts from Ma. There is also a new set of visualizations for the WDS-ITO’s work on Schema.org markup that will be presented at the upcoming RDA Plenary in Melbourne.
- There are ongoing discussions with WGs in Canada about bringing a host of Canadian repositories through the CoreTrustSeal certification, and the WDS-ITO helping to support that.
- A staffing plan is underway to bring back the co-op student who previously worked at the WDS-ITO and who is a good fit for the WDS-ITO’s ‘FAIR in the Global South’ project.
- The WDS-SC was asked to give feedback on the WDS visualizations generated by the WDS-ITO since this impacts on a number of its projects. If the WDS-ITO continues to work on them, then WDS may need to be stricter in the way it classifies its Members—the domains they serve—in terms of a controlled vocabulary. This would probably require a small WG to build a database that reclassifies the WDS membership.
- The WDS-ITO has a new work package whereby it takes a leadership role in the RDA Brokering WG. The expectation is to convene meetings of the WG, starting with the RDA Plenary in Melbourne. The work package will culminate in a framework document sometime around RDA’s 16th Plenary meeting in November.

**WDS Meetings**

a. **WDS-IPO 10th Anniversary & International Symposium + 23rd WDS-SC Meeting**
   - The 23rd WDS-SC Meeting will take place on 21–22 September 2020 in Tokyo. On the afternoon of Wednesday, 23 September, a 10th anniversary celebration of the WDS-IPO will be held at the Science Council of Japan. Then, on 24–25 September, there will be an international symposium that is predominantly organized by the Research Organization of Information and Systems in Japan. The WDS-IPO has been working with ORCID. And the WDS-SC will be given more details on the current plans for its approval.

b. **International Data Week (IDW) 2021**
   - IDW 2021 will take place on the week of 8 November 2021 in Seoul, South Korea. The hosts have now created visualizations such that all of the founding and host organizations can start putting out the official announcement. There will also be an announcement at the RDA Plenary in Melbourne.