World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) Teleconference #20

Teleconference #20 was held on Tuesday, 14 October 2014 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Draft Agenda for WDS-SC Meeting #11

- WDS-SC Meeting #11 will be held on 6–7 November, at the Jaypee Vasant Continental Hotel.
- A summary of the Meeting Agenda was given. The SC agreed for the following to be added to the list of Items.
  - The WDS Members' Forum, as an explicit subtopic when reviewing SciDataCon 2014.
  - An informal discussion on what happens to the SC after June 2015—when a number of its members will complete their terms.
  - The list of over 900 repositories within re3data, as an aspect of member recruitment.
  - The proposal to have a joint dinner on the evening of Friday, 7 November with the Executive Committee of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology.
- The 12th WDS-SC Meeting will be held in March 2015 in San Diego to co-locate with the Fifth Research Data Alliance (RDA) Plenary. This plan is preliminary, and a strong understanding of its feasibility is expected by SciDataCon 2014, subject to approval by ICSU.

SciDataCon 2014 + WDS Members' Forum

a. Update on SciDataCon 2014 + WDS Data Stewardship Award
- A final programme with linked abstracts will be published on the Conference website by 24 October.
- Over 100 international participants have completed payment for their registration, with more expected to pay in the final weeks leading up to the Conference. Efforts are also in place to encourage local participation.
- Two awardees—Marshall Ma (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and Robert Redmon (World Data Service for Geophysics)—have been selected for the WDS Data Stewardship Award. There will be a ceremony at the Conference to present the Awards, and the recipients will be invited to give presentations.
- The period for nominations will be increased for the next Data Stewardship Award, and more reminders sent.

b. WDS Members' Forum
- Representatives of many WDS Members will be in attendance such that a productive discussion can be had on integrating Member's data portals into the amalgamated WDS Metadata resource.
- The topic of online publishing of Membership applications was introduced at the 10th WDS-SC Meeting. WDS Members will be consulted for their thoughts on what details might be released.
- The Members' Forum is not a closed event, and it is hoped that the meeting will attract new candidate WDS Members. In particular, prospective Members will be encouraged to use the poster session as an opportunity for informal discussion with the International Programme Office and SC about joining ICSU-WDS.

c. Biennial Reports
- The Report template was updated based on the feedback received during Teleconference #19, with the introduction focussing on the value of the Report as a support document for Members' periodic reviews.
- This document is considered highly valuable, and therefore all WDS Regular and Network Members will be requested to complete it. Moreover, the Reports should ideally be made public via the WDS website. Support will be sought during the Plenary Session of the WDS Members' Forum.
- The template will be shared with the DSA–WDS Certification Partnership Working Group.

RDA Fourth Plenary + WDS Working Groups (WGs)

a. Review of Fourth Plenary
- The Fourth Plenary took place in Amsterdam, hosted by Data Archiving and Networked Services. ICSU-WDS had good presence, and the sessions on all topics of interest were attended.

b. Data Publishing

- The Interest Group (IG) session was successful; attaining the largest audience of the Plenary. This IG is increasing not only in number but also in importance. Reports from the WG under the IG were received well.
- ICSU-WDS hosted a Data Publishing Webinar in early October. This was attended by about 55 participants)—a step up from the first WDS Webinar. The Webinar was fruitful overall, borne out by the feedback received during and after the Webinar, subsequent communication, and additional subscribers to the WDS Newsletter.

c. Certification
- The WG breakout session was positive. The context of the WG within the IG and its current work were summarized; walking through the mapping document that has been generated. One outcome is that the WG will try to link up with the RDA Practical Policy WG.
- The WG has a session at SciDataCon 2014, where the discussion will engage a different audience.

d. Metadata Catalogue (MC)
- There is divergence within the RDA Brokering Governance WG in respect to its emphasis: some members want to develop an open-source brokering tool collection, whereas others want to focus specifically on the governance implementation for an operational broker having a broad reach. If the scope of the RDA WG is narrow, it may be difficult to find synergies with the work of the MC WG, and a subgroup of the SC may meet to decide on how ICSU-WDS will participate in the RDA WG as it moves forward.

e. Knowledge Network (KN)
- It was understood that a 'Birds of a Feather' (BoF) Group session had been reserved to discuss the potential of a RDA Knowledge Network WG. Instead, it was a full Plenary 'Science Stream' session.
- The RDA website technicians will be consulted because none of the data, background, or presentations for the nascent BoF Group have been published online, and so no one can register their interest.
- Substantial discussions took place between the WG and the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology on implementation steps for an operational KN. The current specification will be augmented for use as a background document to apply for funding.

Membership Applications Update
- An Expression of Interest was approved from Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures for WDS Regular membership.