World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #12

Teleconference #12 was held on Tuesday, 25 October 2016 at 13:00 UTC

Summary:

Review of Action items

- The Data Seal of Approval (DSA)–WDS Common Requirements have been updated according the testbed results. Two calls have been organized as a final confirmation that everyone is satisfied. The final version should thus be available within the next fortnight.
- A meeting has been organized on 2 December to find agreement on how to proceed with the alignment of DSA and ICSU-WDS as regards the new common certification.
- The structure of the Training Workshop in China has been confirmed to a large extent. Data stewardship from a WDS perspective will be talked about during a one-day session reserved in the schedule for ICSU-WDS. There needs to be coordination between the speakers and material will shared by the start of November to make sure stories are not repeated and that everything is covered.
- The first teleconference on the road-mapping exercise is now scheduled, and will look to clarify exactly what the exercise will consist of. Once done, a second call will be planned to involve external contributors.
- A scoping workshop will take place on 28–29 November for the Belmont Forum Call on e-Infrastructure and Data Management planned in early 2017. Key people linked to ICSU-WDS have been invited. The workshop will shape the call for proposals, and the WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) needs to communicate with WDS Members once it is out, and invite them to form/be part of consortia for funding proposals.
- The Organizing Committee of International Data Week (IDW) 2016 had a short call to reflect back on the event. Everyone was very happy with how IDW and SciDataCon 2016 went, and although the practical and financial implications have not been finalized, a discussion has started on the potential of a second IDW in 2018. There are opportunities arising for hosting IDW again in the US, but this raises questions of whether that is an issue, and ICSU-WDS and the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (ICSU-CODATA) need to agree on a joint position. The WDS-SC felt that one should take advantage of funding opportunities, and so the option should be left open, but that it is not optimal for IDW to be held in the US twice in a row.
- The logistical aspects of the WDS Asia–Pacific Symposium have been checked. It will be hosted in Kyoto because it is very difficult to use the available funding to provide travel support if attendees are not coming to Japan. The Scientific and Local Organizing Committees for the Symposium are now being formed.
- Abstracts for the European Geosciences Union 2017 General Assembly are due by 11 January 2017. The WDS-SC hopes to have a WDS abstract prepared before the festive holidays for the session on International cross-project collaboration and interoperability of data management systems.

SCHOLIX WG Charter

- The WDS-SC endorsed the Charter for the follow-up Working Group (WG) to that started by ICSU-WDS under the Research Data Alliance on Publishing Data Services. The original WG delivered the Data–Literature Interlinking Service, part of what is now the 'SCHOLIX Framework'. The proposal is that a new WG moves the technical implementation towards something more sustainable and brings users and stakeholders onboard.

Report on ICRI and ILTER

- A pre-event to the International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI) 2016 dealt with the project that ICSU-CODATA and the South African Department of Science and Technology want to establish in Africa. A white paper has been produced in connection with this. The resolution of this pre-event was the need to form a bottom-up forum to enable African researchers, data practitioners, and data managers to deliberate issues important to them. The notion of having a forum where funders, prospective projects/initiatives, and data practitioners on the ground can meet is valuable, and is something that ICSU-WDS will pursue.
- ICSU-WDS' planned African Workshop is one of the building blocks for having a bottom-up approach in bringing together the African data repository community to discuss its needs, and the WDS-SC will ensure that the correct participants are involved and the correct questions posed.

- The majority of ICRI was devoted to large global research infrastructure, but data was not well represented in the scope of the speakers, and there was little opportunity to discuss data infrastructure in support of research infrastructure. Nevertheless, an important undercurrent of the conference was that ICSU-WDS should try and reach out to more organizations by way of guidance on data management or similar.

WDS-ITO Concept Note
- Several extra sections have been added to the Concept Note. In particular, two options for hosting the WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO) have been included: extend the support from the current IPO-host organization to cover the ITO functions and scope defined in the document, or host the WDS-ITO in a different organization and have it be somewhat independent from the WDS-IPO. For the latter, it is imperative to have sufficient incentives concerning governance, and the text tries to capture that.
- Two new diagrams have been proposed to ensure that ICSU-WDS as a programme is cohesive and readable from the outside; the WDS Constitution states that the WDS-IPO has a responsibility for the implementation of the programme and for reporting to the WDS-SC. The WDS-SC felt that the diagrams were not immediately intuitive; in particular, the two-way relationship between the WDS-IPO and WDS-ITO must be very clear.

WDS-SC#16 + 2-day African Workshop
- The dates of the next SC Meeting have been confirmed as 10–13 April 2017. The SC Meeting will span the first two days, and the African Workshop will cover the following 1½ or 2 days.
- The WDS-SC has generated a list of potential invitees for the Workshop, and the WDS-IPO now needs to start work on obtaining funding for their travel. The WDS-IPO also must start issuing invitations soon, because many participants will need to apply for visas and this can take a long time.
- Invitations need to include a short introduction explaining the purpose and expected outcomes of the Workshop. The point is not to have a finalized agenda, but rather covers the main themes. It should highlight that the key question is, 'how can ICSU-WDS help to build stronger data services in Africa?', and that the WDS-SC wants to meet and explore opportunities for ICSU-WDS to support initiatives building data infrastructure within Africa. This also must be reflected in the applications for possible travel support.
- It is especially important to have representation at the Workshop of initiatives that are going forward on the ground in Africa. The WDS-SC thus will try to compile a list of the initiatives they are aware of and the people leading them. The WDS-SC was also encouraged to go through the current list of names, add anyone missing, and indicate whose involvement in the Workshop is vital because they represent a particular organization/endeavour. Those invited can be asked to present on something of interest to them, and lots of time will be scheduled for discussions/breakouts on topics that arise.

2016 Members' Forum Survey & Recertification Schedule
- The WDS-IPO sent out a survey to all WDS Members as a follow up to items talked about at the 2016 Members' Forum. It received responses from 30 WDS Members, and will follow up on all the resulting leads.
- The periodic review schedule will start from the end of 2016, onwards. The first cohort are the WDS Members who were part of the testbed for the DSA–WDS Common Requirements, since they need to be shown the updated Catalogue and reviewed as soon as possible. Members requiring reaccreditation in 2017 are then split into four groups of around 8/9 organizations, one group commencing each quarter.
- By starting in earnest in the New Year, this gives the WDS-IPO time to work with the website developers and add the Activity Report to the Membership Management Tool. This functionality is not available currently, but the expectation is that WDS Members complete their Report at the same time as they undergo recertification.
- It is thought that many applications will be submitted quite quickly for recertification, because the Common Requirements are heavily based on the original WDS Catalogue of Criteria, and so a WDS Member's original responses can be updated and mapped to the new application form.

WDS Session at UN World Data Forum 2017
- This event will be organized in mid-January in Cape Town. The Forum Organizing Committee offered ICSU-WDS the chance to organize a session bridging the science and statistics data communities. A first draft of the session proposal has been put together, the WDS-SC was invited to develop the text and to suggest ideas of what might be covered. It was also asked to inform the WDS-IPO if they or a colleague is interested in participating since there might be some funding available to invite speakers.