

The World Data System

The World Data System (WDS) is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Science Council (ISC). WDS is at the forefront of efforts to create global research data infrastructure that supports:

- Agreed-upon data standards and conventions
- Long-term data stewardship
- Universal and equitable access to quality-assured scientific data, data services, products and information

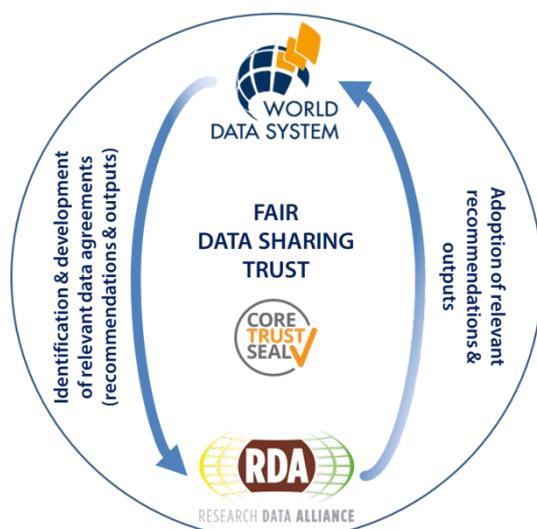
By engaging its worldwide network of member repositories and partners, WDS is building 'communities of excellence' for scientific data services from wide-ranging fields using internationally recognized standards. WDS Members span the range of Natural, Health, and Social Sciences, and the Humanities, and constitute the building blocks of a global infrastructure, forming an interoperable and distributed data system.

Significant recent achievements by WDS include:

- The creation of an organization—CoreTrustSeal—that certifies the trustworthiness of data repositories according to 16 Requirements aligned with the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Discoverable) Principles, and established in collaboration with the international research data community. Approximately 40 repositories have been awarded the CoreTrustSeal since January 2017.
- The creation of the Scholarly Link Exchange (Scholix) framework, a joint initiative with the Research Data Alliance (RDA), providing a global framework linking scientific publications and datasets.
- Bringing together members of the Arctic and Antarctic research communities to share their data practices in 2013 and 2015.
- Co-organization with RDA and ISC's Committee on Data (CODATA) of two International Data Weeks, one in 2016 (Denver, USA) and the other in 2018 (Gaborone, Botswana), each bringing together several hundred members of the data science community.

In addition, WDS seeks to promote under-represented communities in data science. It has increased the engagement of early career researchers and scientists (ECRs) through its ECR Network, and has recognized the contribution of ECRs to scientific data stewardship through the WDS Data Stewardship Award (six recipients since 2015). WDS has also created regional networks to foster data stewardship in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America by organizing regional conferences (with support from ISC Regional Offices) and promoting certification of repositories in these regions. Since 2016, WDS has led a joint Task Group with CODATA focussed on the data management practices of the citizen science and crowdsourcing communities, with particular reference to data in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

SUPPORTING TRUSTWORTHY DATA INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OPEN SCIENCE



WDS Organization

The WDS Scientific Committee includes leading data scientists from WDS Member Organizations and ISC Scientific Unions. The WDS International Programme Office, hosted by the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology in Tokyo, coordinates WDS operations and collaborations with other global data organizations. The WDS International Technology Office, hosted by the University of Victoria in Canada, manages WDS' contribution to operational systems that form part of global research data infrastructure.