World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018
Teleconference #17

Teleconference #17 took place on Tuesday, 23 May 2017 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action items

- The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) has arranged a teleconference with representatives of ORCID to discuss potential collaboration in the area of training.
- The SC Chair is yet to hear back from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) about incorporating Research Data Management training into its Summer School. The WDS-IPO has received feedback on the current curriculum from training experts at DANS and from SC members, and names to conduct the training have been thought about. The document will be finished soon.
- The WDS-IPO has noted everything mentioned at the 16th WDS-SC Meeting that needs changing in the spreadsheet for the Landscape Mapping Exercise. The spreadsheet will be revised accordingly, and will be shown to the Subcommittee at a teleconference in early June, before presenting it to the WDS-SC.
- The SC Chair has drafted a statement calling for Early Career Researchers to help establish a WDS Network. This statement has been sent to the Data Stewardship awardees and will also be shared with the WDS-SC.
- The WDS-IPO has received suggestions for people to reach out to about the Latin American Workshop. Contact has already been made with some of these people and work has been done on gaining possible funding. A final reminder will be sent to the WDS-SC to forward names of key people within their domains in Latin America.
- The WDS-IPO has circulated a Google Form to SC member to state their preferred month to submit a WDS Blog post. Many SC members are yet to sign up, and a reminder will be sent on this.
- The Member information has been updated in the Membership Maturity document. The other parts of the document will also be updated within the next week. The WDS-SC was invited at its 16th Meeting to point to similar information in their domains as that included for biodiversity. Inputs are needed by the end of June if they are to be incorporated by mid-July, and the WDS-IPO will send the WDS-SC a reminder of what is needed.
- The poster from the 2017 European Geosciences Union General Assembly will be updated for the 10th International Carbon Dioxide Conference. The WDS-IPO will send out an email to WDS Members to gauge how many will attend, since this will dictate as to whether ICSU-WDS also tries to organize a side event.
- The WDS Executive Director (ED) has been communicating with people in Grenoble about the French national data pôles becoming WDS Members. He is investigating what the agenda for the next meeting of the pôles will contain, and will try to use the opportunity to make a presentation.

Hosting Call for WDS International Technology Office (WDS-I TO )

- The WDS-SC decided at its 16th Meeting to allow the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NiCT) to think about its potential hosting of the WDS-I TO before a general Call is sent out. The various stakeholders in Japan have been spoken with, and the overall message from the Japanese Ministry of Internal Communications (MIC) is that the WDS-I TO is a positive and understandable development, but it is not ready at this stage to make a firm commitment to be its host. MIC has thus invited the WDS-SC to proceed with the Call, and it will then try to trigger national mechanisms to respond to it.
- The text of the Call has been updated based on the comments given by the WDS-SC at its 16th Meeting. The WDS-SC was satisfied with these changes, and instructed the WDS-IPO to launch the Call straight away.

IDW 2018 Hosting

- Responses to the hosting Call for IDW 2018 were considered by the WDS-SC at its 16th Meeting. ICSU-WDS, the Research Data Alliance (RDA), and the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (ICSU-CODATA) subsequently communicated the decisions of their respective boards to the others. With the Botswana bid one of those held in high regard, the EDs of ICSU-WDS and ICSU-CODATA took advantage of a meeting in South Africa to conduct a site visit to Gaborone to meet with the team from the University of Botswana. There is a strong commitment from the Botswana government to develop, implement, and articulate Open Data policies that really benefit local scientists, and hosting IDW 2018 would provide additional momentum for this.
• The WDS and CODATA EDs are yet to debrief with RDA about their visit, but the process is progressing on selecting a final choice. The next stage is to send out letters to the shortlisted countries requesting additional information that will not only enable selection of the next IDW host, but also help establish a list of possible hosts for future events.

2017 Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU 2017) Session
• ICSU-WDS submitted a proposal for a panel session at AGU 2017: a new, more visible format within AGU, requiring only eight presenters. The WDS proposal was accepted with the proviso that it is paired with another traditional session on repositories of broader scope. Each session with thus have a co-convener from the other one, and the scope of the WDS panel session has been widened to look at key challenges facing repositories.

Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Collaboration
• ICSU-WDS has had a number of interactions with GEO recently; participating in the Second GEO Data Providers Workshop and in its 2017 Work Programme Symposium. GEO is very supportive of the certification of data repositories to make progress in implementing its data management principles. To that end, certification will now be embedded into its Global Common Infrastructure, and GEO will align its internal procedure for assessing the implementation of the principles. GEO will also offer the opportunity for its data providers to become certified, and will point to the Core Trustworthy Data Repositories Requirements for that.

re3data Collaboration
• One of the facets on which people can search the re3data registry is by certificate. ICSU-WDS and the Data Seal of Approval (DSA) have a vested interest in making sure that the information presented by re3data is correct with regard to certification, and re3data has generated spreadsheets looking at the correctness of the information shown such that ICSU-WDS and DSA can make an assessment of this. Talks are ongoing about improving the registry entries.
• The certificates within re3data differ greatly, and the current mix is quite inconsistent. re3data is willing to make them more aligned, and to remove specialized national and project/programme certificates.
• The three organizations are furthermore talking about adding: (1) attributes to the information—for example, whether a certificate is based on a self-assessment, external assessment, and so on—(2) URLs to the assessments, and (3) links between the information and the authorities that list the certified repositories to check and improve the quality of the information.
• ICSU-WDS previously discussed the definition of an Application Programming Interface with re3data to allow automated updating of registry entries. The definition may now need to be updated to include the ideas discussed with re3data such that these aspects can also be maintained automatically.

Membership Management Update
• ImmPort Repository and GFZ Data Services submitted Expressions of Interest (EoIs) for WDS Regular membership. The WDS-IPO will send them both an invitation letter and application form.
• The Worldwide Protein Data Bank submitted an EoI for WDS Network membership. The WDS-SC agreed that the category should be changed to Regular membership, as its members all contribute to a single repository. The WDS-IPO will explain this change, and send an invitation letter and Regular Member application form.
• The WDS-SC approved Ocean Biology Data Active Archive Center’s application for WDS Regular membership with the understanding that remaining points raised by the reviewers must be addressed when it is recertified.
• There are still several applications being processed using the previous WDS catalogue of criteria. The applicants will be allowed to complete their WDS Regular membership, but might be asked to recertify early.

Any Other Business
• After several major incidents recently where deposits were lost/damaged, the WDS-SC discussed whether repositories of physical samples were within the remit of ICSU-WDS. The SC Chair suggested that the WDS-SC write a position paper on this topic.
• There are discussions within a number of fora about the need to certify elements of the scientific process—physical samples/specimens, workflows, code, and so on—in addition to data and data services. Hence, if ICSU-WDS decides to establish a WG in this area, it would have to be in a wider context than just physical samples. This will be discussed at the next WDS-SC Meeting.