World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #22

Teleconference #22 took place on Monday, 11 December 2017 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action Items

- The French national data pôle concerned with solid Earth is still having internal discussions about become a WDS Network Member, and this may happen in January. The other three pôles are a little more complicated, but information is being sent to them from several sides, and each of them will be reached out to.
- The WDS-IPO updated the spreadsheet being shared with OpenAIRE on aggregating the metadata holdings of WDS Members. Progress has been made, but a big communications push towards WDS Members is needed in the New Year. The WDS-IPO will talk with OpenAIRE about building a strategy for moving forward.
- The finalized training curriculum was sent to the SC Chair to discuss with INASP. The Chair of INASP is very keen to move ahead with online data management training aimed at two different audiences, and the SC Chair will have a second meeting with INASP to go through the details. Some development will be needed, and so part of the conversation will be about who will fund the effort.
- The WDS-IPO will write a first draft of the opinion piece on what Young Scientists should know about data management. The SC Chair asked that this be prioritized, and the target date is now the end of January.
- The WDS Executive Director (ED) had discussions with the Federation of Earth Science Information Partners about adding the materials in the WDS Training Resources Guide to its clearing house as being 'WDS identified'. The WDS-SC was keen on this idea since it improves on the static tables presently in the WDS website.
- Some SC members must still inform of their intention to serve a second terms on the WDS-SC. There is a hard deadline of 31 December, and SC members were urged to send their decisions on this, and also ideas for new members by then. The WDS ED and SC Chair will then meet in January to review the situation, and send an email to the ICSU Executive Board with recommendations.
- The two reports created jointly with Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Global Science Forum have been formally published. The reports have been added to the [WDS website](#), promoted via WDS social media, and will feature prominently in the next WDS Newsletter.

WDS Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Workshop + 18th WDS-SC Meeting

- Online registration has opened for both general participation and submitting papers. The International Organizing Committee (IOC) is now making movements to:
  1. Contact people directly about the Workshop and invite them to register.
  2. Try and raise additional money to ensure the safe go-ahead of the event.

  Connected with this, formal invitations must be sent to identified people as soon as possible. A number have already been contacted, and a check will be made as to whether there are others.
- A large number of people in the IOC are from Brazil, and ideally the participation of people from other LAC countries should be increased to ensure ownership. However, the group is already at the maximum size for one Committee, and so some of the responsibilities/decisions might be split.

International Data Week (IDW) 2

- The dates for IDW 2 are to be changed to the week of 05 November 2018 after a clash was discovered with the United Nations (UN) World Data Forum. Moving back by one week was discounted because the Group on Earth Observations will hold its Plenary meeting then: the dates were originally decided to avoid a clash with IDW 2. This change should not cause too many problems as there is plenty of time before the event and this is being done to try to make people's lives easier.
- The WDS-IPO will circulate a message to all SC members to establish quickly whether there is a problem with moving the dates. Especially, the 19th WDS-SC Meeting is tied to it, and so it is important to know if SC members can make the new dates.
- The IDW 2 organizers are now trying to identify keynote speakers. SC members were requested to suggest names of people they know or have contact with, and who might be a suitable keynote.

Session Proposals for SciDataCon 2018
- Sessions proposals that the WDS-SC would like to include in SciDataCon 2018 need to be submitted soon. A first draft of a session proposal about African data centres was presented, and the WDS-SC was asked if it had comments. A session connected with the certification of repositories holding non-standard data was also discussed previously, and a proposal will be drafted for it.
- It was suggested to add a session on health databases in Africa and the communities there; for example, the use of the community health professionals in collecting and disseminating data. This might be attractive and slightly different, and might link with other non-medical communities that are generating data useful in the African setting. The same systems are also used in the LAC region and in Asia.

Interactions with ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC)
- ICSU-WDS has been working with various bodies within ICSU and has contacts within ISSC, but it is perhaps not publicizing its activities as well as it could. An exercise is needed to communicate what ICSU-WDS has been/is doing with data organizations to the bodies, programmes, and member organizations of ICSU and ISSC:
  1. Generate a summary of ICSU-WDS activities with data organizations on behalf of the various bodies, programmes, and member organizations so they are aware of them.
  2. Identify relevant people who should be contacted such that WDS activities can be advertised to them.

InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report
- The WDS-SC has been talking about the importance of data for the SDGs for a long time, and this Report gives some of the background as to why they are important and calls for the Academies to play a role in sharing (research) data and facilitating this sharing. The Report does not, however, examine how the need for data for the SDGs will be fulfilled: what can be done to ensure data are available, free, accessible, and so on.
- IAP is now looking for its next initiative in this area, and ICSU-WDS will raise the point that it would be good to jointly explore the data needs of the SDGs explicitly, and how existing repositories and services can help with that. Namely, a similar report telling repositories (WDS Members) about what they can do for the SDGs, and the Academies about the repositories—the data resources out there that they can make use of.
- ICSU-WDS wants to ensure it is contributing to the SDG process, and the WDS-IPO has tried to do this informally, but the real issue is having dedicated resources from a willing partner. If this exists, then ICSU-WDS can help them identify data repositories and provide them with tools to search for datasets based on specific keywords. The IAP Working Group (WG) is likely to have such resources available if they think the suggestion is worthwhile.

WG on 'Non-standard Outputs'
- One focus of the 17th WDS-SC Meeting was that data are no longer numbers only, but also include protocols, computer code, models, digital versions of objects, and so on. These non-standard data outputs are not being treated in the same way as 'hard' data: they are often held in science-maintained repositories that are not certified, and although crucial, could easily disappear.
- The WDS-SC started thinking about its position in relation to these outputs, and it was decided to create a WG of interested SC members. However, nothing has happened since the Meeting, and therefore the SC Chair put this item back onto the agenda to ask the WDS-SC's thoughts on whether it is something ICSU-WDS should be pushing, and who wants to be involved. The Chair will circulate a document that defines the task, and asks questions about, for example, whether the WDS-SC should be taking this on, who are the players, how large is the WG's remit, and how does it affect certification.

CoreTrustSeal/WDS Applications Update
- The CoreTrustSeal Board is a bit overwhelmed with the number of reviews, and so volunteers within the Data Seal of Approval (DSA) and WDS communities have been approached about setting up an 'Assembly of Reviewers'.
- Positives from a WDS standpoint are that the Worldwide Protein Data Bank and ImmPort Repository are both close to becoming certified. These will be the first organizations applying for WDS membership to complete the CoreTrustSeal process, and the WDS-IPO will be sure to make an announcement that ICSU-WDS has its first Members in biomedical areas.
- The completed certifications have thus far been for DSA seal holders. These organizations have yet to be approached about WDS membership, and the WDS-IPO will contact them about applying in the New Year.