

2013 Annual Report of the Data Documentation Initiative

Model-Driven DDI Work Begins

The DDI Alliance made the decision this past year to develop a model-driven, next-generation DDI specification that can be expressed in a variety of technical formats. To facilitate this work, a [week-long seminar](#) was held at Schloss Dagstuhl, Leibniz Center for Informatics, in Wadern, Germany. Good progress was made, and a [paper reflecting the Dagstuhl discussions](#) and defining the approach to modeling was published. A [summary](#) of the larger modeling project and future DDI development is also available.



Data Documentation Initiative

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The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is a project to develop an international standard for metadata describing social science data and other data on human activity. The effort is sponsored by the DDI Alliance, a group of organizations representing the data archive, data producer, and data user communities.

Fiscal year 2013 was a notable year for the Alliance in many ways, and below we highlight a sample of the year's important events:

- The first ever North American DDI User Conference was held on April 2-3, 2013, at the University of Kansas, hosted by the Institute for Policy and Social Research and the Library. The successful conference featured 21 presentations and 70 registrants. Twelve U.S. states and two Canadian provinces were represented along with two participants from Germany. Four training sessions were held after the conference. The meeting was partially funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.
- Two new RDF vocabularies were made available in draft form. Work on these vocabularies was initiated through Semantic Statistics workshops held at Schloss Dagstuhl in 2011 and 2012 and organized by GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences. The [Discovery Vocabulary](#), or Disco, draws from DDI Codebook and DDI Lifecycle and is designed to support the discovery of microdata sets and related metadata using RDF technologies in the Web of Linked Data. The [XKOS Vocabulary](#), an extended form of the Simple Knowledge Organization System or SKOS, is intended for managing statistical classifications and supporting concept management systems.
- The Alliance published its [strategic priorities](#) in a paper that was presented at the METIS meeting in Geneva in May.
- The Alliance elected its first Executive Board, the oversight body that is replacing the former Steering Committee. Executive Board members include: Mari Kleemola, Finnish Social Science Data Service; Steve McEachern, Australian Data Archive; Ron Nakao, Stanford University; Gillian Nicoll, Australian Bureau of Statistics; Anita Rocha, University of Washington, Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology; Leanne Trimble, University of Toronto Scholars Portal; George Alter, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (representing ICPSR as the Host Institution).

Alliance Members

(As of August 2013)

- University of Alberta
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Australian Data Archive (ADA)
- University of California, Berkeley – Computer-Assisted Survey Methods Program and UCDATA
- Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education, University of London
- Centro de Investigaciones Sociologicas (CIS), Spain
- Colectica (Associate Member)
- Cornell University (CISER)
- Danish Data Archive
- Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS), The Netherlands
- Eurostat
- Finnish Social Science Data Archive
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF)
- German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP)
- GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
- University of Guelph
- Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) at Harvard University
- Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex
- Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- University of Minnesota, Minnesota Population Center
- National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)
- Norwegian Social Science Data Service (NSD)
- Open Data Foundation (Associate Member)
- Research Data Centre of the German Federal Employment Agency, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)
- Roper Center
- Stanford University
- Statistics New Zealand
- Survey Research Operations, University of Michigan
- Swedish National Data Service (SND)
- Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences (FORS)
- United Kingdom Data Service
- University of Toronto Libraries
- University of Toronto Scholars Portal
- University of Washington, Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology (CSDE)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Associate Member)
- World Bank, Development Data Group (DECDG)

Membership and Finances

The DDI Alliance had 34 paid memberships during FY 2013, providing a funding stream to support the activities of the Alliance. The balance sheet of the Alliance shows that revenues for the year exceeded expenses, with the ending fund balance totaling \$117,333.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses, Fiscal Years 2009 – 2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Revenue	\$69,771	\$87,450	\$79,882	\$72,417	\$84,807
Total Expenses	\$52,992	\$86,736	\$95,242	\$89,652	\$61,521
Revenue Over / (Under) Expenses	\$16,779	\$714	\$(15,360)	\$(17,235)	\$23,286
Ending Fund Balance	\$125,928	\$126,642	\$111,282	\$94,047	\$117,333

Why Join the Alliance?

The DDI is a standard developed by and for the social science research community. Through membership in the Alliance, you and your organization can influence the development and the direction of this important social science standard. Membership means that you have the opportunity to participate with colleagues in shaping the content and structure of social science metadata. Representatives from the member institutions lend their unique talents and expertise to the Working Groups, ensuring that the standard meets the needs and expectations of the community.



Become a Member

To join the Alliance, complete a membership form at www.ddialliance.org, “DDI Alliance,” and obtain appropriate signatures at your institution. Send the form to the DDI Secretariat at ICPSR/DDI Secretariat, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248, Fax: 734.647.8200. After the form is received, your institution will receive an annual invoice.