2009 Annual Report of the Data Documentation Initiative

Reaching Out to the Community

The Alliance is increasingly taking DDI "on the road" to communicate the importance of good documentation and the use of DDI to facilitate research. Thus, we are conducting training around the world, with the result that the Alliance is acquiring new members and supporters representing new audiences. FY 2010 is shaping up to continue this trend.

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Data Documentation Initiative

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

Fiscal year 2009 was a notable year for the Alliance in many ways, and below we highlight a sample of the year's important events related to training:

- The Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) Expert Seminar, held at the Danish Data Archive (DDA) in Odense in September, featured several sessions on DDI 3.

- GESIS ─ Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences and the DDI Alliance sponsored a workshop on "Using DDI 3 to Support Preservation, Management, Access, and Dissemination Systems for Social Science Data," at Schloss Dagstuhl, Leibniz Center for Informatics, in Wadern, Germany, in October.

- The week after the Dagstuhl training a group of 25 participants came together at the same venue to develop and write best practice papers for DDI 3. These papers were subsequently published on the DDI Web site.

- A training session titled "The Next Frontier in Documenting Survey Data: What Data Producers and Archivists Need to Know about DDI, XML and SDMX" was held in December in Bethesda, MD. This free, one-day workshop was sponsored by NORC at the University of Chicago in collaboration with the Open Data Foundation.

- At the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) annual meeting, which was held in May 2009 at the University of Tampere, several sessions centered on DDI, and workshops were offered.

Alliance Members

- University of Alberta
- University of California, Berkeley
- California Digital Library
- Centro de Investigaciones Sociologicas, Spain
- CEPS/INSTEAD, Luxembourg
- Cornell University
- University of Connecticut, Roper Center
- Danish Data Archive (DDA)
- Data Archiving and Networking Services, The Netherlands (DANS)
- Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD)
- GESIS — Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
- University of Guelph
- Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS)
- Institute for the Study of Labor, Germany (IZA)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- University of Michigan, ICPSR
- University of Michigan, Survey Research Operations
- University of Minnesota
- National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
- Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)
- Open Data Foundation
- Princeton University Library
- Socio-Economic Panel Study, Germany (SOEP)
- Stanford University
- Swedish National Data Service (SND)
- Swiss Foundation for Research in the Social Sciences (FORS)
- United Kingdom Data Archive (UKDA)
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- World Bank, Development Data Group (DECDG)
- Yale University

Membership and Finances

The DDI Alliance had 30 paid memberships during FY 2009, providing a funding stream to support the administrative structure, some meeting costs, and XML consultants. The balance sheet of the Alliance shows that revenues for the year exceeded expenditures, with the ending fund balance totaling $120,928.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses, Fiscal Years 2005 – 2009

	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
Total Revenue	$64,913	$64,906	$72,382	$78,607	$64,771
Total Expenses	$38,395	$68,875	$40,455	$49,880	$52,992
Revenue Over/ (Under) Expenses	$26,518	($3,969)	$31,927	$28,726	$11,779
Ending Fund Balance	$52,465	$48,496	$80,423	$109,149	$120,928

Why Join the Alliance?

This 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 format, content, and delivery of social science information. 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.

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