2011 Annual Report of the Data Documentation Initiative

DDI Alliance Review

The Alliance underwent an external review this past year, which served as a springboard to take the organization in new directions and to revitalize its work. While the findings of the review were largely positive, some important areas for improvement were noted and subsequently prioritized by the Alliance Steering Committee for action. One major outcome is a new task force charged with revamping the governance structure and bylaws of the Alliance. More information is available in the Summary Review Report.

Data Documentation Initiative

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The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an effort to develop an international 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 2011 was a notable year for the Alliance in many ways, and below we highlight a sample of the year's important events:

- A Dagstuhl seminar held in October 2010 focused on "The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Standard: Managing Metadata for Longitudinal Data — Best Practices." This symposium-style workshop brought together representatives from major longitudinal data collection efforts to share expertise and to explore the use of DDI as a means of managing and structuring longitudinal study documentation. Participants worked collaboratively to create best practices for documenting longitudinal data in its various forms, and four papers resulted, which are now available as part of the DDI Working Paper series.

- The second annual European DDI Users Meeting (EDDI), with the theme "DDI — The Basis of Managing the Data Life Cycle," was held in December in Utrecht, Netherlands. EDDI10 was organized jointly by CentERdata — Institute for Data Collection and Research; DANS — Data Archiving and Networked Services; GESIS — Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences; IZA — The Institute for the Study of Labor; SURF (the collaborative organization for IT innovations in higher education in the Netherlands); and Library and IT Services of Tilburg University. The meeting featured Peter Wittenburg, Technical Director of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, as the keynote speaker. The DDI Alliance again sponsored a half-day DDI course.

- Meetings were held throughout the year with the goal of better understanding how DDI and the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard might work together to document microdata and macrodata across the data life cycle. Informal dialogues were held in Utrecht, Netherlands; Lisbon, Portugal; and Washington, DC, and use cases for employing the standards in combination were crafted. It is expected that these meetings will continue as representatives from the efforts work with data producers and users to develop solutions that will be effective for the relevant communities.

< page 1 >

Alliance Members

- University of Alberta, Canada
- 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 (Associate Member)
- Centro De Investigaciones Sociologicas (CIS), Spain
- Cornell University (CISER)
- Danish Data Archive
- Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS), The Netherlands
- Finnish Social Science Data Archive
- 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
- Norwegian Social Science Data Service (NSD)
- Open Data Foundation
- Princeton University
- 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 Archive
- University of Toronto Scholars Portal
- University of Washington, Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Associate Member)
- World Bank, Development Data Group (DECDG)

Membership and Finances

The DDI Alliance had 31 paid memberships during FY 2011, providing a funding stream to support the administrative structure, meeting and travel costs, and XML consultants. The balance sheet of the Alliance shows that expenditures for the year exceeded revenues (FY2011 expenses included half of the cost of the external review), with the ending fund balance totaling $101,300.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses Fiscal Years 2007 – 2011

Total Revenue	$72,382	$78,607	$64,771	$82,450	$79,882
Total Expenses	$40,455	$49,880	$52,992	$86,718	$95,242
Revenue Over/ (Under) Expenses	$31,927	$28,726	$11,779	($4,268)	($15,360)
Ending Fund Balance	$80,423	$109,149	$120,928	$116,660	$101,300

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 format, content, and delivery 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.

< page 2 >