

# 2012 Annual Report of the Data Documentation Initiative

## Work with SDMX Continues

During the past year, the Alliance continued to participate in the [SDMX-DDI Dialogue](#) process designed to investigate how DDI and SDMX can work together. The leadership of both standards have endorsed the effort. Another positive development in this space is ongoing work on [GSIM](#), the Generic Statistical Information Model, a product of the official statistics community with the potential to integrate DDI and SDMX. The Alliance is involved in developing the model.



Data Documentation Initiative

[www.ddialliance.org](http://www.ddialliance.org)

Secretariat:

ICPSR/DDI Secretariat

P.O. Box 1248

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248

Ph: 734.615.7908

Fax: 734.647.8200

[secretariat@ddialliance.org](mailto:secretariat@ddialliance.org)

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an effort 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 2012 was a notable year for the Alliance in many ways, and below we highlight a sample of the year's important events:

- Following up on the External Review conducted in 2011, the Alliance met in Washington, DC, in June to begin work on several organizational documents, including a set of revised Bylaws. Work continues on the Bylaws, the Membership Form, the DDI Standards Review Process, a DDI Guiding Principles document, and new revenue models.
- A new version of the DDI Codebook specification, DDI-C 2.5, was published during the year. This new version, an XML Schema, adds new substantive coverage and makes it easier to migrate to DDI Lifecycle.
- A Dagstuhl seminar held in September 2011 focused on "[Semantic Statistics for Social, Behavioural, and Economic Sciences: Leveraging the DDI Model for the Web.](#)" Meeting participants explored Linked Data and how DDI could position itself with respect to this technology.
- A successful [third European DDI Users Group \(EDDI\) meeting](#) was held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in December, hosted by the Swedish National Data Service (SND) and organized by GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, and IDSC of IZA - International Data Service Center of the Institute for the Study of Labor. Seventy-eight participants from 17 countries and 2 international organizations were in attendance.
- During the year, work was completed on the [DDI Agency Registry](#), which permits organizations to obtain unique agency IDs from the DDI Alliance.
- A [Tools Catalog](#) was launched to assist users in discovering DDI tools by filtering on operating system, DDI version, availability, purpose, license, and name.

## 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
- Eurostat
- Finnish Social Science Data Archive
- 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
- Norwegian Social Science Data Service (NSD)
- Open Data Foundation
- 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 30 paid memberships during FY 2012, providing a funding stream to support the activities of the Alliance. The balance sheet of the Alliance shows that expenditures for the year exceeded revenues (FY2011 and 2012 expenses included the cost of the external review), with the ending fund balance totaling \$94,047.

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses Fiscal Years 2008 – 2012

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Revenue	\$81,107	\$69,771	\$87,450	\$79,882	\$74,917
Total Expenses	\$52,381	\$52,992	\$86,736	\$95,242	\$92,152
Revenue Over/ (Under) Expenses	\$28,726	\$16,779	\$714	(\$15,360)	(\$17,235)
Ending Fund Balance	\$109,149	\$125,928	\$126,642	\$111,282	\$94,047

## Why Join the Alliance?

The DDI is a standard developed by and for the broader social science research community. Through membership in the Alliance, you and your organization can influence the development and the direction of this important metadata standard. Membership means that you have the opportunity to participate with colleagues in shaping the format, content, and delivery of metadata across the research life cycle.

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](http://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.