

DDI Alliance Executive Board Meeting

18 February 2020

Present: Cathy Fitch, Jared Lyle, Steve McEachern, Joachim Wackerow

Rebranding DDI 4

Rebranding DDI 4. The Marketing group, with input from the MRT group, selected the name "DDI - Cross Domain Integration (DDI-CDI)". Barry provided an explanation of the decision:

DDI - Cross Domain Integration (DDI-CDI) is a specification aimed at helping implementers integrate data across domain and institutional boundaries. Modern research increasingly involves large amounts of data, much of which comes from non-traditional sources (sensors, big data, social media, etc.) and often from other domains. DDI-CDI focuses on a uniform approach to describing a range of needed data formats (traditional wide/rectangular data, long [event] data, multi-dimensional data, and NoSQL/key-value data) which allows them to be connected and understood to support transformation and processing for integrated use.

Further, the aspects of data provenance related to data processing are covered, to document the ways in which data are sourced - this is a key aspect of data description when working with data from unfamiliar domains, which may be the product of an unfamiliar production lifecycle. DDI-CDI is aligned with other DDI specifications (DDI-C, DDI-L) to support integration of external data in systems which use DDI. It is explicitly designed to work with many popular generic technology standards such as PROV-O, BPMN, DCAT, SDMX, DataCube, and Schema.org to allow for easy integration into systems which support them.

DDI-CDI offers an extension to the suite of DDI work products which will help those in the SBE domains and outside of them integrate the expanding range of data required by today's research."

The length of the name and the possibility of multiple meanings for words were discussed. No final disagreement with the name and description was raised.

Update on the Scientific Board temporary working group

The Board discussed the new Scientific Board temporary [working group](#) to propose a restructuring of the Scientific Board. Last week was the first conference call of the group. Two more calls are scheduled. A face-to-face meeting is planned for March in Chur, Switzerland. Ingo Barkow, chair of the group, is hosting the meeting. The group currently is reviewing the Charter, the Bylaws, and the 2011 Breckenhill report.

Board members noted and commended the broad representation of the working group, including newer community members.

Funding - Partnership Discussion

The Board discussed a possible partnership with an international organization. Benefits would include outreach to new domains, access to more funding channels, and the possibility of leveraging broader membership contributions. It was noted that the partnership makes sense to pursue.

A draft memorandum of understanding was reviewed. It was noted that collaboration should not be tied exclusively to DDI-CDI; rather, the Alliance should think about a partnership more generally in terms of how the organization and the standard can work together.

As a next step, Steve will progress discussions with the potential partner organization. The Board indicated the need to 1) clarify what both parties get out of the arrangement, and 2) ensure that the Alliance does not overcommit resources when entering the partnership. Steve will report back to the Executive Board about progress.

Funding - General Discussion

Steve suggested forming a working group to develop a new revenue model and funding sources for the Alliance. It was suggested to prioritize developing proposals to fund DDI tools. It was also suggested to review the value of membership.

Steve will circulate the idea via email and try to get a smaller group together in preparation for the annual meeting.

Change next meeting time

Steve noted that the time for the March meeting will need to change due to scheduling conflicts. Jared will contact the group about new times.