

DDI Alliance Annual Meeting of the Scientific Community  
(*in-person and virtual*)

June 7, 2022,

14:15 - 15:45 [UTC](#), 16:15 -17:45 CEST (UTC+2)

Room J335, Göteborgs universitet Humanistiska fakulteten | Humanisten, Renströmsgatan 6,  
412 55 Göteborg, Sweden ([walking map](#))

Agenda - Scientific Board Meeting				
Time UTC	Time CEST (UTC+2)	Subject	Detail	Lead
14:15-14:20	16:15-16:20	Welcome	Welcome to the Scientific Community meeting 2022!	Ingo Barkow, <i>Scientific Board Chair</i>
14:20-14:40	16:20-16:40	Scientific Board highlights  <a href="#">[slides]</a>	The <a href="#">Scientific Work Plan</a> and the annual progress made by the Scientific Board	Ingo Barkow  Hilde Orten, <i>Scientific Board Vice Chair, facilitator</i>
14:40-15:00	16:40-17:00	Working group highlights  <a href="#">[slides]</a> <a href="#">[report]</a>	Report on the annual progress made by the Working Groups, in light of the Scientific Work Plan	Hilde Orten,  Ingo Barkow, <i>facilitator</i>
15:00-15:15	17:00 -17:15	TC highlights  <a href="#">[slides]</a> <a href="#">[report]</a>	Report on the annual progress made by the Technical Committee, in light of the Scientific Work Plan	Wendy Thomas <i>Chair of the Technical Committee</i>  Ingo Barkow, <i>facilitator</i>
15:15 - 15.45	17:15-17:45	Looking ahead  <a href="#">[slides]</a>	Discussion with the Scientific Community about priorities for the Scientific Work	Ingo Barkow, <i>facilitator</i>

## Attendees

Ingo Barkow  
Hilde Orten  
Jared Lyle  
Dan Gillman  
Arofan Gregory  
Barry Radler  
Cathy Fitch  
Flavio Rizzolo  
Franck Cotton  
Jennifer Zeiger  
Achim Wackerow  
Veiko Berendsen  
Bill Block  
Olof Olsson  
Christophe Dzikowski  
Sanjeev Hiremath  
Sanda Ionescu  
Mari Kleemola  
Carsten Thiel  
Alina Danciu  
Thanyani Maremba  
Steve McEachern  
Jon Johnson  
Simon Hodson  
Arianna Caporali  
Darren Bell  
Samuel Spencer  
Hayley Mills  
Wolfgang Zenk-Möltgen  
Libby Bishop  
Bodil Agasøster  
Jeremy Iverson  
Deidre Lungley  
Wendy Thomas  
Arianna Caporali

## Meeting Notes

Questions from the Scientific Board highlights:

What is a laboratory environment described on slide “III. Scientific Plan 2023/2024? An environment in which prototypes can be tested?

Can you please share the Scientific Work plan with the community again so everyone understands what the Alliance is prioritizing?

Please see the link to the plan at the bottom of this page: <https://ddialliance.org/scientific-board>

Questions from Discussion with the Scientific Community about priorities for the Scientific Work

1. Does it make sense to have different roles for Scientific Representatives and Technical Contacts?

Franck: I believe it is useful to have those different roles.

Dan: One difficulty is to have a role vs. an identified person. We asked who the people are to fulfill the various roles. Role ends up being a spur-of-the-moment activity. It's hard to identify a particular person for questions that haven't been asked is hard.

Mari: Coming from a small data archive, it's a good idea to have two different people from the same organization. But it can be hard to fill all three roles.

Wendy: Having a list of technical people for the Technical Committee to ask is helpful. If we know who the people with technical skills are, we can contact them about particular things.

Steve: The problem sounds like it's building up a list of technical and scientific contacts rather than identifying technical contacts for each organization.

Arofan: After having been on the receiving end of trying to get contacts, a suggestion: would it make sense for the working groups to come up with a contact list of high value reviewers per product basis?

Jon: At the end of the day, when we put out something for public review, the member representatives need to be able to make a balanced decision even if they don't understand all the details.

2. Developers Group

Darren: Challenge is to provide incentives. If not financial, what other incentives?

Franck: A list of technical contacts could form a breeding ground for a developers group, no?

Arofan: The worst people to ask requirements for what users need are developers. You would have an easier time to recruit developers if you understand user requirements and user functionality from organizations. There's a product marketing function of having a statement of "Here's the tools we're building and here's what we're going to do."

### 3. Discussing the Scientific Work Plan at the Annual Scientific Community Meeting

Jon: We need to have better processes for reviewing and approving the Scientific Plan. We should have time in the Scientific Community meeting to review and comment on the activities in the Scientific Plan.

Ingo: The Scientific plan 2021-2022 was discussed at the Annual meeting of the Scientific Community 2021. Work on the Scientific Work Plan 2023/2024 will start this autumn.

Hilde: Documentation of the priorities and the work behind the Scientific Work Plan can be found on the [Scientific Board Wiki](#) under 'Scientific Work Plan 2021-2022'

### 4. Working Groups

Wolfgang: We've heard from some working groups about not having enough members. If members don't have more members to contribute work, we need to make do with what we have. Sometimes we have to constrain goals to be realistic.

Wendy: We also need to look at how we're doing things. If we're doing an activity, we constrain it to just a few members.

### 5. Hackathon

Sam: What is the intent of the hackathon?

Ingo: Still developing. Funding is for supporting travel costs, reception, side program. Once the budget is approved, Ingo will formalize the plan, including where it should take place and what makes most sense to take place at the hackathon.

### 6. Other Comments

Arofan: Super happy to see the Scientific Board and the Scientific Community progressing as it is. It's a sign of maturity for the Alliance. Thank you!

# Scientific Board Report 2021/2022

Prof. Dr. Ingo Barkow, Chair of the DDI Alliance Scientific Board

DDI Alliance Annual Meeting of the Scientific Community 2022-06-07

# On the menu today....

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# Current Members of Scientific Board

- **Chair (2021-2022)**

- Ingo Barkow, University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, 2021-2025

- **Vice Chair (2021-2022)**

- Hilde Orten, Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research, 2021-2025

- **Members**

- Darren Bell, UK Data Service, 2021-2023
- Simon Hodson, CODATA, 2021-2025
- Flavio Rizzolo, Statistics Canada, 2021-2025
- Carsten Thiel, CESSDA, 2021-2023
- Wolfgang Zenk-Möltgen, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, 2021-2025
- Jared Lyle, ICPSR, DDI Alliance Executive Director, ex officio, 2021-present
- Wendy Thomas, Minnesota Population Center, Technical Committee Chair, ex officio, 2021-present
  
- Joachim Wackerow, Former GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, 2021-2022 (retired)

# The role of the Scientific Board

The scientific and technical body of the Alliance which represents the Scientific Community. The Scientific Board proposes the scientific work plan to the membership for approval and facilitates the scientific and technical work activities.

- The purposes of the Scientific Board according to the [Bylaws](#) are to:
  - Provide direction and coordination in the development of the substantive content of the DDI standards and other work products of the Alliance by its sub-committees and working groups within the context of the Alliance Strategic Plan.
  - Implement the scientific work plan agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Scientific Community.
  - Oversee the substantive content of DDI standards and other work products.
  - Undertake research and testing concerning proposals for DDI standards and other work products.
  - Develop and promulgate best practices for use of DDI standards and work products.
  - Assess progress and barriers to progress.
  - **Provide a report on progress of the scientific work plan over the previous year, and proposals for the future scientific direction and related activities to the Annual Meeting of the Scientific Community**



# The role of the Scientific Community

- The SC consist of all scientific representatives (it replaces the «old» Scientific Board).
- **The SB reports to the SC during the annual meeting about proceedings of the past year and presents the Scientific Plan for the next years for feedback.**
- The SB will invite SC to virtual meetings during the year to seek more input and engagement.
- The Scientific Plan of each term defines the boundaries in which the SB can act on its own.
- The SC does not approve the Scientific Plan. This can only be done by the member representative.
- The member representative can shift the approval right for the Scientific Plan to the scientific representative.

# I. Workflow of the new Scientific Board

- Internal proceedings and operational guidelines -> **clarified**
- Collaboration of Scientific Board members between the meetings -> **active**
- Working relationships between and among the Scientific Board, Technical Committee and all Working Groups -> **contact persons**
- Working relationship with the Executive Board -> **quarterly meetings between SB and EB chairs**
- The establishment and promotion of new working groups (short and long-term groups) to accomplish the work of the Scientific Plan -> **done**

# I. Workflow of the new Scientific Board

- Confirmation of status for non-official working groups
  - Cross Domain Integration (CDI)
  - Paradata
  - Extended Knowledge Organization Systems (XKOS)
- Establishment of new working groups
  - Glossary
- Preparations for upcoming working groups
  - DDI Developers (setting up technical contacts, plan for a Hackathon)

## II. Reachable Short-Term Goals (end of 2022)

- Define a first draft of a roadmap for portability between versions. This action item has to be further developed as a medium-and long-term goal -> **partly started in TC**
- Promote more collaboration between the Working Groups, e.g. to achieve better documentation. This action item has to be further developed as a medium-and long-term goal -> **contact persons**
- Plan a new laboratory environment to explore new features and technical platforms -> **not started yet**
- Plan the creation of a new software development group similar to the DDI Developers group in the past to promote DDI Tool development -> **process was started successfully**
- Provide guidance for the community on which DDI specification and which parts of DDI are the preferred solution for specific use cases -> **process was started slowly**

## II. Reachable Short-Term Goals (end of 2022)

- Promote the development of technical DDI services, especially resolution of DDI URNs to the physical location of DDI resources (identified by URLs) -> **temporary working group and TC collaboration**
- Promote the role of DDI in external projects like e.g. European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and FAIR -> **W3C liaison, Dagstuhl workshops**
- Explore a base architecture for existing and growing DDI metadata repositories -> **not started yet**
- To initiate establishing of organization-level relationships with external standards bodies where needed/appropriate. This action item has to be further developed as a medium-and long-term goal -> **W3C liaison, SB advisor nominations**
- Review DDI Alliance communication on e.g. web pages on current products, the learn pages and development products -> **process has started, standardization of WG texts**

# III. Scientific Plan 2023/2024

- Discuss and advise processes for product lifecycle management in collaboration with the Technical Committee and other Working Groups
- Support the further development of implementation guides to help software architects and developers i.e. recommending the appropriate subset of a specification. Ideally, implementation guidelines should include code snippets or examples and have a consistent presentation across the product line
- Discuss and define a policy for testing of specifications and instances -> **started**
- Promote standardized query and exchange protocols which enable building repositories and reuse of DDI metadata in the web -> **DDI Developers, Hackathon**
- Identify and plan building blocks for establishing portals for supporting existing and growing DDI metadata repositories.

# Upcoming activities

- First physical meeting of the SB after two years of COVID19 in Chur / Switzerland 5th and 6th of September 2022
- Main tasks
  - Scientific Work Plan 2023/2024
  - Nomination and election of one or two advisors to the SB
  - Preparation for rotation of chairs after two years phase
- **And.... retirement party for our long term former chair and member Achim Wackerow**

# Annual report from the work of the Working Groups of the DDI Alliance

Annual Meeting of the Scientific Community  
Gothenburg June 7th 2022





# CDI Working Group

## II. 11.a Finalize the first production version of the Cross Domain Integration specification.

- Covers description of structural and provenance/process metadata for a broad range of data types across domains
  - Long data; Wide data; Multi-dimensional “cube” data; Key-value data; Relational data
- The first production draft of the DDI Cross Domain Integration specification is almost complete
  - Final editing now being completed
  - Release to TC for voting and publication process by end of June 2022
- Will include:
  - Canonical XMI expression of the UML model
  - XML syntax representation (W3C XML Schemas)
  - Integrated browser-based documentation for field-level and syntaxes (Model2Text)
  - High-level documentation
- RDF syntax representation soon to follow
  - Established official W3C liaison
- Methodology for Implementation Guides soon to follow

# CDI Working Group (ctd.)

**Collaborate on activities to implement and get feedback on the specification, in particular with data providers, RIs, EOSC and cross-domain case studies.**

- On-going engagement with many different projects and initiatives
  - EOSC (ESS use case for integrating environmental data)
  - Helmholtz use case
  - GOSC
  - FAIR Digital Object Framework
  - INSPIRE work on integrated COVID/public health data
  - Dataverse (planned support)
- WorldFAIR Project
  - Work packages across many diverse domains
  - CDI is part of the emerging “Cross-Domain Interoperability Framework” (CDIF)
- Projects involve DDI Codebook, DDI Lifecycle
- Projects involve DCAT, SDMX/DataCube, Schema.org, PROV, IADOPT, SKOS/XKOS, and others

# CDI Working Group (ctd.)

**Provide more complete mappings to other DDI specifications (Codebook and Lifecycle), and some mappings to external standards which were not included in the review package, notably to SDMX and DCAT.**

- Post-release follow-up

**Create a modular architecture for the specification.**

- Modular design incorporated, enhanced moving forward
- Implementation guides to cover:
  - Selection of classes
  - Syntax representations
  - Specification of relevant controlled vocabularies
- Prototypes show that a small number of classes (i.e., 12 for Interstat) can be selected for use
- Syntax representations can then be easily integrated (e.g., RDF)
- Planning to package the browser documentation tooling (Model2Text) for community use to better support implementers

# Technical Committee

## II. 11.b

- Review, vote for publication, and publication of approved specifications (CDI 1.0, Codebook 2.6) and add support for new products (XKOS, SDTL).
- Create content model for overall DDI coverage, product coverage, and mapping, and define roles of individual products.
- XKOS support – work with group managing XKOS maintenance and development and ensure clear expression of the role of XKOS in DDI Suite.
- Setting up the publication process for CVs.
- DDI resolution support (e.g. CV, XKOS).
- Setting up an automated production system.

# Training Working Group

- Two sub-groups, Slide Deck Review and Training Opportunities
- Priority of the chairs : update the mandate of the group in accordance with the DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan

## II. 11.c Continue the development of online training resources.

- 10 slide decks added to the [DDI Training Material](#) community - hundreds of downloads since publication
- Creation of a list of slide decks to be completed and their priorities
- The two Zenodo Communities: DDI Training Material and the DDI Training Group descriptions were updated

## Conduct training outreach activities as regular webinars, facilitate training on request, organize training sessions at workshop and conferences, and explore alternative outreach possibilities.

- 5 [webinars](#) between April 2021 and April 2022, in collaboration with CODATA
- A satisfaction survey conducted after every webinar
- [EDDI “Training FAIR”](#) co-organised with CODATA, which reached an even larger audience (2 half days, parallel tracks)

# Training Working Group (CTD.)

**Increase/continue collaboration with CODATA to reach out to new communities of users.**

Active collaboration on the Webinar series and other training opportunities.

**Establish training collaborations with FAIR related organizations (FAIRsFAIR, GO FAIR, RDA, EOSC etc.).**

**Coordinate all of these activities with the Marketing Group.**

Need new Marketing Group contact

# Workplan 2022/2023

## Slide decks

- Complete finalizing/creating the remaining training materials based on the output of a Train-the-Trainer Workshop at Dagstuhl in 2018 and webinars
- Set up a guide for using the existing Training Materials

## Events

- Training at IASSIST 2022 (2 sessions)
- 5 [webinars](#) to be completed
- Training at EDDI 2022: Free online workshop planned before the conference
- Training for the North American community: A workshop is being planned for November 2022

## Website

- Validate template response for Training requests, pointing users to resources
- Events page to be completed, in liaison with Marketing
- Getting started page to be revised, in liaison with Technical Committee

# Controlled Vocabularies Working Groups

## II. 11.d Identify DDI elements that are good candidates for creating CVs.

**Create, and publish new Controlled Vocabularies for DDI elements, with a focus on DDI Lifecycle CodeValueType elements.**

- Prepared and published a new CV for the DDI-L element TypeOfTranslationMethod. This is a new element in DDI 3.3.
- Finalized a new CV for the DDI-L element DataCollectionFrequency:IntendedFrequency. The list is aligned to the SDMX vocabulary and we have included term-level mapping information between the two. Expect to publish this new CV in June 2022.

**Review and revise existing Controlled Vocabularies and publish new versions as appropriate.**



# Controlled Vocabulary Working Group (ctd.)

**Work with Technical Committee and ICPSR to set up the process for publishing CVs on the DDI Alliance site, including resolution support.**

In progress

**Coordinate the publication of CVs in SKOS with TC and CESSDA.**

CESSDA experts are working with the DDI Alliance Technical Committee to produce an improved SKOS/RDF export for the vocabularies, to meet FAIR principles and facilitate the transfer of information from the CESSDA vocabulary tool to the DDI Alliance controlled vocabularies website.

(SKOS downloads/exports have been available from the CESSDA Vocabularies tool from its inception, but these now need to change to reflect changes in the vocabularies' versioning).

## **Other**

In the next couple of months the group will be working on incorporating XPaths for the DDI classes referenced in our Usage section.

# SDTL Working Group

- The SDTL Working Group is charged with maintaining Structured Data Transformation Language, which was added to the DDI Alliance suite of standards in December 2020.
- SDTL is an independent intermediate language for representing data transformation commands from statistical analysis packages (e.g., SPSS, Stata, SAS, and R).
- SDTL was designed to be integrated into DDI metadata files to provide machine-actionable descriptions of the provenance of variables and data files.
- Compatible with all versions of DDI, and it has applications in the DDI-Cross Domain Integration standard.
- SDTL was created by the Continuous Capture of Metadata (C<sup>2</sup>Metadata) Project, which was funded by the US National Science Foundation.

## II. 11.e Perform minor adjustments

Since SDTL 1.0 was released, there have been a few small additions to SDTL (i.e., elements for date-time constants) and several adjustments to the documentation. These changes are all documented on the [SDTL Working Group Confluence site](#).

A small group from the project has been meeting with members of the Whole Tale Project to map SDTL into ProvONE, an extension of the PROV standard. Hope to submit an article describing this work to a journal by Fall 2022.

## Initiate project to work to cover statistical analyses in SDTL, if accepted.

Not yet funded

# Paradata Working Group

## II. 11.f Form group and discuss work plans with the Scientific Board

- Chair assigned.
- Activity to start autumn 2022.
- First jobs are finishing an unpublished article and structure member activities and goals of working group.

# XKOS - Extended Knowledge Organisation System

## • II. 11.g Form group and discuss work plans with the Scientific Board.

- XKOS is a RDF vocabulary for the representation of statistical classifications which was published as a DDI standard in May 2019 (see <https://ddialliance.org/Specification/RDF/XKOS>).
- The Working Group was subsequently created in order to oversee the developments around the standard.
- First activity to produce a 'best practice' guide aiming to help XKOS implementers. A draft version (largely based on the experience of Insee) was made available <http://linked-statistics.github.io/xkos/xkos-best-practices.html>, with the source of the document openly accessible on GitHub at <https://github.com/linked-statistics/xkos/>.
- The guide contains advice on how to use XKOS for maximum interoperability and reusability, and covers topics like the description of classifications (labels, explanatory notes, levels), the different types of correspondences, how to represent evolution over time of the different elements, how to publish statistical classifications as XKOS, what kind of descriptive metadata to attach in order to maximize findability, etc.
- Where appropriate, best practice rules are formalized in the SHACL validation language, so that publishers can check if their classifications conform to the guidance.
- Plan to produce a second draft of the guide which will be submitted to a public review. This draft will be finalized in June, and the public review will be launched during the summer for an expected finalization of the guide in September or October depending on the feedback received.
- The guide is intended as a living document, which will incorporate new content as more implementations of XKOS provide more experience.

# Glossary Working Group (new)

- The technical work began with a review of the current DDI Glossary (<https://ddialliance.org/resources/ddi-glossary>).
- All the terms from this page copied onto the WG Confluence site and edits made. Main criterion for inclusion is whether the term is relevant for a user of DDI, which includes any of the DDI suite of products.
- At this stage, the terms included are general DDI terms for the most part, though some technical terms with wide application in the DDI suite are included too.
- Follow the rules and guidelines in ISO 704:2000 (Clause 6) for forming definitions. Explanatory notes will contain details when needed.
- Currently going through each term and adding references, notes, and ideas (about 2/3rds of the way through).
- Next step to produce the definitions and explanatory notes for each term. Submit the page for SB review and comments when finished.
- Goal is to replace the current DDI Glossary page with the updates. The Scientific Community will then be asked to review the glossary and make recommendations for additions or edits.
- We want the user community to guide us as to how much detail is necessary for inclusion.

# SB URN Resolution Temporary Working Group

- Temporary Working Group on DDI URNs was established by the DDI Scientific Board at the meeting in July 2021 with the objective to *“develop a proposal for high level goals and policies regarding the resolution of DDI URNs and to describe which kind of related technical services would be needed”*.
- Forming a central part of DDI Lifecycle and allowing DDI resources to be assigned persistent identifiers (PIDs) in line with the FAIR principles, the Scientific Board considers DDI URNs to be central to the DDI standards. Therefore, following the formal registration of the DDI URN namespace with IANA, resolution of DDI URNs has been identified as item 6 of the Reachable Short-Term Goals in the DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan, 2021 – 2022. This task has been completed

# SB URN Resolution Temporary Working Group (CTD.)

- The Working Group has since investigated the current state-of-the-art of the DDI URN implementation. This includes both an analysis of the technical requirements and the solutions already provided by DDI Alliance services, as well as the analysis and comparison of different options for a resolution approach. To this end, a proposal document describing the options and possibilities, in clear distinction and similarity to other PIDs such as DOI and some common URN implementations, is currently in development.
- The challenges in preparation of the document include the formation of a common understanding of the needs of the various stakeholders, from the DDI Alliance itself and the Agencies using DDI and thus URNs in their work up to the individual researchers producing or re-using DDI documents in their routines.
- The document draft is expected to be presented to the DDI community in autumn 2022.

<https://ddi-alliance.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DDI4/pages/2654371841>

Thanks to all for  
all of your great  
work!



DATA DOCUMENTATION INITIATIVE



# Report to the DDI Alliance from the Working Groups:

## Working Group Report: DDI-CDI

26 May, 2022

### Overview

This report describes the activities in the DDI Cross Domain Integration Working Group during 2021-2022. These activities are placed in the context of the *Scientific Work Plan 2021-2022* describing the goals of the different committees within the DDI Alliance.

### Goals

Per the *DDI Scientific Work Plan 2021-2022*, the primary short-term goals of the DDI-CDI WG are as follows:

- Finalize the first production version of the Cross Domain Integration specification.
- Collaborate on activities to implement and get feedback on the specification, in particular with data providers, RIs, EOSC and cross-domain case studies.
- Provide more complete mappings to other DDI specifications (Codebook and Lifecycle), and some mappings to external standards which were not included in the review package, notably to SDMX and DCAT.
- Create a modular architecture for the specification.

Looking forward to 2023, support for user implementation guidance is also highlighted.

### Activities

The first production of DDI-CDI nears completion. Due to the lack of face-to-face meetings, and dependencies on standards and projects outside of the DDI community, this work has progressed more slowly than anticipated, but is now in the final stages before submission to the Technical Committee for circulation for review and voting. The initial release will contain the core CDI model, based originally on the “DDI Moving Forward” work. One very positive development has been the creation of an integrated tool for viewing the model, field-level documentation, and syntax representations in a single browser window. Similar to the documentation tools seen for many other standards and programming models, this tool is an improvement on any of the documentation used previously, and is generated using the same open-source platform (itself conformant with relevant OMG standards) which will be used to generate syntax representations, both for general and community specific use.

The initial syntax representation is XML, described with W3C XML Schema, but work on an RDF syntax representation is well advanced, and should follow the initial release shortly. This work has been

carried out in collaboration with the W3C, and has resulted in the establishment of an official working liaison between W3C and the DDI Alliance.

The first production version of DDI-CDI should be delivered to the Technical Committee no later than the end of June 2022.

Engagement with external groups and prospective users of DDI-CDI has been very successful, with a number of pilot implementations and exemplary use cases moving forward. These include the EU Interstat Project, a major implementation at UKDA, adoption of the Indicators model at BLS, planned implementation at Sikt in Norway, etc. These have resulted in improvements to the model, and this work is expected to continue. A number of these use cases were explored at the workshops at Schloss Dagstuhl in the fall of 2021, and they are currently being carried forward through the WorldFAIR project, within the EOSC framework around the European Social Survey, and elsewhere. The work on mappings to SDMX and DCAT were among those explored.

DDI-CDI is now being positioned as a critical part of a “cross-domain interoperability framework” (CDIF) in which the coordinated use of DDI-CDI with DCAT, Schema.org, IADOPT, PROV, and other standards acts to support the overall FAIR Digital Object Framework. This alignment is a key component of the WorldFAIR use cases, and will be taken forward into the coming year in a proactive fashion. DDI-CDI thus becomes a key ingredient in the implementation of cross-domain FAIR data sharing at a practical level.

It should be noted that the shared basis between DDI-CDI and DDI Lifecycle provides a strong degree of similarity at significant points. The combined use of DDI-CDI with DDI Lifecycle and DDI Codebook both are being prototyped, to ensure good cross-domain support for existing DDI users. Notably, support for DDI-CDI is planned within the Dataverse Community, one of the platforms which is increasingly used in DDI Codebook implementations. The use of common approaches to generic technologies (such as RDF URLs) across DDI standards is an area for further collaboration with the TC in 2023, and is an area which is very much in line with overall DDI-CDI developments.

The modular aspect of DDI-CDI is seen as a way to enable communities of use, which might only want to use a portion of the overall functionality provided by the model. Work at Schloss Dagstuhl and subsequently has shown that the DDI-CDI model can be reduced to small and comprehensible sets of classes to support specific use cases. This approach will be further supported moving forward, both through the establishment of standard methodologies for developing Implementation Guides, but also through the production of software tooling to support the creation of community specific syntax representation, based on the generic ones provided as part of the DDI-CDI package.

The process of developing DDI-CDI has involved interactions with projects and standards in many domains, and engagement with the EOSC infrastructure in particular (notably the “The Role of DDI-CDI in EOSC: Possible Uses and Applications” report). This has led to broad socialization and testing of the approaches taken in DDI-CDI. It has also resulted in a growing set of prospective implementers. Given that the goal of DDI-CDI is to facilitate data sharing across domains and infrastructures, this is a valuable part of what has been achieved. We anticipate that this trend will continue as we move forward with the development and support of DDI-CDI.

# DDI Controlled Vocabularies Working Group

## Report for FY2022

Activities, and their relation to DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan goals:

1. Prepared and published a new CV for the DDI-L element `TypeOfTranslationMethod`. This is a new element in DDI 3.3.  
(Relates to DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan goals: • Identify DDI elements that are good candidates for creating CVs. and • Create, and publish new Controlled Vocabularies for DDI elements, with a focus on DDI Lifecycle CodeValueType elements.)
2. Finalized a new CV for the DDI-L element `DataCollectionFrequency:IntendedFrequency`. Our list is aligned to the SDMX vocabulary and we have included term-level mapping information between the two. We expect to publish this new CV in June 2022.  
(Relates to DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan goals: • Identify DDI elements that are good candidates for creating CVs. and • Create, and publish new Controlled Vocabularies for DDI elements, with a focus on DDI Lifecycle CodeValueType elements.)
3. Contributed to fixing bugs found in the CESSDA vocabularies tool. Tested version 2 of the tool, currently in public use.
4. Efforts to align our vocabularies to the FAIR data principles
  - We will be implementing persistent identifiers for each of the terms included in a vocabulary.
  - We have prepared a new code deprecation policy which will replace our current policy regarding code deletion; in short, vocabulary codes will no longer be deleted in version updates, but rather deprecated. The codes will remain findable, and users will still be able to access them in older versions of a vocabulary, as needed.
  - We have also produced a new versioning policy that will apply to all instances of a vocabulary, irrespective of the language in which they are expressed.
  - CESSDA experts are working with the DDI Alliance Technical Committee to produce an improved SKOS/RDF export for the vocabularies, to meet FAIR principles and facilitate the transfer of information from the CESSDA vocabulary tool to the DDI Alliance controlled vocabularies website.  
(SKOS downloads/exports have been available from the CESSDA Vocabularies tool from its inception, but these now need to change to reflect changes in the vocabularies' versioning)
  - In the next couple of months we will be working on incorporating XPath's for the DDI classes referenced in our Usage section.

Issues/challenges:

1. It's been at least four years since we've been waiting for the DDI Alliance to provide a tool that will allow us to update the CVs on the DDI Alliance site in an automated, or semi-automated way. We are concerned that the CVs presented on the DDI Alliance site are out-of-date, and the ones published in the last few years are entirely unavailable. We feel that this issue needs urgent attention and have communicated this to the TC and Scientific Board multiple times.

(Relates to DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan goal:

- Work with Technical Committee and ICPSR to set up the process for publishing CVs on the DDI Alliance site, including resolution support.)
2. Our group has six members, out of which only four are currently active. We would welcome at least a couple of new members, preferably belonging to data archives/centers from countries that are currently not represented in our group (our current active members are from the USA, Finland, the UK, and Norway). A diversity of opinions and perspectives is really important for the kind of work we do.
  3. While we will be working to add persistent identifiers for our codes, current DDI standards do not have an element to support them.

# Glossary Working Group

## Report:

The DDI Glossary Working Group meets bi-weekly for an hour. There are 6 people who participate regularly. Jane Fry had to leave the group due to other work requirements. The group publishes meeting notes after every meeting on the WG Confluence pages (<https://ddi-alliance.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DDI4/pages/2770796545/Glossary+Working+Group>), so anyone can follow progress of the work.

The technical work began with a review of the current DDI Glossary (<https://ddialliance.org/resources/ddi-glossary>). We copied all the terms from this page onto the WG Confluence site and made edits, deleting some terms, keeping most, and adding others. The main criterion for inclusion is whether the term is relevant for a user of DDI, which includes any of the DDI suite of products. At this stage, the terms included are general DDI terms for the most part, though some technical terms with wide application in the DDI suite are included too. Terms that also have a more generic meaning beyond DDI are expected to have 2 definitions. The plan now is to follow the rules and guidelines in ISO 704:2000 (Clause 6) for forming definitions. Explanatory notes will contain details when they are needed.

We are now going through each term and adding references, notes, and ideas for what we mean by each term. This first pass has been somewhat time consuming to complete. We are about 2/3rds of the way through the list. The second pass will produce the definitions and explanatory notes for each term. When we finish this work, we will submit the page for SB review and comments. The goal is to replace the current DDI Glossary page with our updates. The Scientific Community will then be asked to review the glossary and make recommendations for additions or edits.

We want the user community to guide us as to how much detail is necessary for inclusion. For example, do we name and define every element and attribute in DDI-Lifecycle? The usefulness of this has not been determined. The work involved will be substantial.

# Paradata Working Group

Plans startup of activities autumn 2022.

# SDTL Working Group

May 16, 2022

## Current activities:

The SDTL Working Group is charged with maintaining Structured Data Transformation Language, which was added to the DDI Alliance suite of standards in December 2020. Structured Data Transformation Language (SDTL) is an independent intermediate language for representing data transformation commands from statistical analysis packages (e.g., SPSS, Stata, SAS, and R). SDTL was designed to be integrated into DDI metadata files to provide machine-actionable descriptions of the provenance of variables and data files. SDTL is compatible with all versions of DDI, and it has applications in the DDI-Cross Domain Integration standard. SDTL was created by the Continuous Capture of Metadata (C<sup>2</sup>Metadata) Project, which was funded by the US National Science Foundation.

The SDTL Working Group meets monthly. [Notes](#) from WG meetings are available on the DDI Alliance Confluence system.

Since SDTL 1.0 was released, there have been a few small additions to SDTL (i.e., elements for date-time constants) and several adjustments to the documentation. These changes are all documented on the [SDTL Working Group Confluence site](#).

Although the C<sup>2</sup>Metadata Project has ended, a small group from the project has been meeting with members of the Whole Tale Project to map SDTL into ProvONE, an extension of the PROV standard. We hope to submit an article describing this work to a journal by Fall 2022.

## Public presentations:

A discussion of SDTL is included in "Capturing Data Provenance from Statistical Software," which was presented at the International Digital Curation Conference, April 19, 2021. This paper was given the "Best Paper Award" for IDCC 2021. The paper will appear in the *International Journal of Digital Curation* very soon.

## Future activities:

We expect that there will be minor adjustments to the SDTL standard as it is applied in new ways.

Partners in other projects, such as DDI-Cross-Domain Integration and Whole Tale, have asked whether SDTL can include identifiers for variables. This is a complex issue, because SDTL documents how variables change. Every time the contents of a variable changes, it should have a new identifier. DDI-CDI raises similar issues, and we hope to learn from those discussions.

A subgroup of the SDTL Working Group submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation for a way to extend SDTL to cover data created by statistical analysis commands, such as regression and

factor analysis. The proposal received some favorable comments, but it was not funded. We may return to this idea in the future.

### SDTL Working Group

George Alter      Lead

J. Gager

Jeremy Iverson

Rebecca Oldroyd

Ornulf Rises

Dan Smith

Thomas Thelen

Jim Todd



# Technical Committee

## Annual Activity Report 2021/22

Submitted by Wendy Thomas, Chair, DDI Technical Committee 2022-05-23

### Activities of the past year

- Update on DDI Agency ID Registry
- DDI RDF Endpoint to support resolution of DDI vocabularies and CVs
- Didn't have face-to-face but held a virtual meeting to address input validation to COGS
- Completed the schema work on Codebook v.2.6
- Updated the product pages, started work on the 2 areas in Learn that we are responsible for
- Continued work on a conceptual model for DDI overall to assist in mapping and presenting comparisons and transformations in the future

### Specific activities related to the Scientific Work Plan

- Review, vote for publication, and publication of approved specifications (CDI 1.0, Codebook 2.6) and add support for new products (XKOS, SDTL).
  - Coordinated with CDI on their preparation for delivery of CDI version 1.0 to the Technical Committee on 2022-06-01 to prepare for the voting procedure
  - Resolved outstanding issues Codebook assigned to version 2.6 and prepared the schema for public review beginning end of May 2022.
  - Worked with XKOS on the process for reviewing the new Best Practices document resulting in a broader proposal for a new process document addressing the review and publication of official technical documents that are not part of the published product package.
- Create content model for overall DDI coverage, product coverage, and mapping, and defining roles of individual products.
  - Initial work is reflected on Overview of Current Products | Data Documentation Initiative (ddialliance.org)
- XKOS support – work with group managing XKOS maintenance and development and ensure clear expression of the role of XKOS in DDI Suite.
  - Concept and classification were selected as an initial mapping area to reflect how DDI Lifecycle, DDI Codebook, XKOS, and the Controlled Vocabularies use concepts in different roles (concept scheme, code list, statistical classification, classification schemes, value representations, response domains, controlled vocabularies)
- Setting up the publication process for CVs.
  - Worked with the Controlled Vocabularies Working Group to clarify their production needs
  - Developed scripts to generate the SKOS, CodeList, and HTML content for DDI Controlled Vocabularies from the CESSDA CV management tools output
- DDI resolution support (e.g. CV, XKOS).
  - Set up DDI RDF Endpoint to support resolution of DDI vocabularies and CVs

- Setting up an automated production system.
  - Held a virtual meeting May 2-5, 2022 to review issues relating to the transfer of content from the DDI-Lifecycle v3.3 schema to the COGS CSV file system as well as potential input issues regarding the needs of input from canonical XMI
  - Design decisions regarding identification, reference, choice, representation (managed and inline), and physical product content were reviewed.
  - Transformation problems are being addressed.
  - Face-to-Face meeting in August 2022 will focus on outputs from COGS

### **Issues or challenges for the coming year**

- Codebook design rules revision issues raised by work on Version 2.6
  - Several requests for content could not be accommodated under the current design rules of backward compatibility and providing a single way to present specific pieces of content
  - The use of complex extension and restriction bases in the current schema reflect old DTD practices and result in lack of clarity
  - There is still a need for the Codebook approach (nested content, minimal identification requirements, and simple to understand structure)
  - In the next 6-12 months the Technical Committee would like to bring the Codebook user community together to discuss future design rules that may better address their needs and ensure ease of maintenance for this product over time
- Use of implementation languages across DDI Suite
  - Currently our products are published in XML schema, RDF-OWL, or JSON
  - Plans are underway in all product groups to provide multiple implementation options, but all are working independently
  - The Technical Committee has proposed a meeting in 2022 to review primary implementation languages, usage, and areas where consistency is useful across the DDI Product Suite
- Long-term composition and maintenance of production flows for products into the future
  - The Technical Committee has been working on moving DDI-Lifecycle into COGS (an open source production framework) to provide a more open development environment and reduce the reliance on hand-crafted products
  - SDTL already uses COGS for their development work
  - Work on COGS is considering the input and output needs for UML XMI (content requirements and transformation requirements)
  - Work has also begun on documenting production environments and workflows in preparation for establishing a well-documented production process for the development and maintenance of DDI Products. Currently we have been working directly with the different product working groups to ensure that this documentation is available.
- Long-term composition of the TC
  - Clarification of role within the newly established Scientific Board structure
  - Expansion of group
  - Leadership changes over the next few years

# DDI Training Working Group

## Annual Report (2021-2022)

Submitted by: Alina Danciu (co-Chair) and Hayley Mills (co-Chair)

Submitted on: May 29, 2022

Confluence: <https://ddi-alliance.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DDI4/pages/7864375/Training+Group>

### Background

The DDI Training Group consists of 13 active members (including co-chairs and excluding Scientific Board contact) and meets the first Tuesday of each month.

The co-chairs (Alina Danciu and Hayley Mills) started their positions in January 2022 taking over from Jane Fry and Anja Perry who did a great job in establishing the Working Group's activities. We have had two members join us in 2022 and two that left the same year. We are planning on recruiting more members, and IASSIST and EDDI conferences that we are attending, are good opportunities for this.

The Working Group is made up of two sub-groups, Slide Deck Review and Training Opportunities. These sub-groups meet on a regular basis and work towards completing their goals.

In 2021, the following was achieved:

- Webpages updated on the DDI alliance website. The Group is the owner of the following pages :

What is DDI?
Why Use DDI?
Who Uses DDI?
How to Use DDI?

- 4 webinars between April and October 2021 continuing the excellent working relationship with CODATA. There have been several hundred attendees at these events – they typically draw between 30 and 70 people. A satisfaction survey was conducted after every webinar (both people who attended and who registered but did not show up were sent the survey). Positive feedback was received, as well as suggestions for new topics to be covered that are taken into account.

- Further, these webinars led to the development in 2021 of the EDDI “Training FAIR” co-organised with CODATA, which reached an even larger audience.
- 10 slide decks were added to the DDI Training Material community which have had hundreds of downloads since publication.
- Creation of a list of slide decks to be completed and their priorities, including editing relevant webinar slide decks and identifying gaps in the current collection.

In 2022 , the priority of the co-chairs was to update the mandate of the group in line with the latest plans and DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan and the DDI Alliance Strategic Plan.

The two Zenodo Communities: DDI Training Material and the DDI Training Group have been updated to make it clearer what each of the communities are for.

One webinar took place, as well as two sprints for preparing two additional webinars taking place in June. Five additional slide decks have been created and are under review by the DDI Training Working Group before being signed off by the Scientific Board before publishing.

Seven emails were received through the Training request template on the DDI website and five meetings took place. A template email providing resources for requesters will be submitted to the group in the July meeting.

There are a number of goals we hope to accomplish in the next year which have been set out in the mandate. The main priorities are given below:

#### **Slide decks**

- Complete finalizing/creating the remaining training materials based on the output of a Train-the-Trainer Workshop at Dagstuhl in 2018.
- Set up a guide for using the existing Training Materials.

#### **Events**

- Training at IASSIST. Members of the group participate in two workshops: How to set up and configure a Dataverse repository that suits your needs (with a DDI introduction) and What can DDI do for you? An Introduction to the DDI
- 6 webinars to be completed before the end of 2022 (one of which has already taken place).
- Training at EDDI 2022: Free online workshop planned before the conference.
- Training for the North American community: A workshop is being planned for November.

#### **Website**

- Validate template response for Training requests, pointing users to resources.
- Events page to be completed: abstract, authors and dates of presentations, and other relevant metadata with a link to the presentation in Zenodo. This should be coordinated with Marketing.
- Getting started page to be revised, in liaison with Technical Committee.

#### **Any issues or challenges related to the work**

- As Jane Fry left the group, we no longer have a designated member as liaison with marketing.
- Scientific plan activity “develop and maintain a listing of organizational DDI user profiles, licensed openly for reuse.” Technical Committee now responsible for this.
- Scientific plan activity “develop reusable checklists for getting started with DDI” need to work with the Technical Committee.
- Alina and Hayley are using their Zoom accounts for organizing the group’s meetings. As they are based in different locations, it is difficult to use the Alliance’s Zoom account because of authentication issues (Zoom seems to consider strange different logins in different locations). Not quite an issue, but preferred to point this out.

# DDI URN Resolution Temporary Working Group

## Summary for Annual Meeting 2022

The Temporary Working Group on DDI URNs was established by the DDI Scientific Board at the meeting in July 2021 with the objective to “develop a proposal for high level goals and policies regarding the resolution of DDI URNs and to describe which kind of related technical services would be needed”<sup>1</sup>.

Forming a central part of DDI Lifecycle and allowing DDI resources to be assigned persistent identifiers (PIDs) in line with the FAIR principles, the Scientific Board considers DDI URNs to be central to the DDI standards. Therefore, following the formal registration of the DDI URN namespace with IANA, resolution of DDI URNs has been identified as item 6 of the Reachable Short-Term Goals in the DDI Alliance Scientific Work Plan, 2021 – 2022.

The Working Group has since investigated the current state-of-the-art of the DDI URN implementation. This includes both an analysis of the technical requirements and the solutions already provided by DDI Alliance services as well as the analysis and comparison of different options for a resolution approach. To this end, a proposal document describing the options and possibilities, in clear distinction and similarity to other PIDs such as DOI and some common URN implementations, is currently in development.

The challenges in preparation of the document include the formation of a common understanding of the needs of the various stakeholders, from the DDI Alliance itself and the Agencies using DDI and thus URNs in their work up to the individual researchers producing or re-using DDI documents in their routines.

The document draft is expected to be presented to the DDI community in autumn 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ddi-alliance.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DDI4/pages/2654371841>

# XKOS Working Group

XKOS is a RDF vocabulary for the representation of statistical classifications which was published as a DDI standard in May 2019 (see <https://ddialliance.org/Specification/RDF/XKOS>). A dedicated Working Group of the DDI Alliance

(<https://ddi-alliance.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DDI4/pages/826408976/XKOS+-+Extended+Knowledge+Organization+System>) was subsequently created in order to oversee the developments around the standard.

As its first activity, the XKOS Working Group decided to produce a guide aiming to help XKOS implementers. The XKOS specification provides some guidance on how to use the vocabulary, but it does not specify every implementation detail, so it was useful to complement it with a "best practices" guide. A draft version, largely based on the experience of Insee and on the feedback and questions received in the GitHub issues and elsewhere was made available <http://linked-statistics.github.io/xkos/xkos-best-practices.html>, with the source of the document openly accessible on GitHub at <https://github.com/linked-statistics/xkos/>.

The guide contains advice on how to use XKOS for maximum interoperability and reusability, and covers topics like the description of classifications (labels, explanatory notes, levels), the different types of correspondences, how to represent evolution over time of the different elements, how to publish statistical classifications as XKOS, what kind of descriptive metadata to attach in order to maximize findability, etc. Where appropriate, best practice rules are formalized in the SHACL validation language, so that publishers can check if their classifications conform to the guidance.

A handful of domain experts were contacted in March 2022 for an "early access" review. Unfortunately, that did not result in any feedback. As an aside, it could be interesting to contact the experts again to understand why the review did not work. In any case, the plan is now to produce a second draft of the guide which will be submitted to a public review. This draft will be finalized in June, and the public review will be launched during the summer for an expected finalization of the guide in September or October depending on the feedback received.

The guide is intended as a living document, which will incorporate new content as more implementations of XKOS provide more experience. The GitHub version will thus be the reference state of the document, and a governance and versioning policy should be produced in order to clearly document the evolutions of the guide in relation to the versions of XKOS.

# Technical Committee

Meeting of the Scientific Community

Gothenburg, Sweden

6 June 2022



# Product Development

- XKOS work on a new Best Practices resulted in the preparation of a new procedure for the review and processing of Best Practices and other official high-level documents
- Completed the work on version 2.6 of DDI-Codebook for public review
- Completed the input validation phase of moving DDI Lifecycle to a new production platform which will automate production of DDI Lifecycle in multiple implementation languages, support incremental review of proposed changes, and allow implementers to propose and test out their own content changes.

## **Provide information for the resolution of your DDI URNs**

**Update to DDI Agency ID Registry**  
You may post your DDI objects at a web addressable location, organized according to specific identifier parts, making your DDI content available to others without hosting a resolution service on your local system (e.g., <https://yourorganization.com/Item/{agency}/{identifier}/{version}>).

- **website** – an HTML page providing information or HTML representation of the object such as a controlled vocabulary.
- **ddiitem** – a single identified item such as a concept, variable, study unit, etc.
- **ddiset** – a set of data including the identified item and the related items.

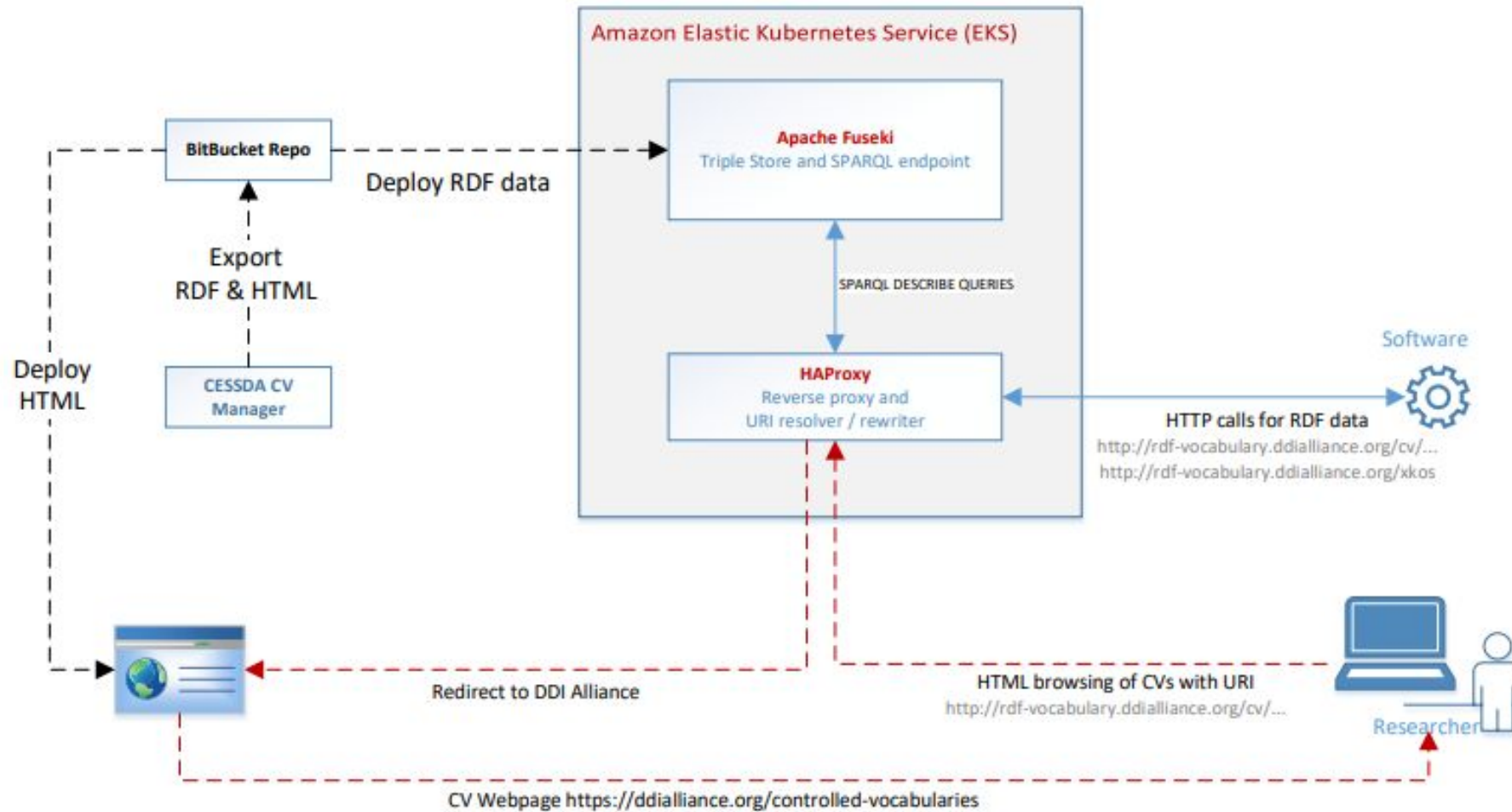
• **ddiurn** – a DDI URN that is used to resolve the DDI

# DDI Alliance LOD Infrastructure

- The purpose of this work has been to support resolution of DDI Alliance products
  - Current and future RDF Vocabularies
  - Controlled Vocabularies
- This work has been coordinated with the Controlled Vocabulary production platform provided by CESSDA and provides a publication system that meets the needs of the DDI Alliance
- The work has been supported by the UKDA and GESIS and will begin testing later this month

## Simple Overview of DDI Alliance LOD Infrastructure

dbell@essex.ac.uk 01-Jun-2022



# Project for 2022/23

- Complete move of DDI Lifecycle to COGS
  - Test out new implementation structures
- Organize a meeting with DDI project development groups (XKOS, CDI, SDTL, Lifecycle, Codebook) to discuss issues regarding the use of various implementation structures initially including XML Schema, RDF, UML XMI, and JSON
- Proceed on the publication process for DDI CDI with the CDI Working Group
- Explore options for future Codebook support and development

## Technical Committee Annual Activity Report 2021/22

*Submitted by Wendy Thomas, Chair, DDI Technical Committee 2022-05-23*

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  - Worked with the Controlled Vocabularies Working Group to clarify their production needs
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- DDI resolution support (e.g. CV, XKOS).
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  - Several requests for content could not be accommodated under the current design rules of backward compatibility and providing a single way to present specific pieces of content
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  - Currently our products are published in XML schema, RDF-OWL, or JSON
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- Long-term composition and maintenance of production flows for products into the future
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  - SDTL already uses COGS for their development work
  - Work on COGS is considering the input and output needs for UML XMI (content requirements and transformation requirements)
  - Work has also begun on documenting production environments and workflows in preparation for establishing a well-documented production process for the development and maintenance of DDI Products. Currently we have been working directly with the different product working groups to ensure that this documentation is available.
- Long-term composition of the TC
  - Clarification of role within the newly established Scientific Board structure
  - Expansion of group
  - Leadership changes over the next few years

Looking ahead



# Reactivated and new roles for member organisations

Current active role:

- Designated member representative (current role)

Roles also specified in the new version of the bylaws:

- Scientific Representatives (reactivated)
- Technical contacts (new)

Is it possible to fill those roles for member organisations?

# Developers Group (proposal for new WG)

- Unofficial Working Group until 2014.
- Currently lack of tool development.
- 'No tools no standard'.
- Budget request for hackathon (by the Scientific Board) to initiate the new group.
- Former members not available any more.
- Challenge to identify a chair for the group.

What can the member organisations do to support this group?

# Issues from Working Group reports

- Not enough members in some of the working groups
- Goals in the Scientific Work Plan have not been reached and require collaboration
- Technical support needed for some of the working groups
- Leadership changes over the next few years
- Difficulties with the DDI Alliance Zoom account
- Detail of Glossary
- Project funding (external)

Any further ideas?