2010 Annual Report of the Data Documentation Initiative

Focus on Tools and Software

Tools development for DDI started to take off in a big way during the past fiscal year. A variety of promising tools emerged and the implementers of these tools began to collaborate and share information. To facilitate these interactions further, the DDI Alliance will focus on bringing implementers together during the next year with the goal of making tools interoperable and modular.

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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 2010 was a notable year for the Alliance in many ways, and below we highlight a sample of the year's important events:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics joined the Alliance during the year and invited Alliance experts to consult with ABS on full implementations of both DDI and SDMX. The goals of ABS in using DDI are to (1) collaborate with other organizations in the development of new methods and systems to support the production and use of statistics and (2) promote more effective sharing of existing leading practice solutions among agencies.
- Training at Dagstuhl in Wadern, Germany, was again sponsored by GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences and the DDI Alliance. Attendees learned about "Using DDI 3 to Support Preservation, Management, Access, and Dissemination Systems for Social Science Data."
- Another Dagstuhl workshop focused on important DDI use cases. Participants collaborated on a set of papers that were published as part of the ICPSR Working Paper Series. These papers, available on the DDI Web site, cover a diverse set of use cases, from creating a DDI editing tool to using DDI for comparison purposes. All DDI Working Papers have Digital Object Identifiers and share an ISSN number.
- At the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) annual meeting, held in June at Cornell University, many DDI tools were demonstrated and discussed. Interest in DDI among developers was apparent and led to the proposal for a meeting of developers to take place in the Hague in December in conjunction with the European DDI Users Group meeting.

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Alliance Members

- University of Alberta
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Social Science Data Archive (ASSDA)
- University of California, Berkeley
- California Digital Library
- Centro de Investigaciones Sociologicas, Spain
- Cornell University
- University of Connecticut, Roper Center
- Danish Data Archive (DDA)
- Data Archiving and Networking Services, The Netherlands
- 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
- Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)
- Open Data Foundation
- Princeton University Library
- Research Data Centre of the German Federal Employment Agency, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)
- Socio-Economic Panel Study, Germany (SOEP)
- Stanford University
- Swedish National Data Service
- Swiss Foundation for Research in the Social Sciences (FORS)
- United Kingdom Data Archive (UKDA)
- University of Toronto
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Associate Member)
- World Bank, Development Data Group (DECDG)

Membership and Finances

The DDI Alliance had 33 paid memberships during FY 2010, 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 $116,660.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses, Fiscal Years 2006 — 2010

	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
Total Revenue	$64,906	$72,382	$78,607	$64,771	$82,450
Total Expenses	$68,875	$40,455	$49,880	$52,992	$86,718
Revenue Over/ (Under) Expenses	($3,969)	$31,927	$28,726	$11,779	($4,268)
Ending Fund Balance	$48,496	$80,423	$109,149	$120,928	$116,660

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.

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