

Tools Catalog Group Report 2010/11

Submitted by Stefan Kramer, Chair

Note: During the Expert Committee meeting, members of this working group will lead the group through an exercise to brainstorm ideas for how to entice developers to use the Tools catalog. Please think about this topic ahead of time and be prepared to contribute your ideas.

Group Members

- Stefan Kramer, Cornell University (Chair)
- Katherine McNeill, MIT
- Jannik Jensen, Danish Data Archive
- Andias Wira-Alam, GESIS

The DDI Tools Catalog Group was formed at the 2010 annual meeting of the DDI Expert Committee to facilitate the use of the DDI standard by describing software and other tools that support DDI, resurrecting the effort put into tools.ddialliance.org. The participants following IASSIST 2010 included: Stefan Kramer, Cornell University (Chair); Katherine McNeill, MIT; and Jannik Jensen, Danish Data Archive. Andias Wira-Alam, GESIS, joined the group in Dec. 2010 during the EDDI meeting in Utrecht.

The first activity of the Group's Chair, in consultation with staff at CISER at Cornell University and ICPSR (which hosts the DDI Alliance Web site), was to settle on which platform to house a revised DDI Tools Catalog. The final choice, in mid-summer 2010, was the DDI Alliance Web site, with content model modifications to be made as necessary to accommodate the Tools Catalog. Subsequently the Group used "Google Groups" and "Google Docs" to develop the structure of the new DDI Tools Catalog, and then worked with the ICPSR Web developer for the DDI Alliance's Drupal-based Web site to accommodate the catalog structure. This was extended to incorporate a workflow by which developers of DDI-supporting tools could submit new products for inclusion in the Tools Catalog. A presentation by the Group's Chair at the EDDI meeting in December (<http://hdl.handle.net/1813/19485>) solicited input from the community about any desirable modifications to the envisioned catalog's structure. The Group subsequently decided to include a "Purpose" (of tool) field in the first release of the new catalog after all, despite the challenges of classifying tools, due to the value to the end users of the catalog. The Group also decided which items in the current listing at <http://www.ddialliance.org/resources/tools> are not really "tools" (but markup examples, documentation, etc.), and worked with the DDI Alliance Web site maintainers to find a new location for them.

As of May 3, 2011, the new Tools Catalog infrastructure is nearing the final stages of development at <http://www.ddialliance.org/tools-test>, and the documentation of all tools with the necessary metadata elements to make the catalog functional and ready to replace the current one is expected to begin soon

after the IASSIST 2011 conference. Two members of the Group, Kate McNeill and Stefan Kramer, will be showing the new (in-development) interface during the IASSIST poster session on June 2, 2011.