



CANADIAN REPORT

IASSIST 2014 , Toronto, ON

ABSTRACT

Canadian IASSIST members have been extremely busy this year. Please take a gander to see what we're been up to

Michelle Edwards

Contents

IASSIST Canada Report 2013-2014	2
Meetings attended by members	2
DLI – Data Liberation Initiative – Contributed by Chantal Ripp.....	3
Regional Reports	4
Western Canada – Contributed by Anna Bombak.....	4
Ontario – Contributed by Vince Gray	4
Quebec region – contributed by Caroline Patenaude	5
Atlantic Region – Coming	5
Special Awards	5
Equinox.....	6

IASSIST Canada Report 2013-2014

Wow! How time really does fly, seems like yesterday I agreed to take on the Canadian Secretary position, and here we are trying to pull together my first report! I've been very fortunate as we have a great crew of members in Canada who all helped me gather the information that is included in this report. I'm sure I've missed something and for that I'll take full responsibility. With that ... here we go!

Meetings attended by members

OR2013 Charlottetown, PEI – July 2013

Gave our first poster session at OR2013 with a plea for help in convincing researchers that data management was important and that putting their research into repositories was essential. Results were mixed. IASSIST members from several countries were present at this conference.

CNC/CODATA – September, 2013

IASSIST is represented by **Ernie** as a member and Chuck and Wendy as observers. Previously, social sciences were largely absent in their reports.

World Social Science Forum – October, 2013

Chuck Humphrey, **Ernie**, Wendy and Chad Gaffield presented a panel at WSSF 2013 in Montreal on establishing a digital ecosystem for data in Canada.

CASRAI Reconnect – October, 2013

Several Canadian IASSIST members presented workshops and panels at CASRAI Reconnect in Ottawa.

CARL Research Data Management Network – December 2013

Several Canadian members participated in this meeting to discuss how the Canadian libraries can contribute to the Research Data Management Network in Canada

Digital Infrastructure Summit – January 2014

A number of Canadian members were invited as leaders in the data field to the Digital Infrastructure Summit in Ottawa. It was an attempt to bring together data professionals, the three granting councils, CIOs of universities and the heads of Genome Canada and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to

continue the conversation started at the 2011 Summit. The goal was to come up with an action plan for immediate implementation.

TC3+ Consultation and results – Dec 2013 and Feb 2014

The big news is that the tri-councils (SSHRC, CIHR, NSERC) plus CFI and with input from Genome Canada have embarked on a consultation to make Data Management Plans mandatory in future grant applications.

CAURA meeting – June 2014

Ernie and Wendy are part of a panel that will focus on the impact of the TC3+ consultations on Canadian University Research Officers' annual meetings. These are the folks sign off on all research grants and that will be responsible for managing the Data Management Plans that accompany the grants.

DLI – Data Liberation Initiative – Contributed by Chantal Ripp

The year 2013 was an exciting year for the DLI program. We have been focused on enhancing and modernizing our infrastructure for delivering data and providing essential services to the community. While we have been exploring new ways to improve and expand our services, we have not lost sight of the central objective of the DLI program. Our goal is and always will be to provide the DLI community with current Canadian data, relevant resources and services to support researchers and students with their academic projects. In doing so, we have fostered a supportive and growing network of colleagues across the country. In 2013-2014, the DLI welcomed three new colleges, notably Selkirk College, Sault College, and Centennial College. The DLI program is now 78 institutional members strong!

In keeping with our commitment to provide supportive services to our members, last year we held regional training sessions in Halifax, NS; Quebec, QC; Toronto, ON, and Edmonton, AB. The sessions are always a great opportunity for DLI contacts and others supporting data services, to discover more on the use of the Statistics Canada data and other products. Our effort in building regional data expertise has been a great success and is an important aspect of the DLI training program. Looking ahead, the Education Committee has been hard at work planning the next installation of the DLI National Training Day, which will take place at Ryerson University from June 2-3, 2014 before the IASSIST Conference in Toronto.

The release of the DLI webinar series has been another exciting development in our community! Regular sessions were delivered since September 2013, featuring information on Justice Statistics, input-output tables and an information session on the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) from CIHI, among others. These sessions not only allow our DLI contacts to learn more about specific data files but also give them the opportunity to ask questions and interact directly with experts in the subject matter. The sessions were well attended and feedback has been very positive!

In September 2013, the DLI announced the addition of DDI metadata for masterfiles into the DLI Nesstar in collaboration with the RDC Metadata project. Through Nesstar, our on-line tool, researchers are now

able to view survey documentation, methodology and variable level information related to the Statistics Canada masterfiles. This metadata has been stripped of all confidential information, therefore, no frequency information or case counts are available. The inclusion of DDI metadata for masterfiles in Nesstar will improve the discoverability of Statistics Canada surveys. Researchers will be able to identify variables of interest on the master file to assist them with their project proposals or custom tabulation requests. DLI contacts will now be able to distinguish whether a PUMF or the master file would best fit their users' research needs.

The DLI External Advisory Committee met twice this past year.

Regional Reports

Western Canada – Contributed by Anna Bombak

- ACCOLEDS 2013 (a 3-day annual COPPUL/DLI Western regional training workshop) held in Edmonton, Alberta, [Nov. 26-28](#). Starting this year, ACCOLEDS workshops now have a dedicated wordpress site, and plans were made to buy a domain and continue to grow the site with links to previous workshops, training materials, etc. ACCOLEDS 2014 will be held in Vancouver, B.C. in late November/early December.
- The eighth annual Winter Institute on Statistical Literacy for Librarians (WISLL) was held in Edmonton on [February 19-21](#), 2014, with 25 librarians and administrators from across Canada (and one from South Africa) in attendance. Instructors from the ACCOLEDS/DLI community: Chuck Humphrey, Anna Bombak, Larry Laliberte, as well as University of Alberta Librarians Amanda Wakaruk and David Sulz.

Ontario – Contributed by Vince Gray

Changes in the structure of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) committees lead the Data in Ontario (DINO) working group to substantially revise its plans for the coming year. The working group was restructured into a Community, and a proposal eventually submitted for consideration and approval by the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) Directors.

The Community continues to support and supervise the activities of students working in the MarkIt! program, which enhances the DDI-compliant metadata loaded into <odesi>. Through the MarkIt! program, the metadata for [*] files were added. Independently of MarkIt!, metadata (e.g., SPSS syntax files and documentation) were shared by institutions to enhance the information loaded into <odesi>. Reformatted data and metadata for particularly complex data sets (e.g., the Canadian Institute for Health Information's Discharge Abstract Database) were shared among institutions. The MarkIt! group emphasized expanding coverage of aggregate data sources while continuing to publish microdata and to maintain quality control. The increase in the number of OCUL schools participating in MarkIt! is a good ongoing development for Odesi. Of particular note is the expansion of <odesi>'s bilingual coverage: French metadata was added for 645 files, including 152 microdata files. The outcome of these measures was that better-documented data files were made available to more users without duplication of effort at multiple institutions.

The director of [Statistics Canada's Real Time Remote Access data service](#), which produces tabular output from non-anonymised microdata sets held on secure servers at Statistics Canada, made a presentation to DINO at its April, 2013 meeting. This program supplements the Research Data Centre and the Data Liberation Initiative programs by providing controlled access to confidential data without the necessity of completing a formal research proposal to SSHRC and Statistics Canada. In addition to providing simplified access to RDC data, it provides unprecedented access to data files of interest to researchers that are not included in either the RDC or DLI collections. It allows researchers to determine the viability of research projects using RDC data (i.e., are there enough people with the characteristics I want to study available in the file to justify my spending the time writing a research application?). Guelph has conducted a test of the system, and is seeking funding for further access to RTRA; University of Toronto is in the processing of finalizing a license with Statistics Canada for use of RTRA.

Western launched a pilot project to provide a statistical consulting service funded by and within the library. The pilot project is to conclude at the end of August: to date, the greatest difficulty has been demand for the service which cannot be met on a timely basis. The documents supporting the launch of the service were shared with the ODC, as other institutions are considering launching such a service. An update on the service will be given at both the June and the planned December face-to-face meetings.

Following on the December 2013 meeting, Jeff Moon of Queen's led the OCUL Data Community RDM Survey Working Group in designing and administering a survey sent to members of the ODC mailing list on research data management practices at OCUL institutions. The deadline for responses to the survey was March 21, 2014; results are pending.

Susan Mowers (Carleton), Carol Perry (Guelph) and Chuck Humphrey (Alberta) conducted a series of Surveys of Researchers' Needs and Practices regarding Research Data Management in Canada: interim results are available at <http://gsg.uottawa.ca/data/open/aa-interim-survey-report/20130801-en.pdf>.

Quebec region – contributed by Caroline Patenaude

Richard Boily, a long standing IASSIST member and contributor to both the Canadian and International data community retired December, 2013 from UQAR.

Université Laval has a new "geoportal", [geoindex+](#), which was launched in 2012:

https://www.milieuxdoc.ca/cm2s_content/_milieux-documentaire/document/milieux-documentaires-1355773893-Prix_Innovation_2012_Geoindex_plus_BUL.pdf

Atlantic Region – Still Coming

Special Awards

Wendy Watkins is the recipient of the 2013 William H. Flanigan Award for Distinguished Service as an ICPSR Official Representative.

Equinox

On April 16, 2014, the libraries of Western University and l'Université de Montréal announced that the Equinox Data Delivery System will be discontinued. This service is used by many Canadian universities as their primary data access platform for DLI data. Since the announcement, there have been several working groups created to address a number of questions. The DLI working group is trying to determine whether and how they should cultivate the metadata that resides in Equinox. Universities from the West, Quebec and the East are looking forward to new options to continue their data access over the next two years.