Supporting our researchers: the provision of data services in Canada: a case study

IASSIST

May 24, 2017

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Outline

- The past
- The present
- Recommendations

The past

- It all started with …

- Only resource available in 1997
  - A print binder
  - Based on Brian McNally's CD-ROM

The past (cont'd)

- **A committee was formed**
  - Many questions …
    - What dissemination format to use
    - Who to populate it
    - When to populate it

- **What**
  - A comprehensive reference tool
  - A unique endeavour in terms of scale and collaboration

The past (cont'd)

- **Why**
  - ❑ To maximize use of data
  - ❑ To support data librarians/specialists
  - ❑ To help develop competencies
  - ❑ Many hats
  - ❑ Ensure DLI conditions of access are followed
  - ❑ Finding information in a timely fashion

The past (cont'd)

- **DLI Survival Guide**
  - ❑ May 2007
  - ❑ On DLI website
  - ❑ Open to the world

The present

Feedback on a community-supported listserv

- Updates on accessing data platforms, best practices in data services and Research Data Management (RDM) and support navigating the DLI Collection

Formal program evaluations

- Survey of contacts confirmed growing complexity of roles of data librarians

Review of workshop training topics

- Increased emphasis on workshops related to data extraction tools, Research Data Management, and open source platforms

The present (cont'd)

- **Survival Guide updates were done in collaboration with members of the Professional Development Committee**
  - Tasked with developing a data services curriculum for national and regional DLI training activities
  - Committee composed of data librarians from member institutions

The Survival Guide

Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)

Section 4: Resources

The dlilist
The DLI Update Newsletter
The DLI Training Repository
Contacts

The dlilist

About the dlilist

The dlilist listserv is the DLI community's primary communication tool. It is used to ask reference questions, obtain information about the DLI collection, discuss data related issues, ask for help interpreting the DLI licence, and to provide feedback about Statistics Canada products and services.

The dlilist is a subscription-based listserv, which means that only registered users can post and receive messages. Messages from the list are sent to all registered users by email. Users can either email the listserv or send messages on the listserv web application.

Sample training sessions

The following are sample training sessions found in the DLI Training Repository.

General

- Boot Camp: You Asked for it! Survivor's Training in Statistics
- Citation Standards for Statistics and Data
- Misinterpretation of Data, the Importance of Metadata and Statistics Canada Math
- Survey Life Cycle

Contacts

Below is a listing of the main data organizations to which DLI Contacts often refer.

Canadian data organizations

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The Survival Guide

Section 9: Glossary

Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S

T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
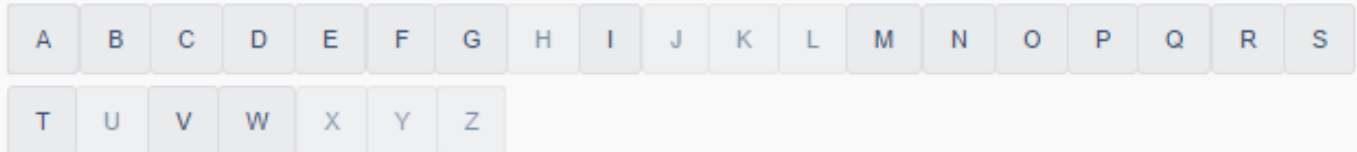
Are you trying to locate a term or acronym that is not in the list? Check the DLI Products page (restricted access portion of the DLI Website) for some additional acronyms. Still not there? Contact the DLI Unit to get the term added!

A

ACCOLEDS	A COPPUL Consortium of Library Electronic Data Services. (See Section 4)
ACMLA	Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives. (See Section 4)
Administrative data	Data collected for the purpose of carrying out various non-statistical programs such as registering births and deaths or administering taxation. (See Section 5)
Aggregate data	Consist of statistics that are organized into a data structure and stored in a database or in a data file. The data structure is based on tabulations organized by time, geography, or social content. (See Section 5)
Alternates	Identified by the DLI Contact to assist them in their DLI role at the institution. (See Section 3)
APDU (USA)	Association of Public Data Users. (See Section 4)

familiar with the acronyms used at Statistics Canada.

Discussion

- **Disadvantages**
  - Findability
  - Lack of continuous promotion
  - Difficulties in remaining current in face of emerging trends

Discussion (cont'd)

- Advantages
  - ❑ Community engagement in authoring the guide
  - ❑ Collaborative endeavour
  - ❑ Readily available resource for all

Recommendations

- Continue!

- Questions to ponder
  - How to maintain it
  - How to update it

Recommendations (cont'd)

- **Challenges**
  - ❑ Remaining relevant
    - ■ New contacts
    - ■ Seasoned contacts

Recommendations (cont'd)

- Now what?
  - Where we would like to see it go
    - A new collaborative platform
    - Feedback form
    - Updating in a timely fashion
    - Focus groups

Recommendations (cont'd)

- **What do you want to see?**
  - Ideas
  - Comments
  - What about …

In sum …

- We have learned about the DLI Survival Guide
  - Its past
  - Its present
  - Its future

References

- Statistics Canada. "DLI Survival Guide". 2017.
  http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/dli/guide/index
- Fry, Jane & Chantal Ripp. "Empowering Librarians in the provision of data services in Canada: A case study of the DLI Survival Guide". NRAL 2017.

  http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13614533.2017.1318763

Thank you!

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