CODATA AND IASSIST

Two Data Organizations.
What can we learn from Each Other?

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WHY THIS PRESENTATION?

- Recently I became the chair of the Canada National Committee for CODATA.

- CODATA is the Committee on Data of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

- Last October ICSU and International Social Science Council (ISSC) agreed that they should merge.

- Even though IASSIST is not formally linked to the ISSC, it made sense to explore the potential relationships between CODATA and IASSIST since there will be one umbrella for all types of science.

ICSU AND ISSC MERGER?

- *Oslo, 24 October 2016* – "At an extraordinary General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and a General Assembly of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the two organizations' members voted overwhelmingly that the two organizations should merge."

Source

http://www.worldsocialscience.org/2016/10/worlds-top-bodies-representing-social-natural-sciences-vote-pursue-merger-forming-single-organization-representing-social-natural-sciences-2018/

OBJECTIVE AND OUTLINE

- What is CODATA?
- Comparisons with IASSIST
  - How are we similar?
  - How are we different?
- International Council for Science (ICSU)
- International Social Science Council (ISSC)
- CODATA and IASSIST strategies and activities
- Where to from here?
- Sources

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)

- A non-governmental organization with a global membership of national scientific bodies (122 Members, representing 142 countries) and International Scientific Unions (31 Members).

- ICSU's mission is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. To do this, ICSU mobilizes the knowledge and resources of the international science community.

- The long-term strategic vision is for a world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policy making.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISSC)

- The mission of the ISSC is to advance the social sciences – their quality, novelty and utility – in all parts of the world.
  - to advance **social science research.**
  - to support **social science capacity building.**
  - to provide a **central clearinghouse** on data resources and research.
  - to broaden **interdisciplinary collaboration** among the social sciences.
  - to expand **exchange and joint work** between the social sciences, the humanities and other sciences;
  - to **link social science knowledge effectively to public policies**
  - to promote the **social science literacy** of citizens.

WHAT IS CODATA?

- CODATA is the Committee on Data of the International Council for Science ICSU.
- promotes global collaboration to improve the availability and usability of data.
- supports the principle that research data should be as open as possible and as closed as necessary.
- Members are country and scientific union based.
- CODATA's greatest current challenge is to support the scientific community in enhancing efficiency, rigor and creativity in exploiting the digital revolution of the last decade.

MISSIONS

IASSIST

- IASSIST is an international organization of professionals working with information technology and data services to advance research and teaching in the social sciences.

- Goals
  - Foster and promote a network of excellence for data service delivery
  - Advance infrastructure in the social sciences
  - Provide opportunities for collegial exchange of sound professional practices

- 1st Joint Canada/U.S. conference
  - Cocoa Beach, FL, USA, 1977

CODATA

- The mission of CODATA is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society by promoting improved scientific and technical data management and use.

- Objectives
  - The improvement of the quality and accessibility of data,
  - The facilitation of international cooperation among those collecting, organizing and using data
  - The promotion of an increased awareness in the scientific and technical community of the importance of these activities
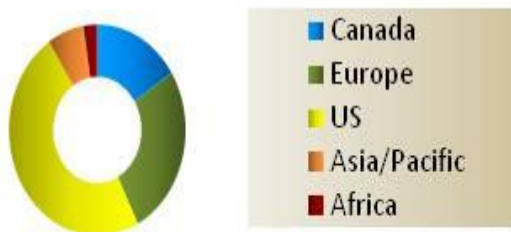 - The consideration of data access and intellectual property issues

- 50 years old

ORGANIZATION

IASSIST	CODATA

- Members based mainly in US, Canada and Europe …a few in Asia/Pacific and Africa

IASSIST
Members Across the Globe

- Canada
- Europe
- US
- Asia/Pacific
- Africa

- 24 National members
- 17 International scientific unions e.g., astronomy, chemistry, physics, International Geographical Union
- 4 co-opted members (partner organizations that share CODATA's mission, e.g. WDS, RDA
- Over 20 affiliate members

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

IASSIST

- Social science researchers and scientists who are producers and users of micro and macro-level social data;

- Information specialists, who preserve social data, manage facilities and provide services that promote the secondary use of social data;

- Methodologists and computing specialists who advance technical methods to manipulate and analyze social data.

CODATA

- National Members: A scientific academy, research council, scientific institution or association of such institutions,

- Regional Members: An international body, representing a group of nations on the basis of some regional or other relationship,

- Union Members: Each scientific union federated in ICSU, which expresses an interest in the scientific data program of CODATA.

- Co-opted Members: An international organization wholly or predominantly in work covered by the objectives of CODATA.

IASSIST's Goals

As an organization IASSIST strives to:

- Foster and promote a network of excellence for data service delivery

- Advance infrastructure in the social sciences

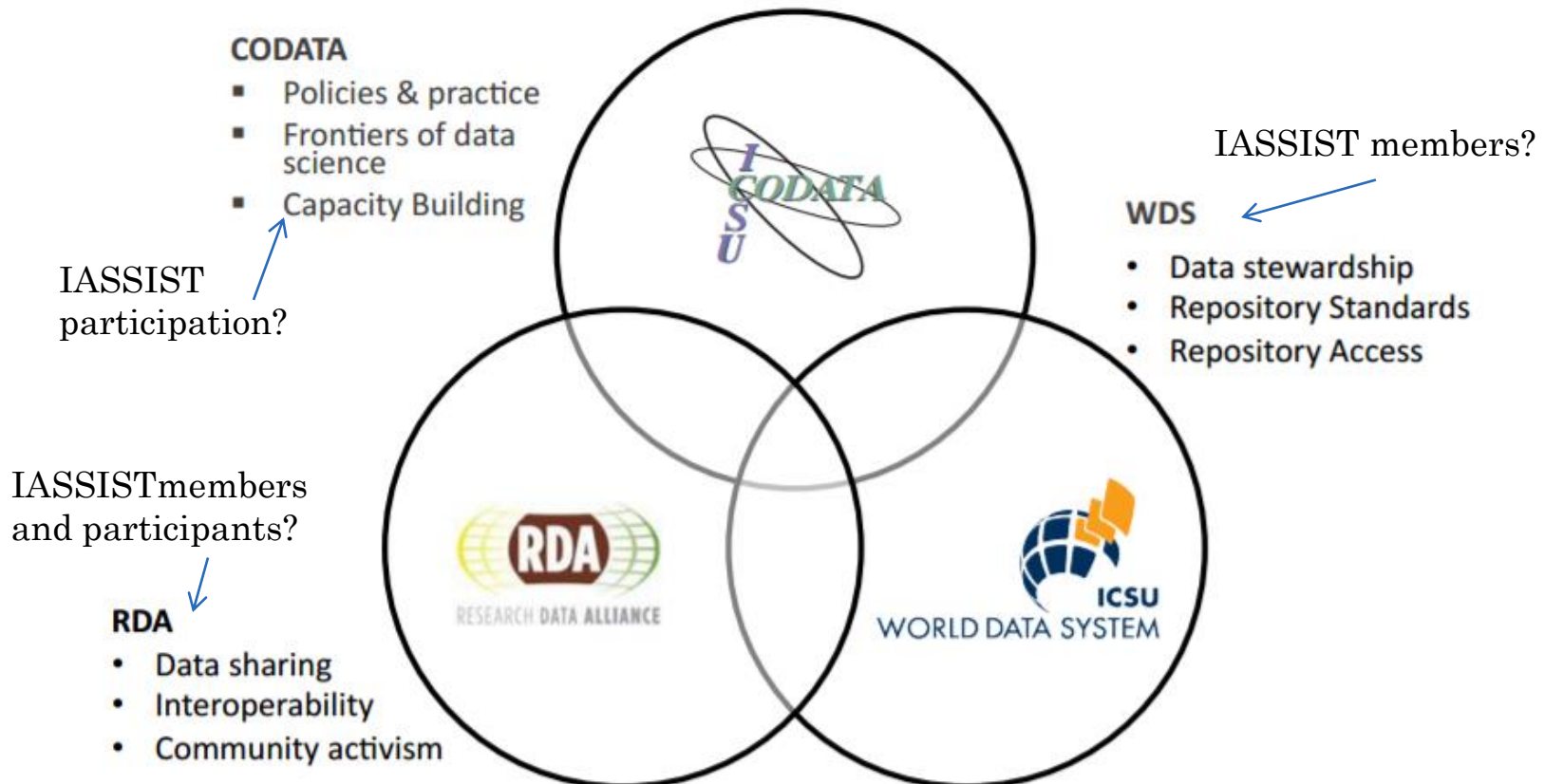- Provide opportunities for collegial exchange of sound professional practices

iassist communities

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http://iassistdata.org/about/index.html

International Research Data Collaboration

CODATA
- Policies & practice
- Frontiers of data science
- Capacity Building

IASSIST participation?

IASSISTmembers and participants?

RDA
- Data sharing
- Interoperability
- Community activism

IASSIST members?

WDS
- Data stewardship
- Repository Standards
- Repository Access

RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

ICSU
WORLD DATA SYSTEM

CODATA MEMBERSHIP

- USA – Under the umbrella of National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

- UK – DCC joined CODATA on behalf of the UK, with informal support from a number of organizations.

- Australia – Australian National Committee for Data in Science (Australian Academy of Science)

- Finland – Council of Finnish Academies

- South Africa – National Research Foundation.

…..just a few examples. Not every country has a national committee

SOME NOTABLE CODATA ACTIVITIES

- Research Data Management policies, Citation, Open data, Data sharing…**a few topics of interest**

- African Open Science Platform- Capacity Mobilisation

- Data Science Journal.
  - http://www.codata.org/publications/data-science-journal

- Major meetings. Two examples
  - http://www.codata.org/events/conferences/codata-2017-saint-petersburg
  - http://www.codata.org/events/conferences/scidatacon-2016

- Training for post grad and early career researchers
  - Beijing, Nairobi, Bangalore, Jakarta
  - Sangster award in Canada

CODATA Prospectus:
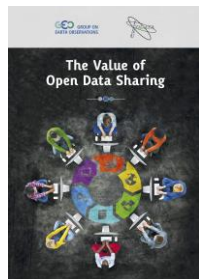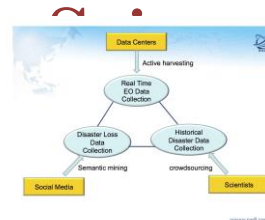## https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.165830

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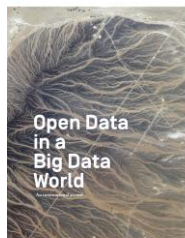
Frontiers of Data Sci...
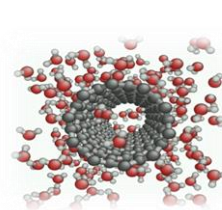
Data Science Journal

Capacity Building

CODATA 2017, Saint Petersburg 8-13 Oct 2017

**http://codata2017.gcras. ru/**

ACTIVITIES

IASSIST

- Annual conference with 2-300 participants
- Diverse workshops
- Active discussion list
- Committees & action groups
- Topical interest groups
- Blog and a quarterly journal
- Strictly a volunteer organization

CODATA

- Sponsorship of major data conferences.
  - Previously biennial CODATA International Conference
  - Now International Data Week (with RDA and WDS) in even years (2018) and CODATA Conference in odd years (2017, 2019).
  - IDW 2016 in Denver attracted 820 participants
- Specialist meetings of scientific data experts,
- Publications on data handling, data compilations, surveys of data activities and meetings proceedings.
- Sponsorship of Task Groups, Working Groups, Commissions
- Has a secretariat

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF RESEARCH
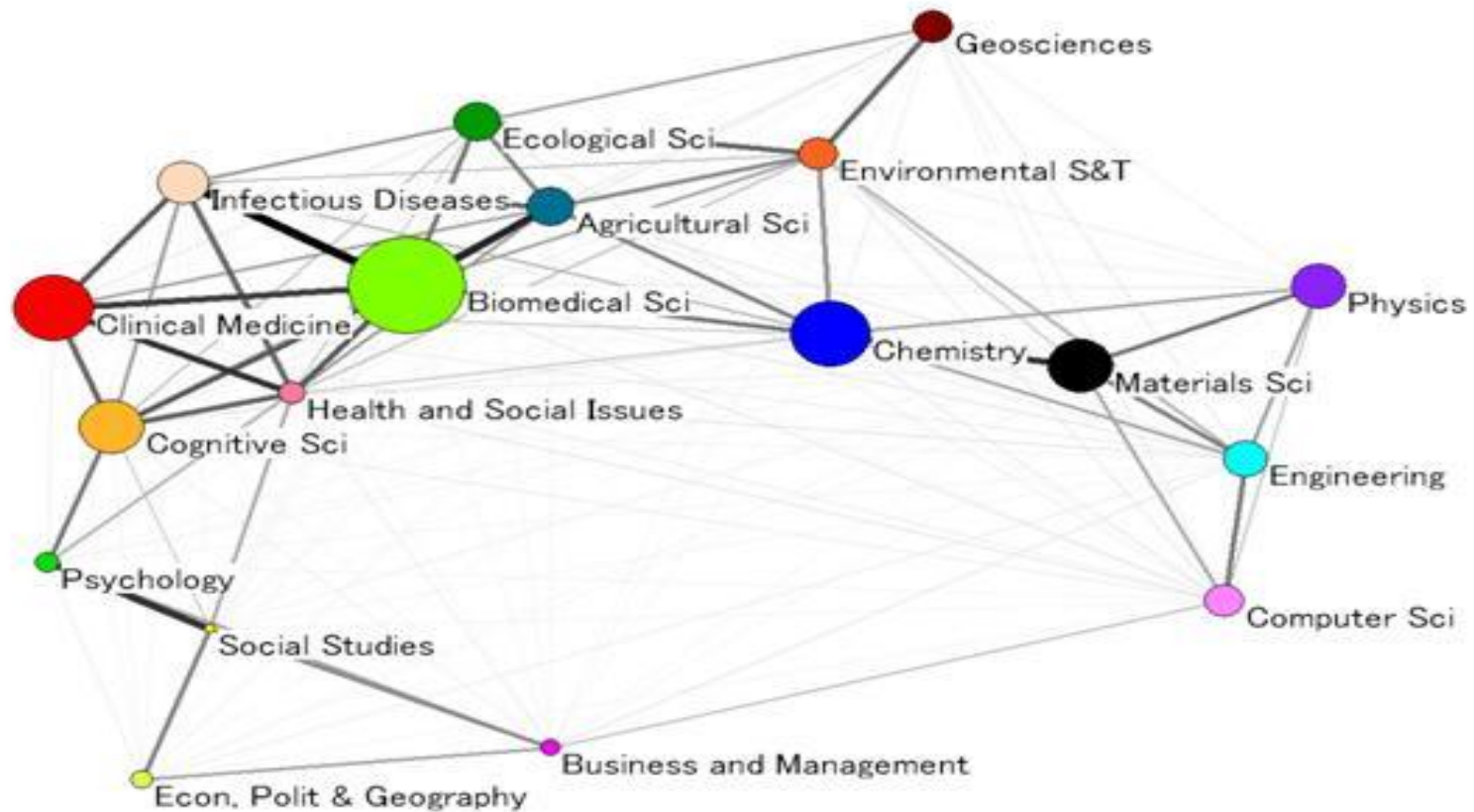
COMPARISONS

- Both organizations are heavily involved in data.
- Similar technology.
- Similar goals, different subject areas.
- CODATA has a broader reach in terms of membership, geography, and location of workshops.
- IASSIST has an active membership engaged in hundreds of institutions.
- Both are starting to focus on Big Data and the Data Revolution
- IASSIST members already participate in RDA and WDS activities
- There an increasing need for service providers to support social science and other science researchers from a data service point of view

FUTURE OF IASSIST

- Strategic Directions
  - IASSIST members are working together to advocate for responsible data management and use, to build a broader community surrounding research data, and encourage the development of data professionals.
- The 2010-2014 strategic plan has not been updated.
- Are there new directions on the horizon?

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- IASSIST and CODATA share a lot of objectives and technology.
- IASSIST's strength lies in the relationships among members and with the researcher community.
  - Can CODATA benefit from this relationship?
- CODATA's strength lies in the policy and capacity building level, the work of its Task Groups and its strategic activities
  - Can IASSIST benefit from this?

WHERE TO FROM HERE? CONT.

- The merger of ICSU and ISSC should result in one international body to which all science domains could belong for collaboration and sharing ideas.
  - This should be a benefit for science.
- Can IASSIST push the social science agenda further into RDA?
- Can CODATA take advantage of the expertise of IASSIST members for regional seminars and training session?

Just a few things to think about.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Sources

- This presentation drew heavily on the following sources:
  - http://iassistdata.org/about/index.html
  - http://www.codata.org/)
  - http://www.codata.org/about-codata/governance
  - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Council_for_Science#Mission_and_principles
  - http://www.worldsocialscience.org/about/
  - https://www.dropbox.com/s/4dtl3ixc9by0am2/KEY%20CODATA%20SLIDES.pptx?dl=0

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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HAPPY 2.0 GABE