

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Standard: Managing Metadata for Longitudinal Data — Best Practices

Goals for the Longitudinal Data Workshop

This seminar will bring together representatives from major longitudinal data collection efforts to share expertise and to explore the use of the DDI metadata standard as a means of managing and structuring longitudinal study documentation. Participants will work collaboratively to create best practices for documenting longitudinal data in its various forms, including panel data and repeated cross-sections.

Description of the Workshop

Longitudinal survey data carry special challenges related to documenting and managing data over time, over geography, and across multiple languages. This complexity is often a barrier to building efficient systems for data access and analysis. The *Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)*, a metadata standard that addresses the full life cycle of social science research data, is designed to provide an efficient structure for the documentation of complex longitudinal data. In this workshop, participants involved in longitudinal data projects around the world will work together on issues involved in documenting longitudinal data.

Intended audience: Individuals with expertise in longitudinal social science data; knowledge of DDI is desired but not required. The intent is to have a mix of participants with substantive and technical skills. Participants should provide access to materials describing their projects, which can serve as use cases in applying DDI. The workshop is in English.

Expected Results

Participants will write best practice papers, to be published in the DDI Alliance Working Paper Series (www.ddialliance.org/resources/publications/working). Last year's workshop produced a series of use case papers — see in particular Grouping of Survey Series Using DDI 3 (dx.doi.org/10.3886/DDIUseCases06).

Contact

The names of interested organizations and individuals should be sent to ddi-expert-workshop@icpsr.umich.edu. Please provide contact information, area of interest, and area of expertise for each individual, information regarding DDI 3 implementation, and a statement of what each individual can contribute to the workshop. Direct questions to ddi-expert-workshop@icpsr.umich.edu. Twenty-two participants will be accepted.

Location

The workshop will take place at the Leibniz Center for Informatics, Schloss Dagstuhl, Wadern, Germany. The location provides an intense working atmosphere in a relaxing environment. Further information about the venue can be found at www.gesis.org/en/research/events/workshops/ddi-workshop-venue. The workshop will start on Monday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m. and will end on Friday, October 22, at 4:00 p.m. Participants are advised to arrive at Dagstuhl on Sunday, October 17. Accommodation at Dagstuhl including full board is 60 Euro/day/person.

Date:

October 18–22, 2010

Location:

Schloss Dagstuhl,
Leibniz Institute for Informatics,
Wadern, Germany



Organizers:

Arofan Gregory

(Open Data Foundation –
Tucson, US)

Wendy Thomas

(Population Center, University of
Minnesota, US)

Mary Vardigan

(University of Michigan –
ICPSR, US)

Joachim Wackerow

(GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the
Social Sciences, DE)

