REGIONAL REPORT FOR CANADA 2009-2010

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION SERVICE AND TECHNOLOGY

CAPDU CARL DLI RDCN Abacus CREPUQ OCUL <odesi> ISL Islandora NSI Equinox CODATA ACCOLEDS DDI Alliance IHSN NSF TICER... Canadians have been busy in 2009/2010.

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Regional Secretary for Canada
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2009-2010

Canadian IASSIST members have certainly been active at home and internationally this past twelve months. My thanks goes to those who assisted me in writing this report by sending me news and reports from their regions.

NATIONAL

CAPDU: CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC DATA USERS

CAPDU and ACMLA (Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives) will host *CARTO / CAPDU 2010: Connections, Joining the What with the Where*. The conference will take place June 15 – June 18 at the University of Guelph. The last CAPDU conference took place virtually, March 20, 2009.

CARL: CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Research Data: Unseen Opportunities is a document/toolkit released in January 2010 by CARL. It is intended to assist academic library directors raise awareness of data management issues with administrators and researchers on their campuses. The toolkit provides readers with a general understanding of the current state of research data in Canada and beyond. Ordering details at: http://www.carl-abrc.ca/new/pdf/data_toolkit_communique_jan2010.pdf.

Through CARL, Ernie Boyko, Chuck Humphrey and Wendy Watkins developed a *Research Data Management Seminar for Library Staff*. The three developers presented it in November, for the first time, at Carleton University. The session was repeated in April at the University of Toronto by Wendy and Chuck. The seminar is focussed on concepts about research data management that librarians should know as more research data from a wide range of domains becomes part of libraries resources.

CARL membership consists of the 28 largest research libraries in Canada, Library and Archives Canada, Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), and the Library of Parliament.

CENSUS 2011

May 10, 2011 will be the next *Census Day* in Canada.
http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2011/gen/milestones-etapes-eng.cfm

DLI: D<small>ATA</small> L<small>IBERATION</small> I<small>NITIATIVE</small>

Now there are seventy-eight (78) Canadian universities and colleges that can boast membership in the *Data Liberation Initiative*. We've come a long way since the launch in 1996 when there were fewer than 10 data centres in Canada's post-secondary schools.

The most recent *DLI* External Advisory Committee meeting was held April 15-16.

Everyone knows that membership has its rewards and this is as true for the *DLI* as for other enterprises.   *DLI* pays dividends through training and support to its members by means of willing and capable Statistics Canada staff who announce new products, revisions, withdrawals, etc. Challenging questions are posed to the *DLIListserv* and staff who never let us down in terms of providing us with answers albeit we may not always like what we hear. *DLI* technical support staff provide access to the surveys and fully bilingual (French and English) metadata marked up in *DDI* http://www62.statcan.ca/webview/.   And then, there is the matter of training.

Support to member institutions comes by way regional training that takes places annually from coast to coast. Participation of *DLI* staff and financial support is par excellence. Training this past year occurred in the four regions, in chronological order:

ACCOLEDS: A COPPUL (C<small>OUNCIL OF</small> P<small>RAIRIE AND PACIFIC</small> U<small>NIVERSITY</small> L<small>IBRARIES</small>) C<small>ONSORTIUM OF</small> L<small>IBRARY</small> E<small>LECTRONIC</small> D<small>ATA</small> S<small>ERVICES</small>, University of Victoria, December 2-4.

 O<small>NTARIO</small> S<small>PRING</small> T<small>RAINING</small> 2010, U<small>NIVERSITY OF</small> T<small>ORONTO</small>, A<small>PRIL</small> 12-14.

A<small>TLANTIC</small> T<small>RAINING</small>, A<small>CADIA</small> U<small>NIVERSITY</small>, A<small>PRIL</small> 22-23.

Q<small>UEBEC</small> T<small>RAINING</small>, C<small>ONCORDIA</small> U<small>NIVERSITY</small>, M<small>AY</small> 13-14.

In February the most recent *Training the Trainers* session was held in Montreal. The purpose of these occasionally scheduled sessions is to ensure a continuing supply of trainers in all regions as current members move into other areas, including retirement.

Statistics Canada has continued to work on a proposal to enable users outside of the *Data Liberation Initiative* to obtain free access to Public Use Microdata Files (PUMFs). Since the last report, the Income Division has agreed to allow free access to their PUMFs. As in the case of the *Canadian Community Health Surveys*, users must sign a licence agreement prior to accessing the data.

RESEARCH DATA CENTRES (RDC) PROGRAM

The *Research Data Centre Network* (RDCN) completed a closed loop network running on Canada fibre optical high-speed research network using lightpath/APN technology. This connects all 24 Centres and branches into an internal cloud computing architecture. The last branch was connected in April.

The *RDC Network's* metadata project is progressing well. The Research Metadata Centre in Gatineau, Quebec has been producing *DDI 2* metadata for the confidential files of Statistics Canada survey data.

The *DD14RDC project* has produced a tool to convert *DDI 2* to *DDI 3* and is completing a *DDI 3* editor that will be made available to everyone through an *Open Source* licence at the end of 2010.

Currently there are 15 Research Data Centres, 6 branch RDCs and the Federal Research Data Centre in Ottawa. Forty-three (43) postsecondary institutions are members of the network:
http://www.statcan.gc.ca/rdc-cdr/network-reseau-eng.htm

REGIONAL / PROVINCIAL

BRITISH COLUMBIA

After many months of discussions and planning, four British Columbia universities: *Simon Fraser University (SFU), University of British Columbia (UBC), University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)and the University of Victoria (UVic),* known collectively as the *B.C. Research Libraries,* launched in November a collaborative data service. This new service, complete with a new interface and identity is now known as *Abacus.* http://abacus.library.ubc.ca/.
Each university maintains its own data service. *Abacus* is only the file server or collection.

This platform hosted by UBC is based on work originally done at UBC and the goal was to imitate <odesi>. Students, researchers and family members from the four universities can discover and download current and historical numeric data from Statistics Canada and other sources from a central interface.

CREPUQ: CONFERENCE OF RECTORS AND PRINCIPALS OF QUEBEC UNIVERSITIES
(See: University of Western Ontario)

OCUL: ONTARIO COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

In early 2010, *OCUL* initiated a funding program known as the *MarkIt! Student Metadata Program*, which supports the hiring of students to mark up statistical datasets, using the DDI metadata standard, for inclusion in <odesi>. The program's first semester was a success, seeing the addition of new public opinion polls from Leger Marketing, and both new and historic survey and aggregate data from Statistics Canada. The *MarkIt!* program will continue throughout the 2010-11 academic year and <odesi> will continue to grow. In addition, <odesi>'s search tools are enhanced on an ongoing basis; the ability to search by date has been added recently. Noteworthy is that <odesi>'s metadata for over 9,000 surveys is freely available to the world at http://search2.odesi.ca/.

The Joint <odesi>/Geospatial Portal Collections Working Group is engaged in addressing a range of data collections issues, particularly the issue of access to health data in Ontario.

OCUL: MAP GROUP – GEOSPATIAL PORTAL PROJECT

The *OCUL Geospatial and Health Informatics Cyberinfrastructure Portal Project* (*Geospatial Portal* for short) is well underway. The project's Management Group, Working Groups, and External Advisory Committee have been established, and a Data and Geospatial Librarian hired at *Scholars Portal*. Basic information on the project and working group membership lists can be found at: http://geospatial.scholarsportal.info. The project is supported by *OCUL* and the Government of Ontario through the *OntarioBuys* program.

The working groups have been extremely busy over the last year. The *Metadata Standards Working Group* developed a *Metadata Best Practices Guide* based on the North American Profile of the ISO 10115 standard; it can be downloaded from the link highlighted in the preceding paragraph.   The *Teaching & Learning Working Group* will be heavily involved in later phases of the project in working with the Ontario University community to encourage the use of the portal in the classroom.

The *Joint <odesi>/Geospatial Portal Collections Working Group* created a priority list of geospatial data for inclusion in the portal, and a model geospatial data licence. In addition, the group has been investigating health data needs in the Ontario research community through a survey, and has begun to make connections with health data providers.

Finally, the *Technical Advisory Working Group* put together a set of functional requirements for the portal itself, which became an RFP document through which *ESRI Canada* has been selected as our software vendor. A GIS Developer and a Systems Support Specialist will be joining *Scholars Portal* to assist with the work of implementing the portal, which will begin shortly. Next year's report will include much additional information.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Winter *Institute on Statistical Literacy for Librarians* was held for the fourth time in February. This program introduces reference librarians to a framework for understanding statistics questions that get asked at the reference desk and provides strategies for finding them. The program is widely advertised and draws participants in and around Edmonton and much further. This year's group was comprised of 17 participants from Alberta and 11 from Ontario.

UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Islandora is a content management system (Drupal) on top of an institutional repository system (Fedora). The *Islandora* project is headed up by Mark Leggott, University Librarian at the University of Prince Edward Island. Mark gave a presentation on this at the *2009 Access Conference* which can be viewed at:
http://hosting2.epresence.tv/UPEI/1/watch/80.aspx

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

The *National Summer Institute for Statistical & GIS Analysis of Health Data* will be held for the sixth time, June 20-26. (The first four years the topic was crime and justice data.) Marilyn Andrews has been a presenter each year.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO /
CREPUQ (CONFERENCE OF RECTORS AND PRINCIPALS OF QUEBEC UNIVERSITIES)

The Data Resources Library, Western Libraries and Social Science Network and Data Services SNDS, together with our partners from the *Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities (CREPUQ)*, were excited to launch the bilingual *Equinox* data delivery system in June 2009. The system is the successor to *Western's Internet Data Library System (IDLS)*. *Equinox* is a partnership project between Western and *CREPUQ* drawing on the expertise of librarian and technical staff from both partner groups.

Equinox is used by 45 Canadian universities and is a bilingual system to which

data and geospatial products are added on a regular basis. Students, faculty and staff who require research data can find and download data files from *Equinox*.

The interface has a robust and user-friendly look and feel that includes both "browse" and "search" access points. (*SSC Network Update*, fall 2009, vol. 13, issue 1 http://ssnds.uwo.ca/sscnetworkupdate/Fall2009.pdf)

The official launch of the new *Equinox* system, complete with its new interface, was launched on May 12 at the *Université de Montréal*.

INTERNATIONAL

CODATA: THE COMMITTEE ON DATA FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY / INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)

There has been a much closer relationship between *CODATA* and the *Canadian National Committee (CNC) for CODATA* who are also part of the *RDM* movement and are also working on a seminar to be aimed at other researchers.

Ernie Boyko has been selected to be a member of *CNC CODATA*. Chuck Humphrey and Wendy Watkins have been appointed as observers.
http://www.codata.org/canada/members_observers.shtml

The *CNC CODATA Report on Data Activities in Canada* (ISSN 1918-3054) - 25 June, 2009 can be viewed at: http://www.codata.org/canada/DAC/datact_e.shtml

DDI ALLIANCE

The DDI Alliance Expert Committee elected Chuck Humphrey, in November 2009, as Chair of the Committee.

The *DLI* External Advisory Committee has been recommending that Statistics Canada join the Alliance.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY NETWORK

Participants from around the world, including Ernie Boyko of Canada, continue to work through the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) http://www.ihsn.org/home/index.php. The current work centres on how to prepare microdata files for dissemination (anonymization, documentation, policies and procedures). It is interesting to note that the DDI standard is being implemented in some 20 countries in Africa.

TILBURG INNOVATION CENTRE FOR ELECTRONIC RESOURCES (TICER) SUMMER PROGRAM

In August, Chuck Humphrey taught at the summer program in Tilburg, Netherlands. He presented on *Data Library Services in the Data Stewardship Lifecycle*: http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/services/lis/ticer/09carte/program.html#6

[U.S.] NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) DATAONE WORKING GROUP ON SOCIO-CULTURAL ISSUES

As of May 2010, Chuck Humphrey accepted the invitation to serve as a member on the NSF DataONE (Observation Network for Earth) Working Group.

THANK YOU

Laine Ruus will retire from the University of Toronto at the end of June. Laine, known by everyone in the Canadian data community and far beyond its borders, will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for her wit, humour and innumerable contributions at every level to so many people. Laine has been a member of IASSIST since it origin and for many of us in Canada, Laine was the first data person we ever met.

Laine's contributions were recognized by ACCOLEDS and DINO (Data IN Ontario) in April, by the Atlantic Canada group, also in April Training and most recently at the Quebec Training in Montreal.

We wish you all the best in the years to come, Laine, and hope that our paths will cross many times over.