

IASSIST Regional report for Asia-Pacific 2021-2022

Prepared by Sam Spencer

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Membership

As of June 1, 2022, there are approximately 10 active IASSIST members from Asia/Pacific. This represents a decrease on 2019 in part due to time zone considerations making engagement difficult during the COVID pandemic.

Overview

The ongoing response to the pandemic has continued to have an impact on data collection activities with government, health & academic agencies being required to respond faster to support pandemic initiatives.

Over the past 2 years, from an Australian perspective, the most important initiatives are the Data Availability and Transparency (DATA) Act and the Consumer Data Standards Act which have legislated data sharing initiatives for the government and banking sector nationally.

Detailed Information:

Data Availability and Transparency (DATA) Act

<https://www.datacommissioner.gov.au/data-legislation/data-availability-and-transparency-act>

The Australian government has recent passed the DATA Act which mandates that government agencies shared metadata with citizens to describe what data is held by agencies, for what purpose and under what legislation. There is also a requirement for sharing between departmental and with the academic sector where data sharing is in the clear interest of the population.

This has led to a renewed interest in data management principles from a range of sectors. This is relevant for academia and social sciences as this metadata and data sharing capability will open up new avenues for research data from official sources.

Consumer Data Standards Act

<https://consumerdatastandards.gov.au/>

The Consumer Data Standards have been developed by the Australian government to mandate data sharing capability within the financial sector to reduce the friction for citizens to shift between financial institutes. The CDS demonstrates continued interest in the government sector of developing data standards.

This is part of a larger trend in metadata and data management and data sharing at a legislative level that is part of an ongoing maturity uplift for government sector data.

Women in Data initiatives

DAMA Australia has begun a Women in Data Initiative to improve women's representation in the data community. Given the gender equity of the IASSIST community, this may be a key initiative to support to showcase IASSISTs progressive community and assist with international outreach in the AP region.

IASSIST Membership

The Asia-Pacific region has not had the opportunity to take advantage of international virtual events as these are primarily aimed at the European and American time zones. As such, a shift towards virtual-only events may restrict growth of the Asia-Pacific region.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID Pandemic in 2020 IASSIST was unable to take advantage for renewal from first time Australian members. However, given the overlap of the Asia-Pacific region with US time zones a strategic partnership between US & Australian institutes may assist with future memberships.

IASSIST Officials

Asia-Pacific Regional Secretary: Samuel Spencer