WHAT IS A CANADIAN DATA DUDE?

IASSIST
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OBJECTIVES

- The background of the survey
- The background of a data dude
- How much time is spent doing different data-related duties
- How confident are we in helping our clients
THE BACKGROUND OF THE SURVEY

- The 2012 DLI Contacts Survey

- Why the survey
  - DLI Education Committee wants information
  - Changing research data landscape
  - Opportunity for participating institutions
Previous surveys

This survey – 5 sections
- DLI Contact Environment
- Support from your local institution
- Satisfaction with DLI products and Services
- Products, Services and DLI Section Improvements
- Satisfaction and Improvement with DLI Training

When
Responses:
- n = 72 contacts
  - out of a possible 75 (66 universities, 9 colleges)

Language
- English: 83%
- French: 17%
THE BACKGROUND OF A DATA DUDE

Years as DLI Contact (percentages)

- < 3 yr: 23%
- 3 - 7 yr: 26%
- 8 - 13 yr: 21%
- > 13 yr: 30%
Region of DLI Contact (percentages)

- Ontario: 33%
- West: 32%
- Atlantic: 16%
- Quebec: 19%
Q4: As an official DLI contact, what are your DLI-related responsibilities?
COMMENTS – OTHER DLI RESPONSIBILITIES

- Educating Reference staff/librarians regarding
  - DLI services
  - Statistical/data resources

- Download data
  - Don’t prepare it for use
  - Do prepare it for use

- Assist with
  - Statistical software
  - Stats consulting
Q6: Check all that describe the data service at your institution.

- Amount of time on data service
- What other services do you offer
- Who answers data questions
## WORK ENVIRONMENT (CONT’D)

- More than one Data staff Full-time: 18%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data service time</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 20%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 40%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 - 99%</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
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Other Data Services Offered by Region (percentages)

- Offered at service point
- Microdata on demand
- Teach data delivery tools

Region (percentages):
- Atlantic
- Quebec
- Ontario
- West
- Reference staff/librarians answer data questions depending on their level of expertise then bounce them to us
- Data curation and preservation services for research data
- Maintaining any web resources related to data
  - Webpage, LibGuide
- Rely on DLI staff for their expertise
Q8: In your wider responsibilities, do you consider yourself to be a ...
WIDER DUTIES BY REGION (PERCENTAGES)

Region (percentages)

WIDER DUTIES

Data person
GIS person
Gov docs person
Maps person
Subject Specialist

Atlantic
Quebec
Ontario
West
COMMENTS – OTHER DUTIES (NON-DLI)

- Administrators
- Assessment librarians
- Collections – different subject areas
- General Reference
- Systems Department – Head, programmer, ...
- Researchers
- Co-ordinators – electronic collections, access services, ...
Q16: Over the past several years, would you say that use of DLI statistics and data at your institution has been ...

Trends for Data Use (percentages)

- Increasing: 53%
- About the same: 42%
- Decreasing: 5%
WORK ENVIRONMENT (CONT’D)

Who do You Train by Region (percentages)

Region (percentages)

Who do You Train?

- Undergrads
- Grads
- Researchers/profs
- Library colleagues

Atlantic
Quebec
Ontario
West
COMFORT AND KNOWLEDGE LEVEL

Comfort with Responding to Data Questions by Years as DLI Contact (percentages)
Being the DLI contact (for over 10 years) is only a small part of my workload. I feel more comfortable in general but always need some time to “dig in” to the products.

I receive few questions so don’t feel comfortable in my knowledge. That is why regular regional training is important.

There is low interest in the administration as to whether statistical services or provided or not. I find there is a big demand for it - more than I am actually capable of providing.

This is a “learn by doing” experience. That experience will one day become expertise, but it’s a long road. The more advice and help given, the better.
How Often Read DLI List (percentages)

- Daily: 73%
- Weekly: 17%
- Monthly or less: 10%
SUMMING UP

- We learned
  - the background of the 2012 DLI Contacts Survey
  - The background of a Canadian data dude

- We saw
  - The amount of time spent offering data services
  - The frequency of answering data related questions
  - Other job duties that are performed
  - Level of confidence in helping others

- Speculation on the future of data professionals?
As a side note: this presentation was done as a Virtual Internship while doing my MLIS
+ my supervisor was Siobhan Hanratty (UNB)
+ my thanks for all her help, comments and suggestions

Thanks to the Canadian DLI contacts for filling in the survey!
QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, ...

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Thank you 😊