Supporting our researchers: the provision of data services in Canada: a case study

IASSIST
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Outline

- The past
- The present
- Recommendations
The past

- It all started with …

- Only resource available in 1997
  - A print binder
  - Based on Brian McNally’s CD-ROM
A committee was formed

- Many questions …
  - What dissemination format to use
  - Who to populate it
  - When to populate it

What

- A comprehensive reference tool
- A unique endeavour in terms of scale and collaboration
The past (cont’d)

Why

- To maximize use of data
- To support data librarians/specialists
- To help develop competencies
- Many hats
- Ensure DLI conditions of access are followed
- Finding information in a timely fashion
The past (cont’d)

- DLI Survival Guide
  - May 2007
  - On DLI website
  - Open to the world
The present

Feedback on a community-supported listserv

- Updates on accessing data platforms, best practices in data services and Research Data Management (RDM) and support navigating the DLI Collection

Formal program evaluations

- Survey of contacts confirmed growing complexity of roles of data librarians

Review of workshop training topics

- Increased emphasis on workshops related to data extraction tools, Research Data Management, and open source platforms
Survival Guide updates were done in collaboration with members of the Professional Development Committee

- Tasked with developing a data services curriculum for national and regional DLI training activities
- Committee composed of data librarians from member institutions
The Survival Guide

Section 4: Resources

The dlist
The DLI Update Newsletter
The DLI Training Repository
Contacts

The dlist

About the dlist
The dlist listserv is the DLI community’s primary communication tool. It is used to ask reference questions, obtain information about the DLI collection, discuss data related issues, ask for help interpreting the DLI licence, and to provide feedback about Statistics Canada products and services.

The dlist is a subscription-based listserv, which means that only registered users can post and receive messages. Messages from the list are sent to all registered users by email. Users can either email the listserv or send messages on the listserv web application.

Sample training sessions
The following are sample training sessions found in the DLI Training Repository.

General
- Boot Camp: You Asked for it! Survivor’s Training in Statistics
- Citation Standards for Statistics and Data
- Misinterpretation of Data, the Importance of Metadata and Statistics Canada Math
- Survey Life Cycle

Contacts
Below is a listing of the main data organizations to which DLI Contacts often refer.

Canadian data organizations
# Section 9: Glossary

Are you trying to locate a term or acronym that is not in the list? Check the DLI Products page (restricted access portion of the DLI Website) for some additional acronyms. Still not there? Contact the [DLI Unit](#) to get the term added!

## A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCOLEDS</td>
<td>A COPPUL Consortium of Library Electronic Data Services. (See <a href="#">Section 4</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACMLA</td>
<td>Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives. (See <a href="#">Section 4</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative data</td>
<td>Data collected for the purpose of carrying out various non-statistical programs such as registering births and deaths or administering taxation. (See <a href="#">Section 5</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate data</td>
<td>Consist of statistics that are organized into a data structure and stored in a database or in a data file. The data structure is based on tabulations organized by time, geography, or social content. (See <a href="#">Section 5</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternates</td>
<td>Identified by the DLI Contact to assist them in their DLI role at the institution. (See <a href="#">Section 3</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APDU (USA)</td>
<td>Association of Public Data Users. (See <a href="#">Section 4</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

Disadvantages

- Findability
- Lack of continuous promotion
- Difficulties in remaining current in face of emerging trends
Advantages

- Community engagement in authoring the guide
- Collaborative endeavour
- Readily available resource for all
Recommendations

- Continue!

- Questions to ponder
  - How to maintain it
  - How to update it
Challenges

- Remaining relevant
  - New contacts
  - Seasoned contacts
Now what?

Where we would like to see it go

- A new collaborative platform
- Feedback form
- Updating in a timely fashion
- Focus groups
Recommendations (cont’d)

- What do you want to see?
  - Ideas
  - Comments
  - What about …
In sum …

- We have learned about the DLI Survival Guide
  - Its past
  - Its present
  - Its future
References


Thank you!

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