Data Liberation Initiative Director’s Update

COPPUL March 15, 2007
What is DLI?

- **Data Liberation Initiative**

- **Partnership between Statistics Canada and Canadian post-secondary academic institutions to promote and facilitate the availability of Statistics Canada and other Canadian data for educational and academic research purposes.**

- Special Section of Statistics Canada / staffed

- Collections, Education & Advocacy
Governance

• EAC - External Advisory Committee (16:10/6)
  • identify and respond to data requirements of the academic members, promote DLI
  • advise SC and coordinate activities of DLI
  • manage budget of the DLI
  • facilitate/coordinate national training and research initiatives around data
DLI Members

- Post-secondary institutions throughout Canada
- 71 current members (61/10)
- “1 institution, 1 charter” defines member
- Fees: $12K CARL / $3 K Other (April-May, has not changed in 10 years)
- More requests from US institutions, but currently restricted to Canadian
History of DLI

- Consortial purchase of SC data in 1989
- *Liberating the Data* by Wendy Watkins
- Boyko/Watkins/Humphrey & others
- Approved Treasury Board in Feb 1996
10th Anniversary

- 10th Anniversary celebrations last year in Ottawa and at regional events

- Exemplary Access Award (2006) - Census Operations Division
Since 1996

- 71 members and almost as many Data Centres across Canada - in 1969 there were 10 DCs
- RDCs created, providing next level of access
- Release/conversion of data for the DLI more common, but still some cultural issues in SC
- Development of a data culture throughout Canada has been transformative
- All SC ePubs now free to all (April/06)
Recent Changes

- Ernie Boyko and Mike Sivyer retired
- Michel Séguin is new head of DLI Section
- Now a relatively stable staff of 6+
- More colleges joining - 4 considering for ‘07
- Chad Gaffield President of (SSHRC) strong DLI supporter and former EAC member
#1 Priority - Collection

- Over 20,000 public-use microdata files, databases and census and geographic files
- Impact on release of more data to public
- Some effort to recover older surveys from mainframe before decommissioning (Absence from Work the first example)
- Bibliometric analysis - how much is data used?
#2 Priority - Education

- DLI has rich program coordinated by the Education Committee & events in each region
- Peer-to-Peer, basic training (new members & staff) and advanced
- Training repository & Research Paper series
- Licensing database provides use examples
- *First Aid Kit* coming out this year - 1st-timers and a reference tool for existing
Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)

Community home page

A collection of training materials from DLI sessions and any other related workshops.

Collections in this community

DLI Training Repository / Dépôt des documents de formation d’IDD

A collection of training materials from DLI sessions and any other related workshops.
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Other Priorities

• Improve quality and standardization of data and metadata (collection and description)

• DDI (Data Documentation Initiative)

• Better DLI site (all via website) with more intelligent back-end (based on IMBD)

• Digitizing printed documentation for all data

• Metrics work with Sherlock & citation guide
DDI/CANDDI

- Rich metadata standard for describing data and related support files
- DLI collection being tagged - Labour Force Survey 1st example
- NESSTAR browser will be made available to all DLI members via SC system
- Humphrey-led CFI project to provide DDI3 toolkit and interface
Personal Notes

• As an early DLI institutional rep and an EAC member I can appreciate the value of DLI

• Key has been encouraging a culture of training and the *data continuum*, which helps realize benefits of data from basic educational use to high-end research and collaboration

• Best example of knowledge transfer I know!