

**Data Management Discussions at the
IPY Joint Committee and Data Policy and Management SubCommittee
Meetings
Quebec City, Canada, 23-25 October 2007**

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Data management was a big topic at the IPY Joint Committee meeting in Quebec in October. Three members of the Data Committee including myself had a series of discussions with members of the Canadian National Committee, the Canadian Data Committee, the Joint Committee, and the Programme Office.

In addition to many important smaller discussions, I held a half-day workshop to identify ways to meet the critical data management needs of IPY investigators.

Following is a brief report on the results of that workshop and subsequent JC and Data Committee discussions.

See the attendance list, agenda, and slides of the short workshop at:
<https://nsidc.org/twiki/bin/view/IPYDIS/QuebecDataMeeting>

In addition you can see my written report to the JC at
http://ipydis.org/documents/jc6report_oct07.pdf

I described a basic three-point strategy for IPY data management, to which we added some specific goals:

1. Identify what data are to be collected as part of IPY
Status: In progress but slow (not a technical problem)
Goal: *all* metadata by Jun 2009
2. Determine how and where those data will be available
Status: Extremely variable, technical and social issues
Goal: ongoing demos of integration
all data available Mar 2010
3. Ensure the long-term preservation of IPY data
Status: A major issue.
Goal: *all* data in secure archives by Mar 2012

Further details on the specific goals and needs were then presented by David Carlson to the JC and were approved as follows.

Identify

Goal: all metadata by Jun 2009

1. Information for 95% of funded IPY projects by July 2008.
 - Make initial progress on 'easy' projects / data
 - Require information in SCAR/IASC abstracts
 - Increase by 5x national contact points
 - Establish international help desk
 - Scale up existing systems (ArcticNet)
2. Staffing - have <1.0, need >3.0
 - 12 months, work at home
 - Seek assignments, nationally and internationally

Availability

Goal: all data available Mar 2010

1. Substantial demonstration data available by July 2008
 - Start with existing disciplinary systems
 - Publish Directory
 - Start with willing data center partners
 - Work with IPY integration projects (one per discipline?)
 - International help desk
2. Staffing: have <<1.0, need 7.0 (?)
 - 6 months, work at home
 - Assignments (supplements), to/from projects?

Preservation

Goal: all data in secure archives by Mar 2012

1. Estimate archive need by July 2008
2. Develop leadership on the issue
 - Raise issue at IGFA (1 Nov 2007), et al.
 - Follow up with heads of national agencies (DJC)
 - Use JC and WMO/ICSU influence
 - Meeting/conference of 'champions'
 - Action plan by March 2009

One action emerged from this:

Action: David Carlson to prepare a brief document on the critical data management needs of IPY. Completed. See http://ipydis.org/documents/Carlson_dataneeds_nov07.pdf. See also Dave's briefing to IGFA at <http://gallery.mac.com/ipyipo1-gallery>.

Several other actions emerged from the Data Committee meeting:

Action: The Data Committee to develop an initial data management “checklist” to help investigators prepare and submit their metadata and data.

Action: The Data Committee to establish a physical help-desk at the upcoming mid IPY conference in St. Petersburg (<http://www.scar-iasc-ipy2008.org/>). We will need to decide who is appropriate to staff the desk.

Action: The IPYDIS should explore using several integrative IPY projects as exemplars of integrated data management.

Action: The Data Committee and IPY to invite David Thomas, WIS Project Manager, to their next meeting and to collaborate more closely with the development of the WMO Information System and explore means to use the WIS to support IPY. (see draft Technical Specifications at <ftp://ftp.wmo.int:21//Documents/wis/TechnicalSpecification0-5.doc>).

Action: The Data Committee to begin to match volunteer data centers and WDCs with projects in need of support.

Action: All committee members to nominate exemplars of top-notch data centers, especially those with strong data preservation.

Action: David Arctur to prepare a brief primer on spatial coordinate systems.

Action: Øystein Godøy to attend the Space Task Group meeting in Darmstadt, 26 Nov.
Completed