

DataCite UK Consortium

Experience and reflection

*IDCC2024 Workshop 5 "PIDs in Practice"
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*These slides (and others)
at bl-presentations.erambler.co.uk*

Overview

- About the UK Consortium
- Meetings & webinars
- Consortium Advisory Board
- What next?

DataCite in the UK

- British Library a founding partner in DataCite in 2009/10
- Consistent growth over 10 years
- Includes HEIs, cultural heritage organisations, government- and charity-funded research institutions

UK DataCite Consortium in numbers

Open to UK universities and research(-supporting) organisations

- 111 Consortium Members with 167 Repositories
- 748,677 Findable DOIs of 53,711,918 total for DataCite
 - 62,199 in 2022
 - 74,201 in 2023
 - 10,164 so far in 2024...

As of 19 February 2024

Annual consortium meetings

Summer Member Meeting

- Open to current & potential members
- Hosted at BL (later hybrid)
- Updates from BL, DataCite
- Presentations from members and other stakeholders

Winter Webinar

- Smaller scale
- Focus on a specific topic

Consortium Advisory Board

- Needs previously met via direct personal contact: **did not scale!**
- Set up 2020 as a "critical friend" to consortium management
- Quarterly meeting schedule (online via Teams)

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Membership

- Key stakeholders in DOI implementation
- Cross-section of different types of member organisation
- Selected sector bodies (e.g. Jisc, Wellcome)

Consortium Advisory Board

Goals

- Learn about relevant issues on the horizon from our members
- Gain early feedback on proposed changes, e.g.
 - Contract updates for new membership model implementation
 - Associated new cost structure
- Provide transparency on decision-making that affects members

Consortium Advisory Board

Progress

- Not a formal governance group: advice not considered "binding"
- Highly successful in shaping our implementation of new membership model
 - Several potential issues with contracts & comms identified early

Current status: overall

- A lot's happened in the last 4 years!
 - Complete overhaul of DataCite membership structure and cost model
 - A global pandemic
 - *Also a few other things...*
- CAB currently on hiatus

Current status: engagement

- Summer meetings 100% online since 2020
- Winter webinars replaced with occasional "focus" webinars
 - Software Citation
 - DOIs for theses
 - DOIs for preprints/AAMs

Looking ahead

- Online meetings working well
 - Easier for members to attend (no travel cost)
 - Easier for us to organise than hybrid (plus lower hosting cost)
 - Greater flexibility in presenters, including international
- Replace annual cycle with rolling webinar program
 - Focused webinars on key issues seem more useful
- Review Terms of Reference and restart CAB in 2024

Reflections

From my perspective:

- Coordinating British Library DataCite service in 2019
- Institutional research data management for ~9 years before that
 - 3 (very) different UK research-intensive universities
- Community involvement with The Carpentries, Research Software Engineering, Software Sustainability Institute

Considerations

What are your consortium goals?

- Delivering a service?
- Developing infrastructure?
- Building a community?

Considerations

How are your communications going to scale?

- Keeping members informed
- Providing consortium-specific documentation/information
- Responding to enquiries (including escalation to DataCite)
- Facilitating communication between members

Considerations

How will you make your consortium sustainable?

- Funding: charging members or free at the point of use?
- Plan to cover your own costs as well
- Larger consortia have economies of scale
- Harder to personalise things with more members (e.g. contract negotiation)

Other thoughts...

- Make sure your Finance team are bought in
- How to facilitate long tail of small organisations?
- How will your contracts work?

Thank
you

