DDI Timeline

by Mary Vardigan[1]

Abstract

This timeline lists key developments and events in the history of the DDI, beginning with selected foundational developments that set the stage for DDI and facilitated its creation. Note that while many archives have played a significant role in DDI history, only the ones established early on are listed here.

1946
Roper Center established.

1960
Zentralarchiv established.

1962
Inter-university Consortium for Political [and Social] Research (ICPSR) established.

1964
Steinmetz Archive established.

1965-1968
MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) standards developed at [U.S.] Library of Congress.

1967
United Kingdom Data Archive (UKDA) established.

Selected foundational developments that set the stage for DDI

1967
OSIRIS (Organized Set of Integrated Routines for Investigations with Statistics) statistical software package developed at University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research.

1968
First version of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) released.

1970
American Library Association appoints Subcommittee to Recommend Rules for Cataloging Machine-Readable Data Files.

1971
Norwegian Social Science Data Service (NSD) established.

1974
International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST) formed following the Conference on Data Archives and Program Library Services, held in conjunction with the 8th World Conference of Sociology in Toronto, Canada.

1974
Report issued on "Standardization of Study Description Schemes and Classification of Indicators," a product of a meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the Danish Data Archives with nine archives from six countries in attendance.

1975
IASSIST establishes Classification Action Group.

1976
Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) established.

1978
Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition (AACR2) published by the American Library Association (includes a new Chapter 9, for machine-readable data files).

1979
Sue Dodd publishes "Bibliographic References for Numeric Social Science Data Files: Suggested Guidelines." *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, Volume 30, Issue 2, pp. 77–82, March 1979.

1980
A Style Manual for Machine-readable Data Files and Their Documentation published by R.C. Roistacher with contributions from Sue Dodd, B.B. Noble, and Alice Robbin.

1982
Sue Dodd publishes *Cataloging Machine-Readable Data Files. An Interpretive Manual.* American Library Association, Chicago.

1985
Sue Dodd and Ann M. Sandberg-Fox publish *Cataloging Microcomputer Files: A Manual of Interpretation for AACR 2.*

1985
Fienberg et al. publish *Sharing Research Data*. Committee on National Statistics. Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. National Research Council. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 1985.

1985
NSFNet, the precursor to the Internet, created.

1986
SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), descended from IBM's Generalized Markup Language (GML) developed in the 1960s, becomes an ISO standard.

1989
World Wide Web invented.

1989
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) recommends an International Standard Bibliographic Description for Computer Files (ISBD/CF).

1993
IASSIST forms Action Group for "Codebook Documentation of Social Science Data."

1993
CESSDA holds seminar on "Variable Level Documentation" in Gothenburg, Sweden.

1994
Dublin Core Metadata Initiative established.

1995
First SGML Codebook Committee, constituted by ICPSR Director Richard Rockwell, meets in Quebec City, Canada. Members develop a draft list of codebook elements.

1996
First DDI specification prepared at University of Michigan Library. *An SGML Document Type Definition (DTD) was produced by David Barber and John Brandt (University of Michigan), Ann Green (Yale University), and the DDI Committee.*

1996
First Working Draft of XML (eXtensible Markup Language) published.

1997
U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) funding received to enhance DDI and betatest it. *This award (SBR-9617813) funded DDI development and ICPSR codebook digitization. Final Report (pdf)*

1997
SGML DDI specification translated to XML.
This work was done by Jan Nielsen, Danish Data Archive.

1998
Committee meets in New Haven, CT.
Prepares for betatesting.

1999
Betatest of DDI DTD takes place (see related article for testers' names).

2000
DDI Version 1 (DTD-based) published.
View Version 1 and successive iterations

2001
Formal DDI evaluation, funded by NSF, takes place.
Evaluators praise the effort
Evaluation Report

2001
Funding for DDI development received from Health Canada during 2001-2002.
Covers costs of meetings until Alliance established

2001
Working group on aggregate data meets in Voorburg, Netherlands.
Group develops a proposal for DDI coverage of aggregate/tabular data

2001
First DDI Training held at IASSIST in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
Bill Block and Wendy Thomas lead the workshop on "*Creating DDI Compliant Codebooks*"

2002
Bjorn Henrichsen, NSD, becomes Chair of the DDI Committee.

2002
Committee meets in Storrs, CT, to draft DDI Alliance charter.
View the Charter

2003
Final meeting of original DDI Committee held in Washington, DC (see related article for members' names).
Minutes

2003
DDI Alliance established with Tom Piazza, UC-Berkeley, Chair.
View "*About the Specification*" from original Alliance Web site, March 2007

2003
DDI Alliance Steering Committee meets for the first time.
Minutes

2003
DDI 2 published.
DDI now covers aggregate data and geography
View Version 2 and successive iterations
DTD Version History

2003
DDI Expert Committee meets for first time in Ann Arbor, MI.
Committee discusses transition from DTD to Schemas; New working groups on Structural Reform and Substantive Issues formed
Minutes

2004
DDI Expert Committee meets in Madison, WI.
Committee discusses requirements for Version 3
Minutes
Lifecycle Model

2005
Hans Jorgen Marker, DDA, becomes Chair of the DDI Expert Committee ; Ron Nakao, Stanford, Vice Chair.

2005
DDI Expert Committee meets in Edinburgh, Scotland.
Committee ratifies life cycle model and DDI 3 begins to take shape
Minutes

2006
DDI Expert Committee meets in Ann Arbor, MI.
Committee approves the scope and timeline for Version 3
Minutes

2007
Public Review of DDI 3 takes place.

2007
DDI Expert Committee meets in Montreal, Canada.
Committee approves Candidate Draft of DDI 3
Minutes

2007
First DDI Training Workshop takes place at Schloss Dagstuhl in Wadern, Germany.
Course description

2008
DDI 3 published as XML Schemas.
Version 3.0

2008
Expert Committee meets at IASSIST in Palo Alto, CA.
Plans for tools development discussed
Minutes

2008
DDI develops Best Practices for DDI 3.
Best Practices

2009
DDI Lifecycle 3.1 published.
Link to Specification

2009
First European DDI Users Conference (EDDI) held in Bonn, Germany.
Program (PDF)

2009
DDI Expert Committee meets in Tampere, Finland.
Committee discusses tools and outreach to NSIs
Minutes (pdf)

2010
Chuck Humphrey, University of Alberta, becomes Chair of the DDI Expert Committee; Mari Kleemola, FSD, Vice Chair.

2010
Second EDDI Conference held in Utrecht, Netherlands.
Program (pdf)

2010
DDI Developers Group meets for first time in Utrecht, Netherlands.
View Minutes and Reports

2010
DDI Expert Committee meets in Ithaca, NY.
Rebranding DDI 2 and 3 as DDI Codebook and Lifecycle approved
Minutes (pdf)

2011
External review of DDI takes place.
Review report

2011
DDI Alliance publishes first set of controlled vocabularies.
View vocabularies

2011
Expert Committee meets in Vancouver, Canada.
Results of external review discussed
Minutes (pdf)

2011
Third EDDI Conference held in Gothenburg, Sweden.
Program (pdf)

2011
DDI Alliance releases Tools Catalog.
View catalog

2011
DDI Alliance establishes agency registry.
View registry

2012
DDI Expert Committee Meets in Washington, DC.
Plans for a model-based specification discussed
Minutes (pdf)

2012
DDI Codebook 2.5 published as XML schemas.
Specification

2012
First Dagstuhl Workshop on model-based DDI held.
Description
Paper

2012
Fourth EDDI Conference held in Bergen, Norway.
Program

2013
DDI RDF Discovery and XKOS vocabularies published.
Description

2013
First North American DDI Users Conference (NADDI) Held in
Lawrence, KS.
Program

2013
DDI Membership/Scientific Board Meets in Cologne, Germany.
Transition to new governance structure discussed
Minutes

2013
First DDI Executive Board (successor to Steering Committee) meets
with Gillian Nicoll, Australian Bureau of Statistics, as Chair and Ron
Nakao, Stanford University, as Vice Chair.
View members and *minutes*

2013
DDI "Sprints" launched to work on model-based DDI.
More information

2013
Fifth EDDI Conference held in Paris, France.
Program

2014
DDI Lifecycle Version 3.2 published.

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Notes

1. Mary Vardigan is an Assistant Director at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and Director of the DDI Alliance. She can be reached at vardigan@umich.edu.
2. Members of original SGML Codebook Committee:
   - Merrill Shanks, UC-Berkeley, Chair
   - Richard Rockwell, ICPSR
   - Atle Alvheim, NSD
   - Martin Appel, Census
   - David Barber, Michigan
   - Grant Blank, University of Chicago
   - Bill Bradley, Health Canada
   - Pat Doyle, AHCPR
   - Terry Finnegan, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois
   - Peter Granda, ICPSR
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   - Stephan Greene, Maryland
   - Lynn Jacobsen, Columbia
   - John Price-Wilkin, Michigan
   - Karsten Rasmussen, DDA
   - Rolf Uher, Zentralarchiv, Koeln
   - Mary Vardigan, ICPSR
3. Full URLs for all material linked in the Time Line can be found in References.

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